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## The District Council of Calgary Elbow Métis District

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### Meeting Minutes

<b>LOCATION:</b>	Virtual via TEAMS (Recorded)
<b>Date:</b>	March 19, 2025
<b>Attendees:</b>	Carmen Lasante, Rhonda Baglot, Javan Belcourt, Samaria Cardinal , Charlette Vivier.  Elders / Knowledge Keepers: Art Cunningham, Doreen Bergum Paul Bercier and Grant Britton

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**Public Guests are welcome.**

#### Agenda Item #1 – Call to Order

7: 08PM District Captain Lasante called the March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting of the Calgary Elbow Métis District Council of the Otipemisiwak Métis Government to order.

#### Agenda Item #2 – Opening Prayer

7:PM Elder Doreen Bergum delivered the opening prayer.

#### Agenda Item # 3 – Adoption of Agenda

7:10PM Be it resolved by the District Council that the agenda for the March 19th, 2025, Regular Meeting of the District Council be adopted as **presented or amended**.

**MOTION #2025-03-19-1:**

**Moved by:** Councillor Baglot

**Seconded by:** Councillor



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Amendment to Agenda item #10 : We will be added to Agenda item 11.  
Correction to date to reflect 2025

**Debate/No Debate:**

**Motion Moved by Councillor Vivier**

**Seconded by: Councillor Belcourt 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Vote: All in favour of motion.**

**For:** Unanimous

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

#### **Agenda Item # 4 – Approval of Minutes from last meeting**

7:15 Be it resolved by the District Council that the motion to accept the February 2025 , Calgary Elbow Métis District Council minutes as administered and deemed accepted by the Calgary Elbow Metis District Council effective this day.

**MOTION #2025-03-18-2:**

**Moved by: Councillor Vivier**

**Seconded by:**

**Discussion :**

**Financial policy wording to be changed for future reference.  
“ Financial Agreement “ to Financial Authority Policy .**

The policy has now been created, so important to use accurate wording.

**Vote: All in favour of motion.**

**For:** Unanimous

**Against:**

**Abstain:**



**Also change :”Individuals cannot borrow “ to “ Individual signatories on Account” .**

**Agenda Item # 5 – Elders/ Knowledge Keepers Report**

Elder / Knowledge Keeper Overview of Activities:

Elder **Doreen Bergum** continues to be involved with the following projects and meetings since the last meeting :

The Alex community agency: Please consider donating clothing and food for the homeless.

Doreen informed the committee that Anne Kokak , Inuit Elder. They participated together on advisory work with the University of Calgary,

Indigenous Reconciliation Funding committee meeting ( Catholic Church) on March 23 2025.

Aboriginal Friendship Centre / Doreen Huppe ( Circle of Wisdom Seniors program ) received funding from this program, \$ 399000 was granted to her programming.

Doreen shared the shared that Doreen Williams has worked as a volunteer when needed to ensure that the seniors program continues.

Jeanette Hanson put in a proposal.  
Pincher Creek Citizens rep ( Darryl Campbell) are both inquiring regarding the Reconciliation funding.

Captain Lasante will be submitting proposal .

Elder Bergum was an MC for the recent Otipemisiwak . “Youth and Seniors conference”. It was a lovely gathering and a success.

Went to Ottawa and Kananskis with the MNC ( Metis National Council) . Also in attendance was Elder Paul Bercier:

Will be at the University tomorrow for a meeting.

Bob Philips memorial this week. A valued Metis community member.

Havernaught Historical Society : Is a member.



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Some story boards will be distributed in various locations in Alberta , featuring Metis Culture and History. Doreen worked on a story Board project with Metis Crossing. Doreen will share more and bring an example. District Councils have an opportunity to work on similar projects for the Calgary area.

Doreen will be participating in an Indigenous event this Friday Telus Spark.

Elder **Art Cunningham** continues to be involved with the following projects and meetings :

Is a knowledge keeper with the city of Calgary . He meets monthly with the City of Calgary .

He has previous experience with ( Supply chain management process) )

Current project is Elders Guiding Circle ( Calgary Parks) | City Parks ( Public Places )

Storyboards are being designed to be showcased in DT Calgary .

Art will keep the group updated .

**Elder Grant Britton** continues to be involved with the following projects and meetings:

Regarding the Story Board / Traditional History projects that Doreen and Art are involved with, Grant will follow up with Tara Wright ( new Calgary Flames event Centre) regarding Metis Culture being showcased at the Centre. He has worked with Treaty Seven partners on several project and will discuss this further.

Grant is a Knowledge Keeper/ Elder and committee member with the the City of Calgary regarding affordable housing.

