



**Annual General Meeting
Sunday October 1st, 2017
Burnaby, BC
Lochdale Hall
490 Sperling Avenue**

Draft Minutes

AGM Registration Opened 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

Attendance:

Board members

1. Ken Fisher - Board Member
2. Joe Desjarlais - Secretary
3. Rene Therrien – Vice President
4. Baillie Redfern – Board Member
5. Keith Henry - President
6. Earl Belcourt – Board Member
7. Cindy Wilgosh – Board Member
8. Betty Fisher - Treasurer

There were an additional 35 registered delegates in attendance plus numerous non voting guests and presenters throughout the deliberations.

1. Opening Fiddle Music – Rene Therrien 9:30 AM

Cultural leader and elder Mr. Rene Therrien opened the 2017 Annual General Meeting with a traditional Metis tune.

2. First Nations protocol welcome 9:35 AM
3. Opening Prayer – Métis Elder 9:40 AM

Mr. Derrick Whiteskycloud from the Michif Historical and Preservation Society provided the opening prayer to initiate proceedings.

4. Opening Remarks 9:45 AM
 - a. Vice President Mr. Rene Therrien

b. President Keith Henry

Mr. Rene Therrien, Vice President, welcomed delegates to the 6th Annual General Meeting and thanked everyone for their time to attend.

Mr. Keith Henry, President, welcomed delegates and highlights key themes including the important role of the BC Metis Federation in light of strong words by the Prime Minister recently at the United Nations and other key developments.

President Henry acknowledged and thanked key partners including Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada ((NAC), Kinder Morgan Canada, and the Province of British Columbia for attendance and letters acknowledging support for this year's Annual General Meeting.

- 5. Call to Order – Verification of quorum 9:55 AM
- 6. Approval of AGM Chair 10:00 AM

Delegates nominated two chairs; Mr. Don Woodcock and Mr. Drake Henry. Drake Henry declined nomination.

Motion 10/01/2017 -01 to approve AGM chair Don Woodcock

**Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded John Cashore
Carried**

- 7. Approval of Draft Agenda 10:05 AM

Motion 10/01/2017 – 02 to accept agenda

**Moved Ken Fisher
Seconded Earl Belcourt
Carried**

- 8. Resolution Committee Appointed 10:10 AM
 - a. Only if resolutions are submitted 30 days in advance to the BC Métis Federation
Secretary Joe Desjarlais (j.desjarlais@bcmetis.com)

Secretary Joe Desjarlais reported that no resolutions were submitted for consideration for the AGM. As such no resolutions committee was necessary for the 2017 Annual General Meeting.

Motion 10/01/2017-03 that quorum for the AGM included the majority of the BC Métis Federation directors as per the bylaws including:

**Ken Fisher
Joe Desjarlais
Rene Therrien**

Baillie Redfern
Keith Henry
Earl Belcourt
Cindy Wilgosh
Betty Fisher

Moved Keith Henry
Betty Fisher seconded
Carried

9. Approval of Draft BC Métis Federation Annual General Meeting Minutes September 24th, 2016 10:15 AM

Motion 10/01/2017-04 to approve draft AGM minutes Sept 24, 2016

Moved Baillie Redfern
Seconded Betty Fisher
Carried

10. BC Métis Federation Reporting 10:20 AM
- a. Review Annual Report – April 1st, 2016-March 31st, 2017
 - i. President Keith Henry/Executive Committee
 - ii. Socio-Economic Report
 - iii. Membership Update
 - b. BC Métis Federation Financial Statements April 1st, 2016 - March 31st, 2017
 - i. Lyle Brown, Culver and Co – Independent Auditor
 - c. 2017-2018 – Update Operational Financial Forecast

The reporting began with watching portions of the recent speech by Prime Minister Trudeau and the United Nations in September. This speech was important as Prime Minister Trudeau acknowledged his commitment to address ongoing issues facing Indigenous people in Canada. The delegation also reviewed the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), specifically Article 18 that states:

Article 18

Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures, as well as to maintain and develop their own indigenous decision making institutions.

President Henry shared further insight that the statements by Prime Minister Trudeau appears to reinforce the important role for the BC Metis Federation. However, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada bureaucracy still choose to limit Metis organizational inclusion.

There is significant disappointment with this ongoing discrimination.

Another key feature during reporting was acknowledgement of the BC Metis Federation by the Province of BC with the letter sent regarding the Annual General Meeting. BC Metis Federation is corresponding and meeting with the Provincial Government in October and is committed to building this relationship.

Motion 10/01/2017 – 05 to accept the BC Metis Federation reports as follows:

- Review BCMF annual report
- Review financial statements 2016-17 March 31
- Review 2017-18 forecast

Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded Baillie Redfern
Carried

Motion 10/01/2017 – 06 to appoint Lyle Brown, Culver and Co, as auditor for 2017-2018

Moved Keith Henry
Seconded Ken Fisher
Carried

Health Break	10:50 AM
11. Aboriginal Community Career Employment Services Society (ACCESS) a. Elaine Clare/Lucie Lacaille	11:00 AM
12. BC Métis Federation Economic Development Corporation a. Shauna Benson, Contracted Executive Director	11:30 AM

Métis Economic Development Corporation contractor presented an update of the current initiatives for the MEDC, an arm's length economic development company for the BC Métis Federation:

- Over 60 Métis businesses signed up
- Many bids submitted to various proponents to secure contract opportunities.
- The cause and effect of government decisions related to industry projects has significantly impacted the original business plan for the MEDC.

