

BC Métis Federation
Board Meeting
Thursday, August 4th, 2022
BC Metis Federation Office
Suite 390 – 3665 Kingsway
Vancouver, BC
1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Approved Minutes

Board Members –

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

Regrets –

1. Jacquie Swaisland
2. Louise Lambert

Operational Team –

1. Betty Fisher – Director of Finance
2. Greg Mazur – Director of Industry Engagement
3. Taylor McLeod – Industry Procurement Coordinator
4. JJ Lavallee – Cultural and Community Coordinator
5. Brady Smith – Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
6. Kassandra Sisson – Director of Communications
7. Sherry Daniels – Office Manager
8. Angel Fisher – Membership and CCG Coordinator
9. Joe Desjarlais – Director of Research
10. Kevin Henry- Community Health Coordinator
11. Drake Henry – Health Project Coordinator
12. Karen Andrews – Industry Employment Coordinator

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks 1:00 PM

Director of Research Joe Desjarlais provided the opening prayer.

The board and operational team were welcomed and reminded that the main focus for this meeting was to ensure the Annual General Meeting processes were approved and finalized.

There was also a number of key new projects and issues to follow up over the coming month.

2. Review/acceptance of Agenda 1:05 PM

Motion 20220804-01 – To approve/accept the proposed agenda as amended

Moved by- Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Rene Therrien

Carried

Please note the board added agenda items to the “other” section, 9 e. and f.

3. Review/Approve Minutes 1:15 PM
 - a. June 23rd, 2022
 - b. Motions and Action Items
 - i. George and Terry Goulet – Along the Métis Trail Proposal

Motion 20220804-02 – To approve the draft minutes of June 23rd as amended

Moved by- Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Rene Therrien

Carried

Following the minutes, the board discussed business arising. One item was the new Metis book written by George and Terry Goulet – “Along the Métis Trail Proposal”. The board shared thoughts and ideas to address next steps.

***Action Item #1:** Cultural and Community Coordinator Jeremy Lavallee was directed to purchase a box on behalf of the BC Metis Federation.*

***Action Item #2:** Cultural and Community Coordinator Jeremy Lavallee was directed to connect to partner communities to see if they want BC Metis Federation to acquire a box on their behalf for resale locally.*

The board also watched and discussed new recent Metis history video narrated by former Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan entitled “Insights into Metis History”.

***Action Item #3:** Director of Communications Kassandra Sison to follow up with the company Kumtuks and to understand the origins of the video and the resources to confirm the information.*

4. BC Metis Federation Annual General Meeting 1:30 PM
 - a. Date
 - b. Election Process/Procedure
 - c. Annual Report
 - d. Notification (draft agenda, etc.)

The board and team held in-depth planning discussion about the upcoming 11th Annual General Meeting:

- Upcoming board required election at the AGM – make sure that directors wanting to run again, need to be in good standing.
- Member update for AGM online
 - Notice of AGM
 - Date to submit nominations
 - September 9, 2022 deadline for nominations submission

- AGM Saturday October 15th, 2022
 - Nominations overview
- Draft agenda review

Motion 20220804-03 – To approve the date for the 11th Annual General Meeting for October 15th
Moved by- Cindy Wilgosh
Seconded by – Rosanne Forget
Carried

Motion 20220804-04 – To approve the lower mainland as the location for the 11th Annual General Meeting
Moved by- Rosanne Forget
Seconded by –Cindy Wilgosh
Carried

**It was noted to allow as the lower mainland to provide flexibility for the staff to locate the best location economically. For example, could be Surrey, Vancouver, Langley, Burnaby, etc*

Motion 20220804-05 – To approve the draft 11th Annual General Meeting agenda as amended
Moved by- Rosanne Forget
Seconded by – Rene Therrien
Carried

***Action Item #4:** Vice President Rene Therrien and Cultural and Community Coordinator Jeremy Lavallee to provide opening fiddling at 11th Annual General Meeting*

***Action Item #5:** Director of Finance and Metis Elder Betty Fisher to provide opening prayer*

***Action Item #6:** Director of Communications Kassandra Sison will finalize template for confirmation for the board nominee criminal records form*

***Action Item #7:** Office Manager Sherry Daniels will work to recommend the Chief Electoral Officer for the 11th Annual General Meeting*

***Action Item #8:** The BC Metis Federation board will appoint a Chief Electoral Officer for the October 15, 2022 Annual General Meeting and have person in place prior to election and nomination communication is 'live'*

***Action Item #9:** Clark Wilson legal counsel Malcolm MacPherson will be appointed to chair the Annual General Meeting*

- 5. 10 Year Anniversary August 13th – Kelowna Update 2:45 PM
 - a. Program
 - b. Budget

The board and team discussed the event which was less than 2 weeks away. Office Manager Sherry Daniels provided the attendance overview and work plan in the final stages.

