



Friday, October 9th, 2020

For Immediate Release

Via email and BCMF website

BC Métis Federation Supports COVID-19 Relief for Metis Families

(Vancouver, BC) As COVID-19 cases continue to affect our families and local businesses, BC Metis Federation chose to assist our communities in need. In April, BC Metis Federation released an online survey to learn how local communities were affected by COVID-19. A large number of our membership had responded, with an estimated 30% of BC Metis Federation families requesting financial aid due to impacts of COVID-19.

The BC Metis Federation team members contacted our members in a number of areas of the province including the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Kamloops, Kelowna and other locations throughout BC. We would like to specifically thank our team members for their work; Kayla Desjarlais, Elisha Desjarlais, JJ Lavallee and Rowan Pickering for assisting with contacting and coordinating relief efforts for over 1000 members.

Additionally, BC Metis Federation would like to thank those who reached out to their own BC Metis Federation membership, coordinating with our office and helping their families in need.

- o North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre- Cindy Wilgosh
- o River of Peace Metis Society- Val Paice
- o Skeena River Metis Community Association- Elizabeth Pearce
- o Peyak Li Moond Metis Society- Shawn Bortolon
- o Old Fort Metis Nation- Taylor McLeod
- o South Island Metis Nation- Mary Collins

BC Métis Federation President Henry stated, "COVID-19 has been devastating and many of our members have felt the significant impacts of COVID-19. Families have lost jobs, there is significant concerns about basic needs, and we need to do more as this initial support was crucial for families at risk. Much more needs to be done soon."

BC Métis Federation President Henry added, "Thank you to Indigenous Services Canada and specifically Minister Marc Miller for supporting our Metis members in need with COVID-19 relief. We are seeing the beginning of a second wave of impacts and our unfortunately a number of our members are extremely vulnerable for housing and basic needs. We urge Indigenous Services Canada to increase support for our community soon."

BC Métis Federation President Henry concluded, “Thank you to the tireless efforts of our phone callers and community leaders in this time of economic hardship. We will continue to support our communities as best we can and will provide updates to communities about future assistance. We again thank the work from our community leaders and those who continue to further support our Métis culture.”

For more information about the signing of this agreement, go to www.bcmetis.com

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