



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement from McMurray Métis Local 1935 President Peter Hansen on operational and financial review to restore member confidence

(Fort McMurray, AB, April 19, 2022): As the Council of McMurray Métis Local 1935, it is our duty to ensure that all decisions reached are in the best interest of our Elders, Youth and all our Members. It is also essential to ensure that all decisions align with our vision, mission, and guiding principles.

When past major decisions have been made without Council consultation or approval, these decisions decreased the confidence our Members have placed in our organization to guide the McMurray Métis in a sustainable manner. Decisions with potential for negative long-term effects, both financial and spiritual, on the Local, our Elders, and our youth, cannot be reached in an irresponsible, short-sighted or rushed way. This is why we have a process in place for review and approval of such decisions, as our Members have placed their faith and trust in us as a Council to make these critical decisions.

Every decision we make today will have either positive or negative consequences that will affect our Membership for generations. As such, our Council must ensure that all decisions – past, present and future – adhere to the process and policies we have created to ensure a strong, sustainable future for McMurray Métis.

Given recent events, as a Council we are taking the following steps to restore confidence and trust in the decision making process, and to provide transparency on past unapproved decisions made by our former Chief Executive Officer. We will:

- Conduct an audit of past financial decisions to ensure they've been made in a fiscally responsible manner. This will include a review to ensure all performance bonuses, promotions, pay increases and other payments are justified, have gone through due process, and fit within our governance model.
- Complete a full financial review to ensure that the McMurray Métis has the financial stability in cash reserve we need to continue providing our membership with full value in a fiscally responsible and sustainable way.
- Direct the present and acting Executive Director to establish a board committee to review all facets of the McMurray Métis Cultural Centre construction, including a review of all financial details, operational plans and future maintenance expectations, with guidance from our Project Manager Matthew Hough and working directly with Casman to ensure sustainability of the project.

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The vision for the McMurray Métis Cultural Centre is to build and operate a world-class project that focuses on Métis history, youth development, and our Elders while growing a responsible and sustainable operation for the future. We recognize the importance and benefit of building the Cultural Centre, and we want to ensure our members have full transparency on all future operating costs and economic benefits. Providing this clarity and transparency will ensure we achieve our vision, and provide value for all our members, our partners, our stakeholders with Infinity Métis Corporation and our joint venture partners.

Once these reviews have been completed, we will provide our findings to our Members to continue the process of restoring confidence and adhering to our guiding principles.

The McMurray Métis Local 1935 Council is incredibly proud of the hard work of our staff, our Elders, our volunteers, and our Members. Over the last few years, we have made significant progress in particular with the establishment of the Infinity Métis Corporation, and we have no doubt this progress will continue for generations to come.

Our mission, through our governance policy, is to protect McMurray Métis Local 1935 for all of our Members, particularly our Elders, Youth and future leaders, who provide us with guidance and wisdom. We consider the faith and trust that members have placed in us to be of the utmost importance, and every decision we reach must acknowledge, respect and honour their trust and faith. We believe the actions we are taking today as listed above will continue to build this relationship of trust and faith, and contribute to the future success of McMurray Métis Local 1935.

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