Motion 10/01/2017 – 07 to accept BCMF economic development report as presented

Moved Keith Henry
Seconded Ken Fisher
Carried

Lunch (Provided)	12:00 PM
Keynote Presentation Mr. David Doyle	12:30 PM

LOUIS RIEL Let Justice Be Done

The ideals that Louis Riel fought for – ideals of inclusiveness and equality – are now the very same values on which we base our country's identity.

Justin Trudeau, February 15, 2016

Delegates were provided an overview of the efforts by Mr. David Doyle to seek exoneration of Louis Riel.

13. BC Métis Federation Consultation Office

1:00 PM

Consultation Office contactor Kelly Davison provided overview of activities undertaken by the Consultation office and outlined the highlights in the 2016-2017 Annual Report. The need for greater membership engagement is crucial going forward and a call to action was made to seek more input through online surveys when seeking to obtain membership input in the future.

Motion 10/01/2017 – 08 to accept BCMF consultation office report

Moved by Sharon Eyford

Seconded by Earl Belcourt

Carried

14. Kinder Morgan Canada

1:45 PM

a. TransMountain Expansion Project Update

Kinder Morgan Canada (KMC) representatives provided an update on the Trans Mountain Expansion project as of September 2017. Delegates were provided a reminder about the project description with a focus on contract and employment opportunities.

There were several questions asked and points made including:

- Concerns about the ability for Métis businesses to compete for contract opportunities;
- Ongoing environmental concerns related to engineering questions

BC Métis Federation representatives are concurrently working at the Trans Mountain Expansion Indigenous Advisory Panel but are facing challenges by other Métis organizations, despite the lack of expertise on the subject matters.

KMC was reminded to ensure we demonstrate success, ensure contract opportunities and work through the Métis Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) to support the Métis small businesses succeed as there has been no contact by the procurement team from KMC.

Health Break

2:45 PM

15. MyVoyager Youth Project

3:00 PM

a. Final Report

A presentation and project update was provided by the project implementation team lead. The online youth designed support tool was demonstrated and had strong appreciation by the delegates in attendance.

Motion 10/01/2017 – 09 to accept My Voyageur project presentation
Moved Betty Fisher
Seconded Ken Fisher
Carried

16. New Business

4:00 PM

a. Foster Child SS Case Update

Delegates spent significant time with discussion about the Métis case of SS. The case demonstrates the lack of respect for the role of BC Métis Federation to govern for their legal members.

The members demand justice for Métis child SS and return her to her rightful Métis customary adoption family and approved the following motion:

Motion 10/01/2017-10 that the BC Government has publicly stated its support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and has adopted it in its entirety. In matters pertaining to the rights of Indigenous peoples of Canada the BC Government is bound by the Constitution of Canada Section 35 and the Adoption Act Section 46.

Therefore be it resolved that in removing the child SS from her family/community and by placing her in foster care with a non Indigenous family the Director of the Ministry of Children and Family Development infringed on protected Indigenous rights and acted outside the law. SS was removed from her adoptive parents whose right to raise her according to custom has been violated.

And further resolved that we, as a Métis community, recognize the custom adoption of our member, the child formerly known as SS, between our members, Alfred and Jillian Smily (birth parents) and Lauretta Morin and Ronald Bardutz (adoptive parents). This adoption agreement, which took place in December 2014, was further recognized by the BC Métis Federation in February 2016 and has been certified and registered in the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories by the Aboriginal Adoption Commissioner who rightfully determined the adoption date, according to custom, as having taken place on October 24, 2013, which is the date the adoptive parents began raising their daughter.

And further resolved that we, as a legal Métis membership, deem the actions of the Ministry of Children and Family Development as an infringement on our protected Indigenous rights. Indigenous law stands separate and apart, with equivalent force and effect as Colonial law. As such, custom adoption, a tradition which has been carried on since time immemorial and concerns the most cherished within our communities, our children, is outside the jurisdiction of the Ministry Director. The concept and practice of a custom adoption is unique to Indigenous culture and its peoples, precluding any and all involvement of the Ministry Director who is not indigenous. This decision to recognize a custom adoption is at the sole discretion of the Indigenous community.

And further resolved that we, as a Métis community, expect the government to act in a manner consistent with its publicly stated platform on indigenous policies and respect that this issue can only be determined by Indigenous law; law which has never been abrogated or extinguished.

And further resolved that we, as a Métis community, after having made every effort to work cooperatively with the government to achieve a just and peaceful outcome give notice that the apprehension of our member SS was a direct violation of indigenous rights and will no longer be tolerated.

And further resolved that we, as a membership, deem the actions of the Ministry of Children and Family Development, in holding the child SS in foster care in a non Indigenous home, to be an act contrary to their Standards of Practice and in violation of the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. By doing so the MCFD is perpetuating the destruction of our culture and is in direct violation of the Recognition of Adoption by her Métis community and subsequently by the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories under the Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act.

And further resolved that we, as an Indigenous community, expect the government of British Columbia and the Government of Canada to honour the commitments it has made and in the spirit of reconciliation to affect the immediate and rightful return of our Métis child to her Métis parents, adoptive Métis family, and to her Métis community. In addition, we demand a public apology from the British Columbia government and an independent audit on the actions, policies, and principles under which the MCFD has acted.

And further resolved that we, as BC Métis Federation members are prepared to stand with one voice in support of our children and are prepared to make a public statement to Premier Horgan that we will no longer accept the interference of the Director in our internal customs and traditions. BCMF is prepared to take a leadership role on behalf of Indigenous populations in British Columbia and start a movement that takes affirmative action to regain control of our children and families. We will start immediately by exercising our rights under Indigenous law to return SS to our community.

**Moved by Sharon Eyford
Seconded by Earl Belcourt
Unanimously carried**

17. Closing Prayer

4:30 PM

The chair declared the meeting adjourned following the prayer which ended at 4:50 PM