



BC Métis Federation Board Meeting  
Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Grand Villa Casino Hotel  
4331 Dominion Street  
Burnaby BC  
V5G1B2

**Approved Minutes**

Attendees

Board Members –

1. Keith Henry - President
2. Jacquie Swaisland – Board Member
3. Cindy Wilgosh – Board Member
4. Rene Therrien – Vice President
5. Earl Belcourt – Board Member

Operational Team –

1. Betty Fisher – Director of Finance
2. Angel Fisher – Membership Clerk and Coast Guard Project
3. Drake Henry – Project Coordinator
4. Kevin Henry – Project Support
5. Greg Mazur – Director of Industry Engagement
6. Karen Andrews – Industry Employment Coordinator
7. Taylor McLeod – Industry Procurement Coordinator
8. JJ Lavallee – Cultural and Community Coordinator
9. Jeanie Cardinal – Director of Michif Language
10. Brady Smith – Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
11. Brad Giroux – Industry Engagement Assistant
12. Kristina Souter – Finance Clerk
13. Kassandra Sisson – Director of Communications
14. Sherry Daniels – Office Manager
15. Craig Van der Merwe – Business Systems Strategist

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks 1:00 PM

The board and team members were welcomed to the meeting. Round table introductions of board members and the operational team. There was a new introduction of Kristina Souter as the new Finance Clerk who started in December.

President Keith Henry introduced the new 10-year Anniversary Sash to the board and operational team.

2. Review/acceptance of Agenda 1:05 PM

**Motion 20211217-01 – To approve the December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 agenda as presented**

**Moved by- Rene Therrien**

**Seconded by - Cindy Wilgosh**

**Carried**

3. Review Minutes 1:15 PM
- a. October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021
  - b. May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021
  - c. November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 AGM Draft Minutes (Review Only)

**Motion 20211217-02- To accept the October 4 2021 Minutes**

**Moved by- Cindy Wilgosh**

**Seconded- by Earl Belcourt**

**Carried**

**Motion 20211217-03- To accept the May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 Minutes**

**Moved by- Jacquie Swaisland**

**Seconded by-**

**Earl Belcourt**

**Carried**

The AGM was discussed and the challenges trying to get members to actively participate using online voting has been difficult. Business Systems Strategist Craig van der Merwe commented on the technological issues of the AGM and that overall, the virtual meeting was a success with few minor challenges using the voting platform. We will continue to assess the most effective and easy to use systems into the future.

4. BC Metis Federation Reporting 1:20 PM
- a. 2021-2022 Financial Report

Director of Finance Betty Fisher presented the Financial Report. There was a full reconciliation of expenses and revenues from April – October 2021.

President Keith Henry added comments for the report. The expansion of financial support and revenue was expected as the growth of the organization continues. Cash position and revenue is positive and the overall summary of the Financial Report is very positive. Additionally, the BCMF should be proud of its community engagement and capacity assistance and in particular the elder support this year for Christmas, the first time ever that we could do this.

President Henry acknowledged Taylor McLeod and her amazing work and success with corporate engagement. Her procurement partnerships and success have secured significant new funding that has enables partner community investments as well as other membership support.

Board member and Clearwater community leader Cindy Wilgosh shared her appreciation on how much the BCMF support has meant to the North Thompson community.

Vice President Rene Therrien and Taylor McLeod also thanked BCMF for their support for their community activities in Terrace and Fort Nelson.

**Motion 20211217-04 To Accept the 2021-2022 Financial Report**

**Moved by-Cindy Wilgosh**

**Seconded by-Earl Belcourt  
Carried**

- b. Director of Industry
  - i. TMX
    - 1. Employment
    - 2. Procurement
  - ii. Canadian Coast Guard

Director of Industry Engagement Greg Mazur provided an update on Industry Engagement.

Industry Employment Coordinator Karen Andrews has collected almost 100 resumes this year which resulted in approximately 70 jobs for Metis people. Major progress is being made and she asked all board members to review all summaries in the Board Kits.

Canadian Coast Guard – Project lead Angel Fisher provided an update and review of the Coast Guard education and training summary.

Industry Procurement Coordinator Taylor McLeod provided an update on the renewed contracts and engagements to date. BC Metis Federation has secured an estimated \$14 million of Trans Mountain Expansion project work in accordance with our Mutual Benefits Agreement. The original minimal target was \$10 million so we have brought more contract opportunities to our partners (many who are Metis) who have signed Letters of Intent.

Industry Engagement Assistant Brad Giroux discussed his enthusiasm on working with the team as a new addition these past few months.

- c. Director of Michif Language

Director of Michif Language Jeanie Cardinal provided a summary of the Michif Revitalization project, now a multiyear project. The project has completed the curriculum for K- 6. The team released the curriculum to the public and they are working on a video project to share other ways to raise awareness to be shot in January 2022. All K-6 curriculum materials are now available for download from the BC Metis Federation website.

The current work includes new curriculum for grades 7-12 this year. Concurrent work is unfolding to advance additional curriculum.

***Action #1 – Communications team to make the access for the K-6 Michif Language program more easily accessible on the BC Metis Federation website – Director of Communications  
Kassandra Sison and Business Systems Strategist Craig van der Merwe.***

- d. Director of Research
- This report was tabled.

- e. Director of Communications

The Director of Communications Cassandra Sisson reviewed recently completed projects for the new year.

President Keith Henry followed up with information on the re-implementation of the monthly newsletter and the importance of promoting the latest session on race-based data collection project. He encouraged all board and the operational team to promote BC Metis Federation events and newsletters within their communities.

