

# Conference Call Minutes

June 06, 2007

Senators present: Al Edkins, Ron Snider, Philip Gladue, Bob Adams, Bill Thibeault and Margaret Penner

Senators absent: Gerald Pope

Interim Senate Clerk: Dean Trumbley, MNBC



## June 06, 2007

1. Call to order at 07:05pm
2. Opening prayer was conducted by Senator Gladue.
3. There were no additions to the agenda. **NOTE:** *At the outset, Senator Edkins was unable to attend the call; Mr. Trumbley took on role as the conference call coordinator.*
4. Appeal Files

The Clerk is working with three applicants on the process for appeals, one in the lower mainland, one on Vancouver Island and one in the Kootenay. The work consists of assisting appellants with the process for proper submission. At this point, we do not have any appeals that have been submitted in writing, but appellants have indicated they definitely plan to submit appeals. All are in relation to rejection through registrar's office of application for Metis citizenship.

Concern was expressed by the Senate on proper process for a hearing. The Clerk will be sending files via courier for security of confidentiality once appeals received by him. Senate may require legal advice and/or opinion as well as expert researcher opinion on the files to assist in rendering a determination. Suggestions were Jean Teillet for legal advice and Dr. Evans for research advice could be available to Senate proceedings. Once the Senators receive and review the packages, a conference call will be set up to discuss need for legal and research advice requirements at appeal hearing.

In regards to timelines, once written application is received by the Clerk, he will respond within 14 days that the appeal has been received. From that time, the Senate has six months in which to render a determination.

**ROD - 001** *Once the Senators receive and review the packages, a conference call will be set up to discuss need for legal and research advice requirements at appeal hearing.*

5. Mediation Files

The Clerk advises that the Senate also has the mandate for some forms of mediation; there is the potential of mediation requests in future. At this point, there is not any formally received request for Senate mediation. The Senate is considering asking Mr. Nesbitt, legal counsel, to put on a brief course on mediation. There is also a downloaded document on mediation which Senator Edkins has.

6. Budget

Last year received \$60,000 for Senate; this year figure is about \$130,000. Of this amount \$60,000 is from the Tripartite Self Government Negotiations (TSN) and \$70,000 from the Multilateral Project (MLP). Sixty thousand is supplied from TSN to be used for funding four quarterly meetings for Senate, including the MNGA and AGM. Seventy thousand from MLP for electoral appeal process discussions in fall, likely October and November,

once the Electoral Act is ratified at the AGM in September. This funding also provides funds for the sittings for the Citizenship appeals for the Senate.

#### 7. Budget Breakdown

Discussion on the draft budget commenced as prepared by Senator Edkins. All were fine with the proposals on fees for services, per diems and travel allowances. Also all accepted the payment at the end of each quarter for these items.

There is still the requirement for the senators to complete paper-work with the submissions for payments. The MNBC office requires submissions with original signatures for their processing and files.

**ROD - 002** *The Senate Clerk will prepare a template for Senators to use for submission of invoices for payment of fees for service, per diems and travel allowances. It is suggested that the Chairperson be the approver for the invoices for the other Senators, the Senate Clerk would be approver for the invoices submitted by the Chairperson.*

**ROD - 003** *The Senate Clerk will revise the budget to reflect the new budget figures, and in light of the agreement of the Senators on the amounts for fees for service, per diems and travel. The revision will also reflect the expectations on quarterly and appeal meetings for the year. Once revised, The Senate Clerk will send out to all Senators for their review and approval.*

#### 8. Workload

The Senate agreed that the Clerk and the Chairperson could meet to discuss the allocation of workload between them. Each is cognizant of and will avoid any conflict of interest issues. They will try to meet in the near future.

**ROD - 004** *With the agreement of the Senate, the Chairperson and the Senate Clerk will meet to discuss the allocation of workload between them.*

***NOTE: Senator Edkins joined the conference call at 07:48pm***

#### 9. Alternate Justice (also referred to as “Restorative Justice”)

Senator Edkins plans to meet with Jim Michie of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) on June 13 in Kamloops for discussion. Senator Penner will also plan to attend, as it is in her region.

There is also possible additional federal funding available for alternative justice. In part that depends on the direction of DFO, if there is funding available on a case by case basis for alternative justice.

On another note, there may be funding from the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) for cultural activities. The Senate could also apply for some funding, as cultural and ceremonial activities are a component of the Senate. The Clerk will work on a proposal for funding; consideration is a brochure or handout on the history and role of the Senate to provide at sessions where the Senate sits. The Clerk will ensure the proposal is vetted through the Senate prior to sending on to MARR. The proposal is for \$50,000 funding.

#### 10. Senate Sittings

Need for Senate to have sitting over summer discussed, given the oncoming workload that is anticipated, too much to wait till September. The Office of the Federal Interlocutor and MARR has assured the Senate Clerk that funding will be received by MNBC by the end of June, thus the funding for summer sessions is available. Due to workload, a suggestion was made that a session be held August 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>, with August 2<sup>nd</sup> being for internal affairs, August 3<sup>rd</sup> being a sessions to deal with appeals, and August 4<sup>th</sup> being a Senate

retreat. At this session, Senator Gladue will also provide a demonstration of the program he presents at schools in the lower mainland. Session will be part of meeting agenda and will take about an hour and a half.

Senator Gladue also mentioned that there is an Elders Conference on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at B.C. Place to which he has been invited.

11. Call adjourned: 8:20pm

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Thibeault, *Senate Secretary*