New program being proposed- focusing on Metis homeless population in Calgary/ affordable housing initiatives.



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May become a joint / Treaty 7 initiatives . Program has an estimated 30 million budget . There is a 20 year timeline .

Some ideas were land acquisition , modular vs longer term housing.

Grant mentioned the importance of working with our community partners regarding the “ Aboriginal” / Indigenous population in general are significantly over represented in the homeless population.

They are looking at equity building / ownership possibilities as well.

Elder Britton discussed building long term housing plans . We will update District Five and surrounding councils when we have more information. Grant is also in communication with Citens Re Nelson Lussier regarding this project.

Grant will report back next meeting .

### DISCUSSION:

Captain Lasante discussed clarifying and discussing subsidized vs affordable housing. Citizens and clients will have varying needs and incomes and the importance of differentiating both.

Councillor Cardinal : Mentioned that individual, youth and senior housing units are lacking . This would be a critical partnership for our citizens.

**Elder PAUL Bercier** continues to be involved with the following projects and meetings :

Has been invited by the Calgary Catholic separate school board to present the Sash to grade 12 graduates. The Indigenous graduation will take place at the Grey Eagle Casino and event Centre.

Was invited by the Kensington Legion to be a representative . This may be a larger project involving more than one Legion. He has an existing executive role with the Legion.



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Working on a Nation initiative regarding developing a “reconciliation “ economic and development strategy”. This is a Provincial Nation initiative. He will report back to committee.

Advised on History of Metis Crossing .

Worked on Story Board project . “History of Metis People” .

Discussion : Councillor Belcourt inquired if the Elders discussion of Storyboards , would fall under one of the new proposed committees , “ Marketing and/ or Communications?”

### **Agenda Item # 6 Captains Report Captain Lasante**

Invited to Pipe Ceremony ( Blackfoot ) : At the confluence last month . This was an all-night ceremony that was a memorable experience.

Indigenous education Advisory Circle ( University of Calgary ) . Discussing education curriculum and education of post secondary students in Education. She is advocating to increase what is being taught to Education students. Will attend again .

Captain also attended a joint meeting / interest with Mount Royal and University of Calgary Education departments. They will apply for a grant supporting culturally appropriate education tools for teachers regarding Metis History.

Attended online day symposium for Women Entrepreneurs. Captain Lasante observed that that additional Indigenous representation was needed and it was an engaging experience.

Hosted February 2025 Business Mixer: 45 Businesses were in attendance, including some new businesses . The mixers are beginning to grow and have increased attendance.

Attended meeting with community members including Nelson Lussier, Grant Britton, Amber Boyd, Captain, RockyView District.

Has been meeting with this group for several months, discussing



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Economic development / Housing and business strategy, including how to develop revenue independent of Nation finding and community grants. The neighboring districts are planning on economic development with some joint partnerships.

Carmen was contacted by a community member. He indicated that he is hoping to acquire the Hudson Bay Company. Carmen will follow up and invite Council members for an information gathering meeting.

Elder Cunningham suggested information gathering only. Tentative involvement until further information gathered.

Community Connector (CARYA). Captain successfully applied for one of the Community Connectors was one of the 10 organizations who are receiving a "Community Connector". The Connector will be paid by Carya for 25 hours a week at \$26 hour to assist District 5 and 6 with community building. This is a trial project that will end December 31, 2026.

Lisa Hunt was the successful candidate. Lisa Hunt has resigned as the volunteer vice president of Local 87, Metis Nation. Further information and regular updates to occur at monthly meetings.

### **Agenda Item # 7 Treasurer's Report    Councillor Baglot**

Councillor Baglot is still working on some outstanding issues with the bank. Councillor will have a report on bank account deposits and expenses for next meeting.

District Six does not yet have a budget nor have received monies from the Nation (Head office in Edmonton ). The District Six bank account balance is **\$3200.**

Captain Lasante and Councillor Baglot (CFO) have been working on proposed budgets for :

- 1) If a retroactive active budget is released by the Edmonton Nation office.



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- 2) A proposed budget for anticipated new fiscal year budget ( April / May 2025 disbursement by Nation Head office in Edmonton ).
- 3) Proposals for increased budget with accommodations for increased program planning.

All budgets will be reviewed with council.

Councillor Baglot continues to work on fundamental financial policy and applied steps. For example, Councillor Baglot is working on creating District invoices and Eft authorization forms , in preparation for an incoming budget , grants and future sponsorship.

Captain Lasante requested that moving forward the Treasurers report include bill payments, arrears and account balances as a standard format.

