

# BRITISH COLUMBIA MÉTIS FEDERATION

*“A NEW WAY FORWARD”*

2018

BRITISH COLUMBIA MÉTIS FEDERATION  
(BC MÉTIS FEDERATION)

A DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE FOR MÉTIS PEOPLE  
IN BC

# PRESENTATION AGENDA

1. About BC Métis Federation
2. Introduction
3. Indigenous Representative Organization - Government of Canada
4. Reconciliation Project - Province of BC
5. Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committees For Energy Infrastructure Project
6. Cultural event support
7. Michif Language project work

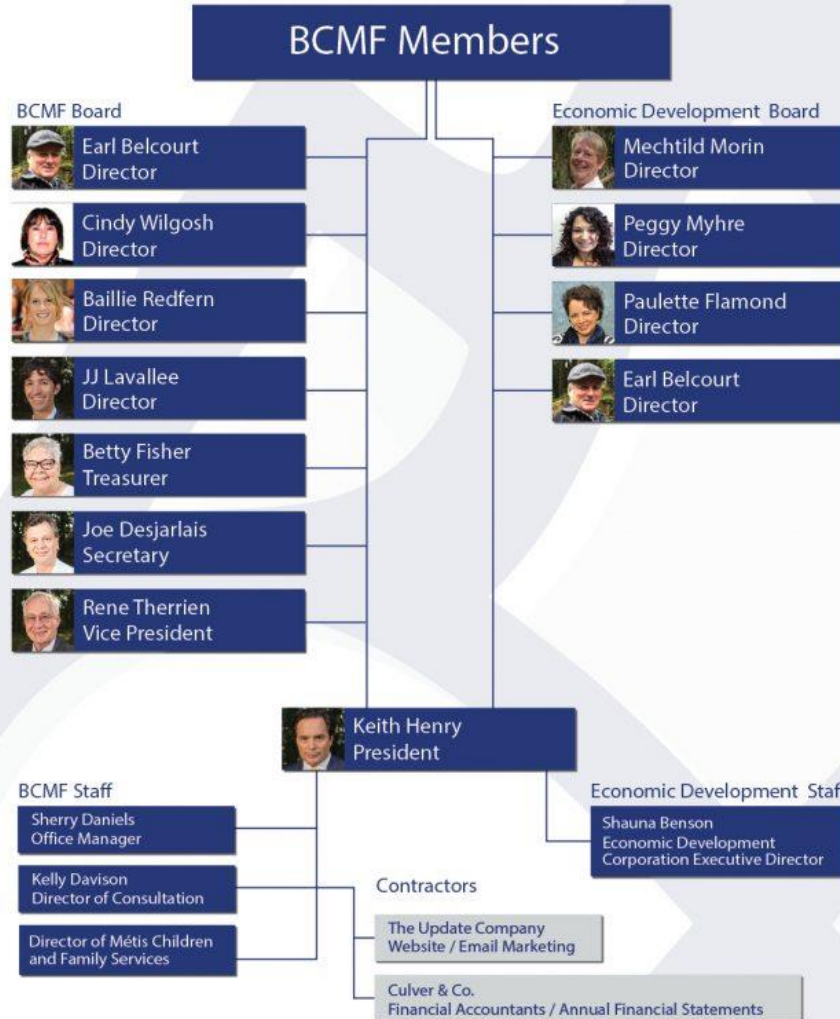
# ABOUT BC MÉTIS FEDERATION

- × The BC Métis Federation (BCMF) is a non-profit association that works with Métis communities to ensure the well being of grassroots BCMF members and its communities.
- × The BCMF was established to ensure that mixed blood (Métis) people and communities with longstanding British Columbian roots have a right to assert their constitutional rights.

# ABOUT BC MÉTIS FEDERATION

The BCMF has identified values that will be honoured and respected in recognition of our grassroots Métis culture as the foundation; and be governed by a Board of Directors to have Accountable and Transparent Leadership; And to promote Self Determination, Métis History, Heritage, and Culture.

