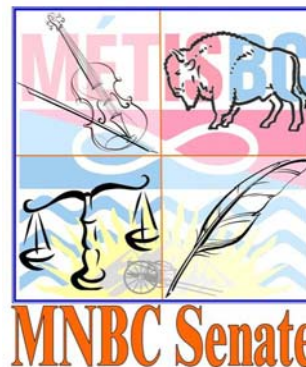


Senate Meeting Minutes

Kelowna, B.C., September 28, 2006

Senators present: Al Edkins, Ron Snyder, Philip Gladue, Don Beauchesne, Gerald Pope, Bob Adams and Bill Thibeault



1. Introduction

New members Bob Adams and Bill Thibeault were introduced.

The ceremonial set up for the table was explained, with the use of sash, smudge pot, sage, sweet grass, bible and eagle feather explained. Each Senator did a brief introduction.

a) Budget

The Senate works on a fiscal year that ends at the end of March. An honorarium in the amount of \$790 per month is being established to cover duties of the Senators, and cover costs of miscellaneous items such as phone and computer use. Meetings of the Senate are planned to occur quarterly, and usually consists of a two day meeting

b) Functions of the Senate

I. Annual General Meetings

At elections at each community AGM, the normal process is for the executive to resign en masse. The Senator present then presides over the election of the President, and at that time returns the chair to the new President to preside over the balance of the election process. The Senate does not get involved in the process, but provides information for rules, points of order, prayers and ceremonial aspects. Additional discussion centered on the aspects of Senators functioning as facilitators or mediators at political meetings. General consensus was that while facilitation can be carried out, mediation could require making a political decision and is not a role of Senators.

II. Citizenship Appeals

At this point, there are 179 citizenship applications that did not have the necessary verification to qualify for the provincial citizenship card. At this point, only 47 have indicated that they plan to appeal this decision. It is important that the Senate begin to deal with these appeals as soon as possible. There is also a push from higher levels of government to get the citizenship appeals processed and finalized. The next meeting will have the MNBC set-up a tour of the Registrar office and registration process. A mock up package will also be provided of the data used for citizenship registrations. Tentative date for this meeting is November 1 and 2.

III. Documentation

Need to have forms developed for the citizenship appeal process. A specified form will ease the process of assessment of appeal. Form also needs to be easy for citizens to use, and really only needs a description of why the individual feels they have been wronged – what is the reason for appeal.

The forms are needed to establish a record. The process is a legal one, so the forms are a legal document that must follow a prescribed process, including signing and witnessing for appeal submissions. Note that while the Senate is the ultimate authority within MNBC law, we can still be taken to court for our decisions and the records are required to ensure we make sound rational, defensible decisions.

Questions were discussed on the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The registration kit needs to include a consent form for the release of information

to the Senate for appeals, so that the Senate can review the files to assist with appeal decisions.

IV. Equipment

Equipment needed by Senators to carry out their functions was discussed with Dean Trumbley. Laptops will be procured for Senators Gladue and Snyder. Cell phones, with message accounts, will be made available for all Senators, a Blackberry will be provided to the Senate Chair. E-mail accounts will be set up for each Senator, with a region number address. Business cards will also be procured for the Senators.

V. Youth Communications Officer

There is an open call going out in the next few months for these positions. MNBC is asking the Senate to work with youth councils on the selection process. These are non-political positions. Request is for the Senators as respected non-partisan members on the selection committee to sit and watch proceedings and to put some cultural aspects on the interview process. On discussion, the Senate feels that this is outside the scope of our duties, but if there is an installation process, we could participate in a ceremonial aspect.

VI. Electoral Boundaries

The decision on electoral boundaries is an aspect of the election process, and thus the Senate may be called upon to make final decision in the case of electoral boundary disputes.

VII. Committees

Senator Adams was appointed to the Dispute Resolution Committee. Senator Thibeault was appointed as Recording Secretary. The Election Committee, Senators Snyder and Edkins will meet prior to the planned meeting in Vancouver, and will present their report to the Senate in Vancouver.

2. Motions

Moved by: Senator Snyder

Seconded by: Senator Gladue

That the motion of March 07, 2007 regarding the appointment of the interim chair for a period of 1-year be amended to a 1-year appointment with a termination date of October 01, 2007.

3. Discussion

Concern on how long-term the interim appointment should be. We are all on a new learning process, and perhaps we should let Senator Edkins sit as Chair for the full-term, to provide stability. This would allow us to move forward, learn and progress as a Senate. We do have the power to change or remove the Chair at any time as an organization, using a Committee of the Whole. Discussion on possible appointment for full term, but requirement to have Chair justify each year why should remain as Chair. Upon discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Senator Snyder, with the agreement of Senator Gladue. Chair appointment discussion and decision postponed till next meeting of Senate.

Approved: _____
Bill Thibeault, *Senate Secretary*