Métis Land and Life Project - BC Métis Federation Terrestrial Study
Project Brief

What is the purpose of this land-use study you call the “Métis Land and Life Project”? The Métis Land and Life Project will gather knowledge about contemporary and historical Métis land use in, around, and along the TransMountain Pipeline Extension (TMX) corridor in B.C. The TMX is owned by the Canadian government and they are required to consult with all indigenous peoples and to consider the impacts that the project will have on their way of life. The BC Métis Federation, on behalf of its membership, received funds from Natural Resources Canada (NRCAN) to study and report back on the short and long-term impacts of the pipeline construction and on-going operation. Our goal is to clearly show that BC Métis Federation members have an on-going interest in using the lands and resources along the TMX corridor.

Where is the TMX corridor and how will it impact me? Here is a map of the proposed corridor:

![Map of the proposed corridor](image)

BC Métis Federation members and local communities should have a say in how the Canadian government develops land and resources, especially when these plans have a direct impact on Métis economic (hunting, fishing, gathering), cultural (historical or contemporary practices) or spiritual (gathering locations, burial sites) activities. It does not matter whether you live directly in the path of the corridor. Any BC Métis Federation member who has family connections, prior use history, or seasonal activities within this area is qualified to participate. By showing that the TMX is going to impact some or all of these Métis activities, the BC Métis Federation can negotiate on your behalf to lessen the impact and to seek compensation for lost opportunities.

Why should I participate in the Métis Land and Life Project? The Métis Land and Life Project is an opportunity to introduce your unique Métis perspective directly into the Canadian government’s
economic development plans. NRCAN is acknowledging Métis land-use along the TMX corridor in British Columbia, but at this point there is little hard evidence to support how and to what extent we utilize the land and resources. This land-use study may well be the first opportunity that Métis peoples in BC have had to make our way of life known in order to influence the development of natural resources in BC!

**What is unique about the Métis Land and Life Project and how can I be involved?** The BC Metis Federation understands this land-use study as a way to build lasting relationships through gathering and sharing our knowledge and history. Community Liaisons will be an important link between the Métis Land and Life Project team and individual Métis peoples in BC. We seek to establish a Community Liaison from your own region because we want to make sure that the information that is gathered and reported is by your community and for your community. Over the next few months, liaisons will identify storytellers, elders, knowledge keepers, and hunters, trappers, fishers and gatherers in each community, organize community meetings in your area to gather members who want to be more informed of or participate in the project, and arrange for one-on-one information sharing sessions with key people. Our team will come to your community, participate in community events, build relationships, and record any information that you have about Métis land-use in the TMX corridor.

**What will happen with the information that I share with the Métis Land and Life Team?** Together the BC Metis Federation Métis Land and Life Project team, the Community Liaison, and you as individual Métis member have the opportunity to show the government of Canada that Métis continue to use the land and resources along the TMX corridor. The BC Metis Federation is committed to sharing information with the government that is relevant to this aim but will do so in a way that respects your local community and protects individual members. Simply stated, the knowledge from the Metis Land and Life Project is owned by the diverse communities in cooperation with the BC Metis Federation. We commit to working with the BC Metis Federation members in order to produce a report that is a reflection of our shared values and goals.

**Is this going to be cost me time and money? What am I going to get out of it?** The Metis Land and Life Project team wants to establish good relations with you and your community. We will fund community events so that we can meet to undertake this project. Because the communities own their own knowledge and have the right to benefit from it, our goal is to draw the knowledge out of the community by building strong relationships! Governments and industry have long denied or ignored Metis history and existence in BC. In an age of reconciliation in Canada, we hope to empower you in your community to fully express and exercise your right to be Métis. When you take the time to share what you know about Métis land-use along the TMX corridor, you enable the BC Metis Federation to represent your interests and move us towards a proper relationship with the rest of Canadian society. The Métis Land and Life Project is about the ability of Metis people to live within their traditions, connected to land and culture. You can be part of a renewal led by communities themselves!

**Where else can I be involved in shaping a new future for Métis in BC?** In addition to the knowledge you share with us, the Métis Land and Life Project team will collect historical and contemporary Métis land-use information from relevant social, institutional and news media outlets as well as from other potential sources like libraries, archives, and special collections. If you know of relevant information please let one of the Métis Land and Life Project team know! It is our hope that this project will lead to the recognition and renewal of Metis practices, to the reformation and restoration of strong friendships, and to the exercise and extension of proper relationships, based upon what is the best for one another!

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