# Organizational Chart



# BC MÉTIS FEDERATION MOVING FORWARD

- × BCMF has continued to seek a new relationship with the provincial and federal governments and has successfully done so through dialogue in Ottawa and here in British Columbia.
- × In 2018, the Province of British Columbia and the BC Métis Federation collaborated on a Knowledge Partnership Project (KPP). The results of this project were important in that we learned there are common threads and great diversity amongst and between Métis people and communities throughout British Columbia regarding identity and governance.

# KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (KPP)

## Findings

- × That clearly defined Métis communities existed, and continue to exist, in BC.
- × That recognizing and affirming these communities requires a flexible and expansive definition of Métis to account for their many ways of representing who they are
- × Contested identities, loss of culture and personhood, systemic discrimination and persistent racism, and erasure in the official historical record contribute to the difficult task of recognizing, reconstituting and repatriating Métis peoples.

# KNOWLEDGE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (KPP)

## Recommendations

The establishment and funding of a BCMF Knowledge Partnership research division.

- × Creation of an archival database of Métis knowledge in BC.
- × Inventory and repository of key resources to facilitate access.
- × Networking site, workshops, information to enable and expand connectedness.
- × Capacity for ongoing negotiation of expanding knowledge partnerships for self-identification and self-determination.



# NEST STEPS

- × Using a community-based and membership approach the BC Métis Federation has been holding a series of local community-based events with a focus on reconciliation and celebration of local culture.
- × Through group and individual interviews, the BC Métis Federation will gain deepened understanding of local needs for reconciliation.
- × The results of this project will provide the basis for locally relevant and strategic reconciliation efforts between BC Métis Federation members and ensure inclusion for all Métis people within the Province of BC.

# 1. INDIGENOUS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION - GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

- × Review, understand and apply knowledge from current survey of BC Métis Federation members
- × Identify local priorities in response to the Daniel's decision
- × Identify key recommendations and next steps to support reconciliation for Métis peoples

## 2. RECONCILIATION PROJECT - PROVINCE OF BC

- × Community and member based approach to gain a deeper understanding of local needs for reconciliation for Métis people.
- × Strengthening the relationship with BC Métis Federation, its members and community partners with the Province of British Columbia

### 3. INDIGENOUS ADVISORY AND MONITORING COMMITTEES FOR ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

BC Métis Federation has been holding a series of local community-based events to:

- × Address BC Métis Federation members and community partners issues and priorities in regards to the Trans Mountain Expansion Project
  - + Identify:
    - × local priorities
    - × employment opportunities
    - × procurement or business opportunities
- × Develop a Community and Procurement Database

# COMMUNITY MEETING DATES

- × Victoria- September 8
- × Surrey- September 15
- × Kelowna- September 21
- × Clearwater- October 6
- × Terrace- August 10
- × Prince George August 15

## Agenda

- + Welcome and introduction for Employment and Procurement opportunities
- + Collect Resumes and Businesses information
- + Have tablets so that individuals can complete the one hour WHIMS while in attendance
- + Collect names and register them for First Aid Level 1 (dates to be confirmed)

## 4. CULTURAL EVENT SUPPORT

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- × Fusion Festival- Surrey
- × Roots Music Festival – Prince George
- × Richmond World Festival – Richmond
- × Skeena Valley Music Festival- Terrace

## 5. MICHIF LANGUAGE PROJECT WORK

The Michif language is listed with UNESCO as Critically Endangered.

The BC Métis Federation in collaboration with the University, has proposed the Michif Language Project Initiative which is focused on the preservation of the Michif language from endangerment and extinction.

The BC Métis Federation would like to develop the Michif Language framework which would include:

- × Preservation of the language,
- × Creation of learning tools and resources
- × The development of a training program to verse Métis in their Indigenous language.

# CONCLUSION

- The BCMF has set out to give Métis people and organizations a new hope; one free of debt and puts the needs of our culture for our communities and families first and foremost.
- BCMF has shown from our initial steps that community development and cultural needs are our top priorities.
- BCMF has also shown that governance decisions must be made by the community, bottom up. We believe this is a fundamental difference in our new Métis Nation governance.



# CONCLUSION

- BCMF thanks Métis people for their continued participation to work together and look past personal agendas.
- BCMF continues to work with all Métis people and Métis organizations in British Columbia. We have a strong vision to support education, culture, community capacity, plus so much more.
- Lets rebuild together!

# THANK YOU

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## BC Métis Federation