

**11th Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Sheraton Guilford Hotel, Surrey BC
October 15th, 2022**

Draft Minutes

Attendance:

Board Members

1) Keith Henry	President
2) Rene Therrien	Vice President
3) Cindy Wilgosh	At Large
4) Earl Belcourt	At Large
5) Rosanne Forget	At Large
6) Louise Lambert	At Large
7) Jacquie Swaisland	At Large

Operational Team

1) Sherry Daniels	Office Manager
2) Taylor McLeod	Industry Procurement Coordinator
3) Karen Andrews	Industry Employment Coordinator
4) Jeanie Cardinal	Director of Michif Language
5) Kassandra Sisson	Director of Communications
6) Drake Henry	Health Project Coordinator
7) Sean Reid- KPMG	Auditor
8) Betty Fisher	Director of Finance
9) Angel Fisher	Director of Coastal Conservation
10) Greg Mazur	Director of Industry
11) Kevin Henry	Metis Community Health Coordinator
12) Malcolm MacPherson LLP	Legal Counsel`
13) Brady Smith	Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
14) Brad Giroux	Industry Engagement Coordinator
15) Joe Desjarlais	Director of Research
16) Helen Houle	Michif Language Assistant
17) Dr. Bruce Shelvey	Research Consultant
18) Tanner Timothy	Terrestrial GIS Contractor
21) Kristina Souter	Finance Clerk
22) Cohen Hocking	Legal Counsel

Voting Members: Eligible BC Metis Federation members registered and were provided voting cards:

- 27 Full Members, including partner community leaders.
 - Quorum was confirmed
 - Motions/Votes required no less than 15 in favour to pass
- Estimated 60 industry representatives, associate members, and non-Indigenous participants who attended but unable to vote on governance matters.

BC Metis Federation President Keith Henry welcomed members, partners communities, government and industry to the Annual General Meeting.

Grand Entry – Board of Directors	9:05 AM
Opening Fiddle Music – JJ Lavallee and Rene Therrien	9:08 AM
1. Opening Prayer – Métis Elder Betty Fisher	9:10 AM
2. Opening Remarks	9:10 AM

Vice President Mr. Rene Therrien
President Keith Henry

Both President Henry and Vice President Therrien reflected that this year marks the 11th anniversary for the BC Metis Federation. Vice President Therrien welcomed members and partners attending today and expressed his delight to be attending in person. The AGM was also live streamed on the BCMF facebook page.

BCMF Member Bev Lambert thanked BCMF for their support throughout the years. She presented President Henry and Office Manager Sherry Daniels with two items from her late brother, Rodney Lambert who was a past BC Metis Federation community leader in Dawson Creek. She acknowledged the important work BCMF has done in the past 11 years and remarked on the growth of the organization. Rodney Lambert was an important Elder and provided BCMF with terrestrial knowledge and was a huge advocate for Metis people in British Columbia.

President Henry discussed his leadership role and commented on the overwhelming success and incredible digital engagement from the recent 10 Year Anniversary event in Kelowna this past summer. Remarkably up to 1 million views have been recorded for the Flett Dancers performance. He commented on the growth of BCMF for the past 11 years and is incredibly thankful for the leadership and support from

the Board of Directors and Operational Team. He is excited about the future of the organization with many new exciting initiatives to be announced in the future.

3. Call to Order – Verification of quorum 9:30 AM

President Henry verified that quorum was confirmed by the full attendance of the board of directors plus members in attendance.

4. Approval of AGM Chair 9:35 AM

Motion 20221015-01 to approve Malcolm MacPherson as AGM Chair
Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded Greg Mazur
Carried

5. Review/Approve Draft Agenda 9:40 AM

Motion 20221015-02 to review and approve the draft agenda as presented
Moved JJ Lavallee
Seconded Rosanne Forget
Carried

6. Resolution Update 9:41 AM

Chair MacPherson asked the Board to clarify if any resolutions were submitted in accordance with the bylaws.

No Resolution or Updates were submitted.

7. Review and Approve Draft AGM Minutes dated November 6th, 2021 9:42 AM

Motion 20221015-03 to approve the draft BC Metis Federation Annual General Meeting minutes of November 6th, 2021
Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded Rosanne Forget
Carried

8. BC Metis Federation Reporting 2021-2022

- i. President Henry summarized the overall progress of the organization from April 1st, 2021 – March 31st, 2022. The last fiscal year was characterized by a continuation of assistance to members throughout the last phase of the COVID pandemic. A major priority was also made to provide financial support for at risk families and elders. There was also a major focus on job procurement opportunities for members and Metis businesses. These endeavors have resulted in over \$32 Million in contracts being awarded.