Bills outstanding as of MARCH 2025: \$ 538 to the Confluence. We are waiting on finds from Eco Canada , our sponsor for that Business Mixer.

Treasurers Report will have a quarterly review,

### **Agenda Item # 8 – Hybrid Rules of Order Update**

8: 15PM Councillor Belcourt and Captain Lasante have presented an updated draft since last meeting.

Discussion :

Document : Lets capitalize E . Elder .

Councillor Baglot : We do not need to formalize protocols to this degree. Would like to see flexibility and creative in our rule making . Would like to see structure and a friendly environment .

Councillor Cardinal worries that we should not put guidelines on citizen concerns .

Elder Britton suggest 2 sets of rules. One for larger formalized meetings ( AGM's ) , one for smaller board meeting.

Captain Lasante : Open forum times for citizens to be added to protocols for district meetings .



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The guidelines will be flexible.

Mediation process to be considered.

The protocols are also for people who need to learn what to expect at a meeting, guidelines for meetings.

Councillor Vivier recommended that we plan for dispute resolution, keeping to agenda and timelines if a community member has a grievance and a formalized plan. A plan for structure and flexibility.

Councillor Cardinal mentioned that she wants citizens to have their voices heard.

Will be brought back for voting April 2025. Tabled .

Update :

This is working in progress.

Councillors : can add to agenda the day before meeting is called .  
Citizens : needs to give 2 weeks notice .

Councillor Belcourt discussed drafts of Buffalo Hunt draft of decision making. A draft of blended Roberts rules of order. Refer to Calgary Elbow District Rules of Order.

Councillor Belcourt would like to Make a motion to adopt documents and protocols.

Discussion:

Councillors Baglot, McPherson and Vivier would like more time to review and discuss. Suggestion that it is tabled until next meeting.

**TABLED TO MARCH 2025 MEETING to accept the draft Calgary Elbow Metis District Rules of Order.**



### **Agenda Item # 9 – Protocols for Elders Update**

8:15 pm Councillor McPherson and Councillor Belcourt

Councillor Belcourt had sent out drafts protocols (honorariums, creation of a formalized list).

Councillor McPherson had a meeting with Art Cunningham .

Councillor McPherson and Councillor Belcourt will meet and discuss further. They will send out a draft Protocol documents for both the district and outside organizations.

A skill set matrix and information list for Elders is still being worked on. Who do we call , when , for what reason ?

#### **Discussion:**

Captain asked that a draft be distributed to council next meeting for review.

Elder Cunningham does not expect honorarium. He is concerned about districts that may have no money. What is the definition of an elder, who etc.

Please include Elders in this discussion.

Protocols outside of our Metis list. How do we refer our Elders to community programs when requested. Do we have a centralized plan. Elders matching to their interests, knowledge etc.

### **Agenda Item # 10 Banking Update Councillor Baglot**

8:24 pm Councillor gave feedback that the ATB branch requires a motion as outlined below.

Summary : To allow the use of a shortened name for banking purposes vs our legal operating name.



**MOTION #2025-03-19-3:**

**Motion to Have the District’s Company Name to be Displayed as ‘Calgary Elbow Metis District’ for Online Banking Purposes.**

Councillor Baglot (Treasurer) moves that ATB change the displayed company name to ‘Calgary Elbow Metis District’ for online banking purposes.

The District’s incorporated company name is Otipemisiwak Metis Government – District Council of Calgary Elbow Metis District. However, due to space limitations on ATB’s online banking platform, only the first portion of the company name appears, being Otipemisiwak Metis Government.

For practical purposes, the District operates primarily as Calgary Elbow Metis District and that is how we are requesting cheques, etc. to be addressed to us by sponsors, etc. Therefore, there is a disconnect between what shows up online as the company name and the name we practically refer to ourselves as for business purposes.

Additionally, there will eventually be twenty-two (22) districts throughout the province all of which will have incorporated names starting with Otipemisiwak Metis Government. It is likely that many of the districts will bank with ATB which could potentially create confusion.

This motion aims to align how the District practically operates (as Calgary Elbow Metis District) with our ATB banking profile. To confirm, the legal name of Otipemisiwak Metis Government – District Council of Calgary Elbow Metis District is not changing.

I request a vote to approve the change of the District’s displayed name to ‘Calgary Elbow Metis District’ for online banking purposes.

Moved by : Councillor Baglot

Seconded by Councillor \_Councillor Belcourt .

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**Debate/No Debate:** Elder Britton asked to clarify online and in person.



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Also, the Province has asked that we use “District Six” internally and refer to our names .

Councillor Belcourt indicate that corporate seal options to be considered.

