

BC Métis Federation Called to Present to the Legislative Assembly's Select Standing Committee on Health

BCMF Health team joins panel on Committee's examination of drug crisis

June 22, 2022, (Xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh)/ Vancouver, B.C.) - [The BC Métis Federation](http://TheBCMetisFederation.com) health team members participated in an important panel on June 20th, 2022 to discuss the urgent and ongoing illicit drug toxicity and overdose crisis, and the impacts of this crisis on our Partner Communities.

"We are truly grateful to be able to speak to the Legislative Assembly's Committee on Health, and provide them with some insights into how our members and partner communities have been impacted by the ongoing drug crisis here in British Columbia. Through our health team's conversations with members, we have learned just how widespread this issue has become," stated BCMF Metis Community Health Coordinator, Kevin Henry.

The health team at BCMF has been hard at work supporting members and communities since the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Four separate phases of financial aid were rolled out across BCMF's Partner Communities, with the support of Community leaders, and BCMF staff. "During these cycles, we really got to spend time on the phone with our members learning about the challenges they were facing and what people needed to get back on their feet. As time went on and we started peeling back the layers we realized that many of our members were struggling with a combination of issues, including drug and alcohol addictions, mental health challenges and other systemic issues that require more complex support than we could offer as a part of our COVID-19 Support capacity."

Henry continued, "We feel very honoured to have been given the opportunity to speak for our membership and communities. We are a grassroots organization, and I believe that by keeping our communities as the focus of our work, we can provide them with culturally relevant programs and services that will make a big difference."

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Li taan paasii. Li taan ki vyayn.

From our past. For our future.