President Henry also discussed the success of the Michif Language Program and the importance of the cultural revival of the language. A full curriculum is now available on the BCMF website and President Henry thanked the Michif language team for their important and tireless work.

President Henry went on to discuss partner community engagement and how important these relationships have become to the organization. He thanked the Operational Team and Board of Directors for all their hard work in the past year. He summarized by stating that Reporting focuses on the outcome, not the process and he was very happy to report that all initiatives and goals are being met.

- ii. President Henry asked KPMG represented Sean Reid to present the audited Financial Statements as part of the 2021-2022 Annual Report. KPMG confirmed the growing financial support and confirmed a clean audit for the organization.

KPMG has been working for two years to obtain a GST receivable and Sean Reid was happy to report that this matter has now been resolved.

Motion 20211106-04 to accept the BC Metis Federation Financial Statements 2022-2023
Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded Raymond Forget
Carried

Member Greg Mazur asked for clarification on Note 6 on the Financial Statements. Sean Reid and President Henry clarified the difference had not included the movement of consultants/employees with the organization over the past year.

Motion 20221015-05 to approve BC Metis Federation Financial Statements

***Moved Cindy Wilgosh
Seconded Brad Giroux
Carried***

***Motion 20221015-06 to Accept/Approve KPMG as Auditor for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year
Moved Betty Fisher
Seconded Rosanne Forget
Carried***

Coffee Break 10:15 AM

9. BC Metis Federation Strategic Action Plan Update 10:40 AM

President Henry shared a video from the 10th Anniversary event in Kelowna this past August. The event was a huge success and online engagement from the Flett dancers had now surpassed 1 million views.

Member, Diane Pearce gave an emotional appeal to fellow members about the issues surrounding her daughter who is autistic and a proposal by the Provincial Government to change the services. Ms. Pearce spoke on behalf of the BC Autism Advocacy Group and shared her family's challenges with the BC Government segregation policy of special needs children and youth within the province. Funding for these children is now being taken from the decision of the parents and she feels action needs to be taken to allow families to choose what is best for each child. President Henry commented that the BCMF will continue to advocate for Diane's family with the recent letter to the Province. He asked for support from the members, particularly those on Vancouver Island who might be able to attend local Provincial government meetings in support and also promised to post updates on the BCMF Facebook page about advocacy initiatives.

President Henry provided an introduction and gave each member of the BCMF Operational Team a few moments to provide a brief summary of initiatives from the previous year. Team member had an opportunity to elaborate on their programs in the afternoon portion of the meeting.

The following provided updates:

- Office Manager Sherry Daniels
- Project Coming Home Brady Smith

- Financial Review Betty Fisher
- Director of Industry Greg Mazur
 - Procurement Coordinator Taylor McLeod
 - Employment Coordinator Karen Andrews
 - Industry Engagement Coordinator Brad Giroux
- Communications Director Kassandra Sisson
- IAMC Committee Representative Earl Belcourt
- Project Coordinator Angel Fisher, Canadian Coast Guard Project
- Membership President Henry
- Project Coordinator Drake Henry, Community Support (COVID-19)
- Director of Michif Language Jeanie Cardinal
- Governance President Henry

There was several new projects and work being completed in accordance with projects and supporting the current BC Metis Federation 2021-2024 Strategic Plan.

Board Nominee Statements

11:40 AM

Each Board of Director Nominee provided a brief statement on why they would like to be elected to the Board of Directors. Statements were made by:

- Rene Therrien
- Cindy Wilgosh
- Rosanne Forget
- Louise Lambert
- Jacquie Swaisland
- Earl Belcourt

President Henry will let his name stand as Nominee for President. He added that he was extremely proud of the leadership and operational team and thanked them for the dedication to help keep the organization running smoothly.

LUNCH BREAK and Cultural Performance

12 – 1:00PM

Rene Therrien and JJ Lavallee provided fiddle music throughout the lunch break

10. BCMF Board of Directors Election

1:05 PM

Declaration of Chief Electoral Officer Cohen Hocking of Clark Wilson.

Cohen Hocking reviewed official Election Regulations and was satisfied that BCMF was in compliance with the Rules and Regulations of the Bylaws and Society Act. It was confirmed that all outgoing Directors have renewed their nominations for another two-year term, therefore a motion to re-elect the current Board of Directors was initiated.

Motion 20221015-07 To accept the result of the BCMF Board of Directors Election as presented

Moved Betty Fisher

Seconded Greg Mazur

Carried

11. BC Metis Federation 2022 - 2023 Strategic Initiative Updates

- a. Michif Revitalization Project: An overview of the past 4 years was provided by Director of Michif Language Jeanie Cardinal on the French Michif Language program. We are currently in year 4 of the 4-year plan however there is still more work to do. The K-6 and 7-12 curriculum has been developed and is currently available on the BCMF website. There are plans to further develop the program with a mentorship/apprentice program to target and connect fluent speakers with learners. Jeanie Cardinal acknowledged Nicole Rosen from U of M Linguistics and Samson Lamonte. She thanked the BCMF for their support for this important cultural initiative.

