

**BC Metis Federation kicks off Data Collection Project through Anti-Racism Engagement Grant**  
**“SET THE TONE” RACE-BASED DATA COLLECTION PROJECT**

December 16, 2021, (X<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əy̓ əm (Musqueam), S<sup>k</sup>wxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliiwətal (Tsleil-Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C.) - The BC Métis Federation is pleased to announce a new research initiative with the Provincial Government that aims to tackle systemic racism in the public sector. To understand the extent of the problem, Indigenous, Black/People of African descent and other racialized communities have advocated for race-based data collection in support of ending systemic racism. As a first step in the process of developing specific guidelines (i.e., legislation) around race-based information gathering, the government has provided an Anti-Racism Engagement Grant to BC Metis Federation so that it can hear from our partner communities.

BCMF is encouraging member participation in this process that will eventually help to identify the gaps and barriers that exist within the public sector (for example: health care, education, policing, courts, government services) for racialized persons so that the BC Government can provide better and more equitable services. Joe Desjarlais, BCMF’s Director of Research, states: “At this point this initial engagement about data collection is not about gathering stories about racism, but it does provide a forum for Metis people in British Columbia to have a voice in the public conversation about how we represent and share our knowledge. It’s our opportunity to speak into an important government process and to provide our unique Métis perspective.”

In addition to meeting the needs of government to develop anti-racism policies, improve services for racialized communities, and modify their future actions in ways that remove systemic barriers for racialized persons within BC, participation in these sessions is an important indication that the province is serious about including all Métis in its move towards reconciliation. BCMF and its partner communities understand that this type of engagement will lead to a stronger and more robust knowledge partnership with the BC Government.

Joe Desjarlais concludes: “These sessions can help you, as a BCMF member, to better understand the impact of anti-Métis racism and discrimination and to work towards ending the systemic anti-Métis bias that exists in BC. It is vitally important you share your perspectives so that any Anti-Racism Data Collection legislation that is developed reflects our Métis values, our historical experience, and our goals as a people.” For more information, visit [www.bcmctis.com/set-the-tone](http://www.bcmctis.com/set-the-tone).

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*Li taan paasii. Li taan ki vyayn.*

*From our past. For our future.*