**Vote: All in favour.**

**For: All in Favour of motion.**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Agenda Item # 11 –Accounting Update Councillor Baglot (CFO)**

8:29PM Councillor Baglot (CFO) continues to research CPA, CPA/ Bookkeepers including discussing with Edmonton head office what software they are using.

We likely do not need a CPA at this point. We will continue to look for a book keeper and utilize software. We will use a CPA auditor for auditing purposes at minimum.

Has reached out to District 4 , looking at collaboration. ( Trevor Ward)  
 Next meeting will decide what software, book keeper, and CPA for annual audits at minimum .

Councillor Baglot to look at Purchasing of Accounting Software (Motion required), Hire a CPA ( for next year ), Hire a Bookkeeper for next meeting.

Discussion :

Councillor Cardinal suggested looking at Metis Works for candidates.

Elder Bercier : can Edmonton add districts to auditing package . They utilize KPG firm . Can we all utilize them ? Can Edmonton be approached regarding collaboration and sharing of information regarding financial auditing resources .



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Councillor Baglot : Can Edmonton negotiate a larger group purchase for all districts . There will be over 22 districts once all elections are completed .

Can Edmonton provide templates , assistance , reimbursement policy ?

Auditing function ? ( Rueban ) His firm does the auditing for the MNA.

Is there Merit in an independent auditor ( not from the MNA) ? Council agrees that we will examine all options.

Elder Britton suggested that we exercise caution . Full transparency and details to be public is the priority.

The goal is for each district to have clear, transparent budgets, banking and details ready for auditing at any level. Every incoming council will have clear records to work from.

#### **Agenda Item # 12 – Design and order in Seal – Councillor Belcourt**

Councillor Belcourt brought 2 prototype designs.

Each is \$ 65

Choice is Metal design vs plastic.

#### **MOTION #2025-03-19-4:**

District will order a Corporate Seal Option A . Steel / Metal construction .

Motion made by : Councillor Baglot  
Seconded by Councillor Cardinal

All in Favour .  
Motion Carried .

#### **Agenda Item # 13 Community Connector Update CARYA**

Citizen Representative Lussier , Captain Lasante and CARYA staff conducted interview in March 2025.



Lisa Hunt is the community connector that has been selected. Further details to follow next meeting. The goal is for the 5600 Metis citizens in Calgary and area to be more informed, the citizens to know each other, know what organizations, businesses and activities are going on in the community.

Please refer to previous minutes regarding job description and role. More information will be provided at future meetings.

## **Agenda Item # 14 UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Metis Winter FESTIVAL**

Rocky View Metis District is hosting, and Calgary Elbow and Nosehill Metis Districts will be helping.

Cultural event showcase day.

Event to be held in Airdrie.

Band, jigging, ice skating, speakers, trappers tent,

**Saturday March 22<sup>th</sup>** from 12pm – 5pm

Captain Lasante will send further info. We will need to help and have volunteers to assist throughout the day. Would love to have all Councillors participate if possible.

### **Gather and Learn with the Metis**

Captain Lasante has emailed the City of Calgary to start planning for this event. We have applied for a grant for this. Last year, we had the City's trappers tent and a Red River Cart. The language and youth team helped with activities as well as our Artisan Collective showcased some of our fantastic Metis artwork. Captain Lasante asked for volunteers to help plan. Councillor Baglot and Vivier volunteered.

Metis Stampede Festival. Booked for July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the Confluence Historical Site and Parkland. Captain Lasante will need help with planning and Councillor Fedderson said he will assist with this. Captain Lasante will request volunteers again to assist with planning and volunteering



### **Agenda Item # 15 Marlene Lanz Memorial Fundraiser**

Citizens Representative Lussier has asked Captain Lasante to mention that the three districts Rocky View, Calgary Nose Hill and Calgary Elbow partner in putting on a fundraiser that would show case our matriarch Marlene Lanze and everything she did for the community.

Activities still to be determined. A dinner was suggested, though other ideas are welcomed .

Proceeds to go to cultural fund, scholarship, and to subsidized cultural events.

Councillor Cardinal : Raised concerns about cost for average citizens.

Captain Lasante : For fundraisers we can subsidize for some people . We are also trying to raise funds . We will have other low cost events.

Councillor Baglot : Suggested a planning committee.

District 4 and 5 are committed to taking part .

Also discussed Marlene Lanz fundraiser: Comprised of 3 districts working together regarding planning and fundraising. Ideas: Dinner, dance, silent auction. Other meaningful fundraising ideas needed.

We are seeking community contribution as to what social event/ fundraiser they would enjoy and would be an effective fundraiser.

