

FORT VERMILION & AREA

SENIORS AND ELDERS LODGE BOARD 1788

Approved Meeting Minutes – January 29, 2026

Standing Invitees: Kevin Marten - Chairman; Raymond Friesen - Vice Chairman (participated remotely, at 8:11 pm); Jed Randle – Treasurer (participated remotely); Regina Friesen – Secretary. Directors: Wendy Ward, Vina Marten, Con Mercredi, William Ducharme, and Michael Congo

Appointed Directors: Bobbi Paul-Alook, OMG – (participated remotely)

Advisor to the Board: Jeff Anderson – (participated remotely)

Call to order by: Meeting called to order by Kevin Marten at 7:03 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Con Mercredi **MOVED** acceptance of the agenda. **CARRIED**

Financial Report: NTR

Previous Meeting Minutes: November 27, 2025 meeting minutes read by Kevin Marten.

Vina Marten **MOVED** to accept the meeting minutes with the following corrections:

-Wendy Ward moved to accept the financial report. **CARRIED**

Open Issues/Business

- a) Otipemisiwak Metis Government /FVASELB1788 Working Group UPDATE
 - Productive January 28, 2026 Working Group meeting. Key highlights included a discussion regarding MLA William’s suggested CCCP funding stream and his offer of a support letter; drafting a political strategy; OMG’s funding scan; and the possibility of OMG leasing land from FVASELB1788.
 - Decided meeting notes from the Working Group can be shared with Board members.
- b) Charity Status Application
 - CRA has reviewed our application and, on December 30, 2025, wrote a comprehensive letter declining the application. The CRA analyst outlined the concerns and the actions needed to address them. Rhys Volkenant prepared his analysis and recommendations pro bono for the Board's discussion and review. Key considerations presented by Rhys:

Should the board move forward? If so, request an extension for our response application submission. Rhys provided a draft budget to complete this work.

- Reasons for decline - Purposes too broad or vague, facilitating as an umbrella operation where the analyst seems to have a different view of interpretation from the analyst's own legislation, and needs to demonstrate more control over the charitable activity (i.e. be more operational).
 - i. OMG, through email correspondence, confirmed that it is prepared to lease the land from FVASELB1788 if that becomes the development model.
 - ii. Kevin and Jeff review their meeting with Rhys on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, including that our lawyer states we have solid legal ground to dispute with CRA that the Society is indeed charitable as defined in the Charities Act. It would increase the Society's chances of success if it owned the subject land and leased it to OMG, with a caveat that the land be used only for the seniors and elders care facility, which is the Society's charitable purpose. CRA is concerned that funds raised to advance our charitable purposes would be directed to an unqualified donee for private gain.

Vina Marten **MOVED** that the Board amend its Statement of Activities regarding its focus to acquire, own, and hold real estate for the purposes of its charitable activities. **CARRIED**

Michael Congo **MOVED** that the Board accept Rhys Volkenant's analysis of CRA's December 30, 2025 decision letter and increase its application budget by \$3,300.00 to advance its charity application. Second by Con Mercredi
CARRIED

- Kevin and Jeff will notify Rhys by early next week to advise of the Board's decisions, and ask CRA for an extension for the application submission, as recommended.
- c) Board needs to start reviewing its new direction of land ownership and leasing.
- d) AREF Final Reporting
- Jeff & Kevin completed the Board's final reporting onto AREF's new platform in Mid-January 2026.
 - AREF senior staff have scheduled a meeting for February 9, 2026 to discuss our final report and next steps of the project.
 - Once AREF approves the Board's final report, they will release the remaining 10% (\$12,500) as per the contract.

e) Website Management

- Ongoing

New Issues/Business

a) AGM 2026 – Appointing the Auditors

- This task was missed at the Societies’ November 2025 AGM.
- A Special AGM meeting is set by the Board for February 26, 2026, starting at 7:00 PM. The Board’s regular meeting will begin after the AGM.
- Bobbi will produce community posters to be posted three weeks in advance of the AGM as per the Bylaws.

b) Appointed Director Discussion

- Discussion regarding formal invitation letters to be sent to each North Peace Tribal Council First Nation.
- Jeff will send Bobbi what was penned in the past.

Committee Updates

a) Public Engagement Committee (Raymond F. & Wendy W.), Finance Committee (Kevin M. and Jed R.)

- Wendy Ward is still working on the thank-you cards and gift.

Correspondence **NTR**

Roundtable Kevin Marten’s family has donated a laptop for the exclusive use of the Secretary of the Board. Some cleaning and updating are required.

Next Meeting February 26, 2026

Adjournment William Ducharme **MOVED** to adjourn at 9:29 PM **CARRIED**