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For Immediate Release

Via email and BCMF website

BC Métis Federation Set Course with new Strategic Plan 2021-2024

(Vancouver, BC) The BC Metis Federation is pleased to announce the release of its new Strategic Plan for 2021-2024. The non-profit society has a strong mission to work with integrity and collaboration towards the advancement of Métis knowledge, language, culture, wellness, and self-determination today and for future generations.

During the Fall of 2020, the Strategic Plan was developed through a combination of reviewing internal and public-facing organizational documents and engaging members through surveys, one-on-one conversations, and meetings. Through this process, three priority areas were identified:

- 1) capacity building
- 2) member and community support, and
- 3) Metis resurgence

Under each of the priority areas are a series of specific strategies and concrete outputs has been designed. Appended to the Plan are survey results, as well as a the updated organizational chart that includes new positions that will increase organizational capacity to deliver, as it continues to see growth in its membership and activities. The Strategic Plan sets out a clear roadmap for the BC Metis Federation over the next three years.

Through survey responses and interviews, the organization learned about members' central concerns: Many young people are interested in support with employment and training, and prefer ready access to information online. Others are keen for more opportunities to learn language and engage in cultural practices, and prefer communication to be more direction (in community or on the phone). The BC Metis Federation is committed to responding to members' diverse interests and needs.

Challenges do face the organization: Struggles persist when it comes to Metis self-determination, there is some confusion about the fact that there are two member-serving Metis organizations in the province, and the global COVID-19 pandemic is also a reality as we move into this new planning period. All of the capacity building work that strengthens members' ability to access resources and services or connect with culture and language are also going to buoy their resiliency in the face of the impacts of COVID-19 and other systemic challenges. It is vital that direct links are made between Métis wellness and culture, language, and community connectedness in order to promote a holistic approach to responding to the global health crisis. This Strategic Plan is one of the ways BC Metis Federation is demonstrating its commitment to face these challenges head on.

The BC Metis Federation extends sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the development of this milestone document.

BC Métis Federation President Keith Henry stated, “Thank you to our team for the hard work to prepare a new course of action to reflect the needs of our members and partner communities. We have heard and listened to what our members want and this plan reflects those needs. Our leadership was unanimous in their strong support of this work and we are extremely pleased with the outcome.”

BC Métis Federation President Henry concluded, “Thank you to Indigenous Services Canada for the support of this important work. We now have taken another significant step forward and defined our needs and vision for the future. We look forward to working with members, partner communities, industry and all governments to support this vision.”

For more information about the BC Metis Federation, draft minutes, or board approved documents visit our website at www.bcmmetis.com

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