Helen Houle was introduced and she gave the members a lively demonstration on her immersive approach to learning the Michif language.

- b. Pacific Northwest Metis Research: Director of Research Joe Desjarlais thanked his Research Team of Dr. Shelvey and Timothy Tanner as well as Operational Team Members involved with the project. The MTIP Metis Terrestrial Investigations Project review will facilitate knowledge and partnerships for members to represent their history in a variety of ways using cooperative research practices. The long-term goal is to further engage with the community and build capacity through new relationships to repatriate local history. The research is beginning to show the historical relevance of the BC Metis people in the Pacific Northwest.

A Question from a member asked for clarification on the term 'building capacity'. The response from President Henry was that capacity building involves the hiring of



community-based researchers to discover the kinship history of Metis people throughout BC.

- c. Coastal Conservation: Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher provided an update on the initiative which is a new program introduced in the past fiscal year. She was pleased to introduce several members in attendance who are now part of a 16-member team of volunteers. They have been involved with ongoing training. The Coastal Water Protectors have hosted 9 engagement sessions throughout the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has initiated an Aquatic Habitat Restoration Fund which will focus on the revitalization of aquatic habitats and long-term sustainability. Ongoing training will be available for the Team and a Youth and Elder Aquatic Retreat is currently being planned for 2023. A new space at the BCMF office will be dedicated to this new department and updates will be provided on the BCMF website. North Coast Board Member Rosanne Forget asked about future involvement for her coastal area.
- d. Community Health Department: Health Project Coordinator Drake Henry and Metis Community Health Coordinator Kevin Henry provided updates on the initiatives of the past year primarily involving their community outreach program and the impacts of COVID over the past year. Unemployment along with housing and food insecurity continue to be major issues for Members. They discovered that recent public healthy policies pertaining to Metis people were being developed from a very small polling segment of approximately 30 people. They strongly feel that BCMF has an opportunity to be engaged in the metrics from their recent outreach initiatives involving the direct research of the needs of hundreds of BCMF members reached through phone calls and surveys.

The health team will continue to advocate for BCMF members with the Provincial Government and Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Coffee Break

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM

- e. BC Metis Federation Section 35 Legal Declaration

3:00 PM

Imroz Ali from Clark Wilson was introduced to provide an update. He is the Legal Council from Clark Wilson that will be assisting BCMF in pursuing this important piece of litigation.



A Court Declaration was explained which is a narrow remedy which will confirm BCMF has existing rights under the Charter. It is important for BCMF to advance its culture and rights moving forward. The existing narrative from the Federal Government has refused to accept BCMF as a legitimate organization therefore BCMF is now in the research phase to produce a Notice of Civil Claim.

Litigation is a slow process and the Notice of Civil Claim needs to be drafted expertly and carefully. Settlement can be achieved at any time before a trial date is determined. The cost to initiate the Claim is estimated at \$200,000 over a two-year period.

The Floor was opened for questions by Members. President Henry asked Members who had previous cases of discrimination or denial of funding from Government entities to come forward with their stories. A narrow time frame is available to assemble these stories and claims and will be required before the end of this year.

A motion to accept the Section 35 Declaration action by the Board of Directors of the BC Métis Federation was initiated by Director Earl Belcourt.

Motion 20221015-08 To Accept the Section 35 Legal Declaration Action

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded Rosanne Forget

Carried

- f. Employment and Training Opportunities – Industry Employment Coordinator Karen Andrews invited Corporate and Industry attendees to make a brief presentation on employment opportunities available for Members.

12. Closing Comments

3:56 PM

President Henry shared a recent PSA advertisement which has yet to receive Board approval.

He also acknowledged the departure of Operational Team Member JJ Lavalée who has played a valuable role in the development and success of BCMF over the past 8 years. He will be greatly missed but the entire BCMF family wishes him well in his new endeavours in Saskatchewan. JJ Lavalée thanked President Henry and the organization for their support throughout his journey.



Vice President Therrien and President Henry thanked all attendees for a very successful AGM. They look forward to a bright future for BCMF with many new exciting programs in the coming year.

Motion 20221015-09 to adjourn the BCMF 11th Annual General Meeting
Moved Cindy Wilgosh
Seconded Earl Belcourt
Carried

13. Closing Prayer Metis elder Betty Fisher

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM

DRAFT