BC Métis Federation announces a ground-breaking “Metis Land and Life Project”

(Vancouver, BC) BC Métis Federation is pleased to announce a ground breaking traditional land use study. The ten-month Métis community-led and community-based study will explore the long-standing relationships that Métis peoples have had with each other, with Canadian society, and with the land.

Project facilitator Joe Desjarlais states, "Métis have been largely invisible in BC and many people assume we didn't use or currently do not use the land. This exciting study sets the stage for bringing our history and memory out of the background of Canada's past and, in the process, position us to establish a very different kind of relationship with Canada, one that is grounded in respect and recognition!"

The Métis Terrestrial Reference Study is entitled, “The Metis Land and Life Project” which will explore how to recognize existing Métis practices along the TransMountain Pipeline Extension corridor and how to appropriately protect existing Métis harvesting and living patterns. The project's goal is to better understand how we can know Métis relationships to the land.

Project leader Desjarlais concludes, "There is Métis history and memory as well as contemporary use by our Métis people along the project corridor and we need to account for it. Métis want to be recognized and respected by Canadian society, they want proper relationships with all levels of government, and, perhaps most importantly, they want to express who they are and their connections to land and place. The project is about understanding connections to the land and empowering individuals and communities so that they can share their knowledge in ways that benefit their long-term well being."

Watch for ongoing updates including community meetings about this project and how you can become involved! For more information please contact Joe Desjarlais - Project facilitator at 778-892-0095

BC Métis Federation thanks the Government of Canada, Natural Resources Canada, for the support of this important project. For more information about the BC Métis Federation go to www.bcmetis.com.

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