



Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Immediate Release**

**Sent by Email and BCMF Website**

**BC Metis Federation leaders meet Federal Minister of Natural Resources Amarjeet Sohi**

**(Vancouver, BC)** On Wednesday BC Metis Federation Vice President Rene Therrien, Secretary Joe Desjarlais and Treasurer Betty Fisher and operational staff member Sherry Daniels met with Honourable Minister Amarjeet Sohi along with Cheryl Cardinal, Director of Indigenous Relations and reconciliation and other staff from the Office of the Minister of Natural Resources.

BC Metis Federation Secretary Desjarlais explained to the Minister that BC Metis peoples and communities seek a positive relationship, a new relationship. He described past and ongoing efforts by the BC Metis Federation to ensure that Metis people are properly represented with direct meaningful engagement and more member participation. He discussed some challenges including a lack of confidence in the process, lack of support for community knowledge capital, and lack of real opportunities for BC Métis Federation members, and reviewed further challenges and recommendations as laid out in the recently completed BC Federation Trans Mountain Employment and Procurement Community Engagement report.

Minister Sohi stated that building relationships is important, and they haven't done a good enough job in the consultation process. Minister Sohi discussed their intention to take a more active role with indigenous peoples, working toward meaningful dialogue and consultation and common solutions.

BC Metis Federation leader Joe Desjarlais stated, "The meeting was relational in nature and BC Metis Federation was warmly received by the Minister's office. This is a new day for BC Metis Federation and signals the Federal government's clear shift toward partnership - the recognition of unique needs, interests, knowledge and perspectives of BC Metis Federation members and partner communities. We look forward to shared solutions going forward as we begin to meaningfully address the challenges - as ongoing partners in Canada's future."

For more information about the BC Métis Federation go to [www.bcmétis.com](http://www.bcmétis.com).

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