

FORT VERMILION & AREA

SENIORS AND ELDERS LODGE BOARD 1788

Approved Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2026

Standing Invitees: Kevin Marten – Chairman (not present); Raymond Friesen - Vice Chairman; Jed Randle – Treasurer; Regina Friesen – Secretary. Directors: Wendy Ward, Vina Marten, Con Mercredi, and Michael Congo (arrived at 7:59 p.m.)

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

Advisor to the Board: Jeff Anderson – (participated remotely; left meeting 9:07 p.m.)

Call to order by: Raymond Friesen called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

Financial Report: NTR

Previous Meeting Minutes: January 29, 2026 regular meeting minutes read by Raymond Friesen and Regina Friesen.

Wendy Ward **MOVED** to accept the regular meeting minutes. **CARRIED**

February 10, 2026 special meeting minutes read by Raymond Friesen.

Jed Randle **MOVED** to accept the meeting minutes. **CARRIED**

Open Issues/Business

- a) Otipemisiwak Metis Government /FVASELB1788 Working Group UPDATE
 - OMG has been at work on the CCCP grants, GOA's 2026 budget, and is scanning other grant opportunities.
 - OMG is unable to submit a grant application for the CCCP funding as the Mackenzie Region does not fall into the eligibility criteria at this time. OMG wrote to MLA Williams, highlighting this unfortunate event, appreciating his continued advocacy.
 - Letter of Intention isn't enough – discussion
 - Formal lease agreement or land ownership is a requirement for the large CCCP grant (approximately \$12-14 million as initial intake or \$450,000 per DSL room). Bobbi

comments that OMG is committed to moving forward and continues to engage in funding opportunities for the project.

b) Charity Status Application

- Lawyers' interpretation of the legislation is that we definitely have a charitable purpose. Due to our lawyer being on holiday, CRA has granted an extension to April 2, 2026, for our response submission.
- The key review component includes the lawyers' amended Statement of Activities, which now reflects the Board's decision that the Society will own the land where the Seniors and Elders Care Facility will be built. Additionally, the Final Business Case can be provided alongside our MOU and ToR with OMG.

c) Website Management

- Jeff inquires whether Con Mercredi is willing to assume responsibility for managing the Board's website. Con Mercredi accepts. Jeff to reach out to Con to complete the handover.

d) Appointed Directors' Letter

- A reminder letter for each of the North Peace Tribal Council First Nations is being drafted. The final draft will be presented at the next Board meeting for review and approval.

e) AREF Reporting

- Jeff and Kevin met with AREF's senior leadership on February 9, 2026, to discuss the Societies' final report. AREF was satisfied with our performance under the two grants and appreciated the Business Case materials. AREF has approved the final report and will release the remaining 10% (\$12,500) as per the contract this month.
- AREF's mandate is to provide grants solely for planning and governance, not operational costs or acquiring capital assets for a project.

New Issues/Business

a) Director Resignation

- Board accepts William Ducharme's resignation as texted on February 26, 2026.

Board Committees

a) Land Committee (Raymond F, Con M, Bobbi P, & Jed R)

- Met with individuals from the River Road Trading Post who stated that its mandate is to raise money for the brick-and-mortar needs of the Senior and Elders Care Facility. Additionally, all funds are currently invested in GICs, and no money is available right now. Maturity date is unknown.
- Met with members of the Old Bay House Society. The Knelsen land parcel is nearing final registration at the Land Title Office. The Land Committee understands that this land can be transferred to a not-for-profit organization once the paperwork is finalized.
 - Jeff mentions that federal laws might limit how the transfer of the Knelsen land can be made to a not-for-profit society. We are classified as an unqualified donee, and there are rules that the Old Bay House Society must follow. Achieving charity status would make the land transfer much easier.
- The Mercredi land parcel and its title can be transferred at any time.
- Consult with a land lawyer to go over the details of owning both parcels.
- The Land Committee will follow up with the River Road Trading Post Board to arrange a more formal meeting. They will keep the Board informed of any outcomes and plans.

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

- Appreciation cards for Anne Knelsen and the Isaac family were signed regarding their support for the advancement of the Society's purpose.

Correspondence

- Jeff forwarded an email from Blumbergs to the Board about courses and webinars on Canadian Charity Law and how to operate with charity status. It is the Board members' responsibility to bring this up if needed as an agenda item.

Roundtable: NTR

Next Meeting: March 26, 2026

Adjournment: Con Mercredi **MOVED** to adjourn at 9:30 PM

CARRIED