

British Columbia Métis Federation (BCMF)
Board of Directors
Conference Call Meeting

Minutes

Sunday, November 4, 2012 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Attendance -

**Daryl Piper
Joe Desjarlais
Rene Therrien
Tim St. Denis
Beverly Lambert
Wayne Lucier
Richard Lucier Larson
Keith Henry
Maxine Lavallee
Patrick Pocha
Gloria Rendell
Earlene Bitterman**

Regrets –

Lyle Letendre

Technical Support –

Cynthia Kolada
Sherry Daniels

Guests –

George and Terry Goulet
Ken Fisher
Shirley Smith
Russ Roy
Lynne Geary

1. Opening Remarks 7:05 pm

- Quorum achieved, opening remarks by Keith and Daryl.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda 7:08 pm

Motion 2012-11/04/01 – To approve the agenda as presented. Moved by Tim St. Denis and seconded by Daryl Piper. Carried

3. Approve BCMF Draft Minutes 7: 10 PM

- a. August 2nd**

Motion 2012-11/04/02 – To approve the meetings of August 2nd as presented. Moved by Joe Desjarlais and seconded by Tim St. Denis. Carried

4. Board/Staff Updates

7:15 pm

- a. **Daryl Piper** – happy with the direction the Board is going and the feedback has been really positive regarding what the BCMF is doing and the Métis Summit. Protest went really well in Victoria especially with regard to the speech with First Nations and moving the relationship forward.
- b. **Tim St. Denis** – Comments on the demonstration in Victoria and the magnitude of the historical event. Continuing to be active in the office.
- c. **Joe Desjarlais** – The AGM was very impressive. Joe has been delivering the Métis Connect workshops in the School of Education. The experience was encouraging as the Métis continue to get exposure and an understanding is gained as to who the Métis are and where our place is in society. There are so many positive developments and with the strong team that we have, we will forward our indigenous experience.
- d. **Rene Therrien** – getting lots of feedback and support from the communities. Unfortunately Rene has been working a lot so will be meeting with Terrace shortly. Also, has been talking to TransCanada and they are willing to help in any way they can.
- e. **Beverly Lambert** – Excited to see the positive feedback and communities coming together and wanting change. BCMF is bringing pride back to our people through our culture not just programs and services. All the way to the North, people are talking about and know who BCMF are. Bev will be in a variety of locations in the north on Louis Riel Day.
- f. **Wayne Lucier** – potluck coming up in Williams Lake. Unfortunately the organization has had to regroup as some of the funding has been lost. There is an upcoming Board meeting to try to make things work.
- g. **Richard Lucier-larson** – Feedback on the protest against Enbridge on October 22nd, and the large numbers that were there. Attended the Trish Parent memorial and her son Steven announced a scholarship in her name. Trish did outstanding work in getting Métis people funding for education. ****Keith asked how the BCMF could contribute to the Trish Parent scholarship fund, Richard will follow up on this****
- h. **Maxine Lavallee** - Busy with the cultural aspect. Attended the Holy Rose cathedral in honour of the first Aboriginal Saint. It was well attended and was both Métis and First Nations. Maxine is holding a Louis Riel Day party in his honour and will also be working to increase awareness and encourage membership in the coming months.
- i. **Patrick Pocha** – working on the Louis Riel potluck dinner with the Métis Elders and the Kikino Métis Child and Family Services. Patrick is trying to get permission to raise the Métis flag in Prince George for that week and is still looking for entertainers.
- j. **Gloria Rendell** – has been a bit hectic as she has been dealing with her surgery but has been staying informed through the website. The first event that she is hoping to hold is a Christmas potluck and she is hoping for a good turnout. Her daughter is in political

science and is studying at Dalhousie. She is having an upcoming radio show; Gloria will let us know when it will be aired. ** Discussion regarding education funds not coming through from the MNBC**

- k. **Earlene Bitterman** – Meeting with TransCanada, we now have our foot in the door for future meetings and hopefully inclusion on the traditional land use studies. Also had a meeting regarding the Chinese Mine and future employment for the Métis people. Newsletters are going well and they will be produced quarterly, need stories from the Board and the Statement of Cooperation communities.
- l. **Russ Roy (guest)** – his Board is meeting next Saturday and he will have an update for us on the next call.
- m. **Shirley Smith (guest)** – just watching nothing is happening with the MNBC, just waiting to see what plays out there.
- n. **Lynne Geary (guest)** – just excited to hear what is happening and is really impressed with the people involved at BCMF.
- o. **Ken Fisher (guest)** – NOVA’s AGM was today with a potluck. Lots of people, great feedback and some new board members were elected, Ken remains the president!!! Really positive day and continuing to move forward and make MNBC accountable. NOVA will be partaking again in the veterans’ ceremony on November 11th to honour Métis veterans. The Radio Show is still up and running and can be tuned into online as well.