Please contact Captain Lasante to volunteer for the committees.

TABLED to next meeting.

### **Agenda item # 16 New District Emails**

9:05PM Have all councillors set up district emails? (to be utilized through the previously approved purchase of Microsoft 360). This would allow for all district communication to be run through the program and have the "Calgary Elbow Metis district" title, rather than the variety of personal email distributed.

Not all councillors have accessed the program. Please do so by next meeting.



Please log in and begin using. Please see Captain Lasante for assistance.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Agenda item # 17 Budget 2025.2026**

Please offer suggestions for spending prior to next meeting. We will review list .

Councillor Cardinal has offered the items for sale from her store closing.

Captain Lasante suggested councillor Cardinal to make list of items for council to review.

New Budget : 80 K for upcoming year.

Discussion :

Will there be office space ? With the limited budget , to will be difficult to rent and create programming.

Finalized budget to be reviewed for retroactive budget.

No funds have been released to Calgary Elbow as of March 2025.

Local 87 and the Confluence offered free space to support District initiatives for our business mixers.

Councillor Baglot discussed the level of commitment council positions entail . There is no compensation . Councillor Cardinal recently wrote to Edmonton

Captain Lasante and Councillor Baglot are working on a budget proposal to request additional finding from Edmonton.

The old Regional office ( now named satellite Edmonton Head office ) can lend their boardroom at no charge to us. They do not offer office space to the Districts.

Councillor Vivier requested an onboarding package , including access to the Provincial Budget .



### **Agenda item # 18** Finance Committee Terms of Reference

Councillor Baglot discussed roles of the Treasure. She has created a draft for the finance committee.

Captain Lasante will forward to the elders and council members to review.

### **Agenda Item # 19 – Update Financial Authorities Policy**

The original document has been revised. Please have read and prepare for a Motion at the April 2025 meeting.

### **Agenda Item # 20** In Camera

In camera policy regarding executive council only discusses at meeting to be further developed. TABLED.

### **Agenda item # 21** (Added)

#### **MOTION #2025-03-19-5:**

Motion to approve a donation and card regarding Bob Philips Memorial.

A card to be send to family and a direct charitable donation not exceeding \$ 200 to a local or provincial Cancer charity in Bob Philips name.

**Moved by** Councillor Cardinal

**Seconded** by Councillor Baglot.

### **Agenda Item # 22 TABLED Items**

Agenda item #20

### **Agenda Item # 23 Action Items**

**Please review minutes and agenda for items to read, prepare or to speak to.**

- 9:22 PM Councillor Vivier reviewed action items assigned to councillors.
- 1) Elder Bercier to send out report regarding Metis History. Captain Lasante will distribute.
  - 2) Hybrid Rules of Order: Councillors to review doc and comment. Edits will be made,



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- 3) Protocol for Elders: Councillors Belcourt and McPherson to review and bring draft document to next meeting. Elders to be included.
- 4) Update Financial Authorities Policy: Please read
- 5) Corporate SEAL: To be purchased . Councillor Belcourt .
- 6) Budget for possible approval for next meeting.
- 7) Financial policy and protocols documents to be emailed out. Please review and will be presented at next meeting.
- 8) District emails. Please log in. Contact Captain Lasante for technology assistance. Please have all emails running by next meeting.
- 10) Tabled politics 101
- 11) Committee. Information: a Skills matrix to be created. Captain Lasante, Councillors Baglot and McPherson will assist Captain Lasante.

**Agenda Item #24 ( amended) – Date for Next Meeting**

9:27PM **April 09, 2025 , at 7pm** next date for meeting. Location TBD.  
 Councillor Vivier to send a TEAMS invite to everyone if applicable. 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Wednesday of every month as a schedule. Hybrid 7 pm. Location to be determined.**

Calgary Co op is offering meeting rooms for use to community organizations.

Calgary Public Library offers space.

We can rent Legion Boardroom for \$50 .

Citizens to be consulted regarding meeting spaces.

**Agenda Item #24 ( Amended) – Closing Prayer**



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9: 32PM Councillor Cardinal delivered the closing prayer.

### **Agenda Item #24 – Adjourn Meeting**

9:37PM **MOTION #2025-03-19-6:**  
**Moved by:** Councillor Vivier  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Baglot

Be it resolved by the District Council that Calgary Elbow Métis District Council adjourn the meeting at 9:40 pm.

**Debate/No Debate**

**Vote: All in favour of motion.**

**For: Unanimous.**

**Against:**

**Abstain:**

**Signed :**

**Captain Carmen Lasante**

**Secretary Charlette Vivier**



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