Business Systems Strategist Craig van der Merwe shared the new Public Service Announcement (PSA) advertisement which will be airing in December and January. This is a new commercial style promotion of the BC Metis Federation.

The response and feedback from the board and operational team was extremely positive.

f. Office Manager

Office Manager Sherry Daniels provided an update about the office expansion project. BC Metis Federation will be obtaining one office in close proximity to the current office within our current location at 3665 Kingsway to provide working space for 4-6 individuals. This expansion is much needed and BC Metis Federation continues to grow.

The new lease will be on a month-to-month basis with the hopes to expand besides our current suite at 390.

g. Community

- i. Membership
- ii. COVID-19 – Phase 3 Report
- iii. Project Coming Home Proposal
- iv. Metis Cultural Engagement - Fiddle Partnership, Louis Riel Day

Membership Clerk Angel Fisher gave an update on the increase in membership which is now up by 147 new members since April 2022. The majority of new applicants are coming through the online portal.

President Keith Henry encouraged board members and the operational team to get people to update their membership information online. The online membership portal is extremely clear and user friendly located on the BC Metis Federation.

Board member Cindy Wilgosh commented on the Community Acceptance Committee now in use by the BC Metis Federation board and their work to accept members has been a smooth process. Other Community Acceptance Committee members (Earl and Taylor) also commented on their perspective.

Cultural and Community Coordinator JJ Lavalley discussed the importance of the Metis culturally appropriate representation of the BC Metis Federation. He encouraged the board to clearly identify Metis cultural symbols and is looking for the board's input in developing appropriate cultural protocols.

President Keith Henry also discussed the importance of establishing concise Metis cultural protocols for the organization and the importance of Metis authenticity going forward.

***Action #2 - JJ Lavallee to gather Metis cultural protocol input from all board, staff and consultants by the end of January.***

Project Coordinator Drake Henry updated the board on the implementation of the COVID-19 Phase 3 project. In October – December the BC Metis Federation was able to connect and support an estimated 350 members/families who continue to be significantly impacted by the impacts of COVID-19.

The addition of team member Kevin Henry has been invaluable to the information gathering regarding COVID-19 from members. The response rate was 70% of the estimated 350 recipients which is very encouraging. A public report was produced in early December that outlined particular issues such as employment struggles among members.

Project support Kevin Henry added his comments about his participation in talking directly to members and the importance of this connection. There continues to be significant mental health challenges and members were greatly appreciative of the contact with a Metis voice. The personalized approach meant a lot of many members.

***Action Item #3 - Industry Employment Coordinator Karen Andrews will continue to try to link the unemployed Covid 19 recipients with employers seeking Metis employees as another important internal solution.***

***Action Item #4 – Due to the Omicron BC Metis Federation will continue to seek COVID-19 relief support in 2022 for members and family continuing to be impacted by COVID-19.***

Senior Strategic Policy Advisor Brady Smith reviewed the Project Coming Home Proposal which was completed of Dec 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. BC Metis Federation will be applying to the 150 Time Immemorial Grant Program administered by Heritage BC to secure resources to obtain a feasibility study, create a business plan and execute a business plan over the next 2 years.

President Keith Henry summarized the Project Proposal. A 90-day turnaround is expected on an “Approval in Theory” from the province.

This project is led by Senior Strategic Policy Advisor Brady Smith with support from Project Coordinator Kevin Henry and President Keith Henry. An application will be submitted before December 24<sup>th</sup>.

***Action Item #5 – President Keith Henry to update the Michif Historic and Cultural Preservation Society about the status of Project Coming Home.***

**Motion 20211217-05 To Accept the BC Metis Federation Reports 4b-4g**

**Moved by-Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by- Cindy Wilgosh**

**Carried**

5. Provincial Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation 4:20 PM
  - a. Meeting December 13<sup>th</sup>



Director of Industry Engagement Greg Mazur provided his perspective about the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (MIRR) meeting which was held on December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the BC Metis Federation office.

President Keith Henry discussed the significance of the MIRR meeting and the importance of the formal engagement BC Metis Federation now has established with the Provincial Government. A new chapter of engagement has now been established and this is a significant achievement for BC Metis Federation.

There were 3 priorities agreed to, mental health issues, Project Coming Home, research specific to Metis existence in BC and potential residential school impacts for Metis at the institutions in BC.

President Keith Henry and ADM Jennifer Melles will continue to create a bilateral table to address the initial priorities as well as future areas that affect BC Metis Federation members.

- 6. Other 4:40 PM
  - a. 2022-2023 Year 2 of the 3 Year BC Metis Federation Strategy
  - b. Legal

President Keith Henry updated about the current strategy as we get ready for year 2 of the new 3-year strategy starting April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. There will be a planning process beginning in January to be ready by March. President Henry encouraged the board and operational team to review the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

Legal Advisory Malcolm MacPherson provided an update to the board and operational team on the legal position with recent correspondence with First Nations. He shared how their firm responded to the notion that Metis do not exist in BC which is untrue and we are working to prepare legal defenses into the future.

He stated that as BC Metis Federation grows it is important to continue to have stringent and specific membership criteria and to 'shore up' procedures on membership.

*Action #6 - Explore how BC Metis Federation can assist communities to be created under the umbrella of the BC Metis Federation and not have to register as nonprofit societies in BC.*

- 7. Adjournment 5:00 PM

**Motion 20211217-06 To Adjourn the Meeting**

**Moved by- Cindy Wilgosh**

**Seconded by Rene Therrien**

**Carried**

Please note there was a number of members who applied to become term board members, The board will create an interview process in January with each of the eligible candidates.

**Approved Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**BC Metis Federation President**

**BC Metis Federation Vice President**