Action Item: Keith to follow up with the City of Surrey regarding further training session for employees in light of the incident of racism.

- p. **George and Terry Goulet (guests)** – it is great that Coffee Talk has returned. Louis Riel Day is honoured by many communities by flying the Métis flag. The Goulet’s are considering writing an article on the cities that promote this honour and would encourage BC cities to do the same. Discussion regarding Father Lavallee’s efforts in regard to Louis Riel. George and Terry are heading to the coast shortly for the winter so they are hoping to see many of us soon. ALSO, MNA is also experiencing a “shortfall” of 3M in some program areas, so MNBC is not the only organization experiencing this plight.
- i. **Keith Henry** – review of presentation made at NOVA’s AGM today. Importantly, it was noticed at how the atmosphere has changed with regard to BCMF and the communities. Comments on the Legion Magazine that called Louis Riel a madman. The Legion has apologized and the Magazine will be doing a two page feature in Jan/Feb on the Métis with inclusion of the BCMF. Keith will be in PG for Louis Riel Day and encourages other Board members to attend if possible. Maxine and Sheri will be helping NOVA with an event there and David Doyle will be doing a presentation there. Happy with the turnout on October 22nd, 2012 and BCMF will be signing the “Save the Fraser” declaration and we will be the only Métis organization in Canada that is signing. After a three month hiatus, Coffee Talk will proceed on a weekly basis now that the “test run” to work out the technical difficulties has been completed. Need to discuss Kinder Morgan. Keith and Daryl met with Ida Chong and it seems that there will be forward movement with the Ministry.

5. Review of BC Métis Federation Strategic Plan**8: 25 PM**

“Renewal and Sustainability”

The Provincial Government is asking the BCMF what its priorities are, therefore the BCMF needs to decide where the priorities are. What are the short term goals and what are the long term goals. There is a general consensus from the Board that **culture** is the first priority, followed closely by community capacity and education and job training.

6. BC Métis Federation Portfolios**9:01 PM**

A spreadsheet was distributed to see if the Board members would like to take on a portfolio. Please look at the spreadsheet to see where areas of interest are and portfolio holders will be identified in the near future.

7. BC Métis Federation Louis Riel Day**9:05 PM**

- Keith will be in Prince George and Rene will try to join them. The event is being held at Kinsmen Hall which holds approximately 200.
- The Lower Mainland needs a large event, Russ will work on this.
- Dawson Creek is holding an event as well.

8. Other**9:10 PM**

- BCMF AGM Review** – holding it in central BC was successful. Suggestion that it should be a two day event next year.
- Métis Identification Summit April 27th, 2013** – thanks to George, Terry and Joe for all the information. BCMF is aiming for holding this one day event in Prince George in April 2013. George and Terry will be developing the agenda and Keith will start coordinating the event with the community in Prince George. It is anticipated that there will be approx 100-150 people. Lengthy discussion regarding agenda content for the Summit.
- Newsletters** - thanks to Earlene and please share with the communities.
- Protest Monday, October 22nd, 2012** - please see notes from above
- Aboriginal Language Initiative** – Cynthia will work with the communities on this, it is due at the beginning of December.
- Youth Employment Program Application** – an application was submitted for skills and employment training, if the funding comes through, BCMF has a commitment for 300 jobs.

9. Next BC Métis Federation Board Meeting**9:50 PM****Sunday, December 9th 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM****10. Closing Remarks****9:55 PM**

Thanks to everyone for the call, it was full of great discussion and great dialogue. Positive closing comments from everyone and strong support for the team that BCMF has.

Keith – will let the Board know when the meeting with the Provincial Government is. Kinder Morgan has been trying to contact Keith, it is suggested that the communities speak directly with Kinder Morgan as they are directly affected. Finally, please call into Ken’s show, log on for Coffee Talk and look for the website updates.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05pm



Approved by:

BCMF Chairperson

BCMF Secretary

Dated: December 9th, 2012