***Action Item #10:** The board and staff must confirm attendance for hotel and meals by August 10, 2022.*

**It was noted that the venue us for 150 max and we expect to be full.*

There has also been updates with partner community from Surrey, Nova Metis Heritage Association and their desire to strengthen the relationship with BC Metis Federation.

Action Item #11: *BC Metis Federation will ensure 2 delegates from Nova are invited and sponsored to attend the 10th Anniversary in Kelowna.*

The board was advised that the fund raising was excellent and sponsors confirmed \$38,000.00 for event sponsorship. The target was \$30,000.00. The additional revenues are so important as the total costs for the 10th anniversary is expected to be no less than \$80,000.00.

Break

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM

6. IAMC Engagement

3:15 PM

a. IAMC – Metis Rep Update

The board discussed the ongoing frustration about the lack of BC Metis representation on the Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC).

The board was advised the Director of Communications Kassandra Sison followed up from the June board meeting directive to once again ask about the Metis selection process with the IAMC staff. She has had no success.

President Henry advised that our BC Metis Federation representatives have reengaged at the subcommittee level but that this issue remains quite disappointing. The reality is that BC Metis Federation projects have been stalled and denied while our reps are asked to “rubber stamp” First Nation projects.

President Henry further advised that he has raised serious issues and concerns about the IAMC discrimination against Metis projects with Natural Resources Canada. The concerns relate to the 2 central issues:

- Why is there no BC Metis representation after years of the IAMC establishment and approval of millions of public funding?
- Why are BC Metis Federation projects being stopped by First Nation reps who appear to have an agenda to stop anything Metis?

The board was reminded that the IAMC was established specific to the Trans Mountain Expansion project and that we have been a part of the regulatory and consultation process from the very beginning of the project concept years ago.

President Henry advised that we will maintain our Metis representation on the subcommittees for the time being.

Action Item #12: *President Henry to maintain position to ensure Metis representation on the IAMC for BC as well as future project support.*

7. Clark Wilson – BC Metis Federation Legal Declaration

3:30 PM

a. Review Process

The board had significant discussion about the ongoing legal and political challenges with some Federal and Provincial partners who take the position that BC Metis Federation does not represent Section 35 Metis people. A few examples were provided as discriminatory acts; Indpsire, Indigenous Skills Employment Training program access, Child and Family C-92 steps, etc.

The board knows this is absolutely untrue and was presented a strategy by legal counsel to address through the courts.

Motion 20220804-06 – To approve the proposed Clark Wilson recommendations of July 11th entitled “Litigation pursuing a declaration of BCMF as a representative of certain Metis nations/individuals”

Moved by- Cindy Wilgosh

Seconded by – Rosanne Forget

Carried

***Action Item #13:** President Henry to initiate and execute legal proceedings with Clark Wilson on a priority basis.*

8. Province of BC – Housing Legislation Review

3:45 PM

The board review the BC Metis Federation response to the proposed BC housing legislation as requested by the Province.

The board was advised that the Province approached BC Metis Federation in early July on short notice to engage with proposed legislation regarding recommendations for changes to housing legislation (Housing Supply accountability act), as per the new Indigenous declaration implementation for BC.

President Henry felt that this process was rushed, and last minute but thanked Director of Research Joe Desjarlais for his work on developing the BC Metis Federation response recommendations.

9. Other

4:00 PM

a. Indigenous Service Canada – Letter Child and Family

The board reviewed the response from Indigenous Services Canada in conjunction with the legal declaration proposal in agenda item #7.

***Action Item #14:** President Henry to follow up with Indigenous Services Canada as invited to address the C-92 process and next steps.*

b. Indigenous Services Canada Papal Visit Support

The board was advised about the funding provided by Ottawa to support the recent Papal viewing of the visit to Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut.

It was noted that a number of the partner communities hosted viewing events locally and provided food and a place to connect.

It was also noted about some of the board/team who were residential school survivors and that they felt, despite some public Indigenous negative views, that this was an important step for indigenous people as the world paid attention during this recent visit.

c. Service Canada Update – Employment and Training

The board discussed the importance of securing employment and training access for partner communities and members through the Indigenous Skills Employment Training (ISET) program.

President Henry advised about the growing issues facing BC Metis Federation members who now cannot get access to Metis ISET funding administered by the Metis Nation BC. Metis Nation BC changed their program access policy early in 2022 that only their “citizens” can access this public funding.

BC Metis Federation has engaged formally with Employment and Skills Development Canada (ESDC) to raise this issue and consider solutions.

The board will be apprised as ESDC considers next steps.

d. Terrace Media - Michif Cultural Event July 8th – 10th

The board reviewed recent media coverage from the Terrace area following the Michif Language cultural event.

The board thanked Vice President Rene Therrien for his work with Director of Michif Language Jeanie Cardinal.

e. Fixed Asset and Capitalization Policy

The board was asked to review the proposed Fixed Asset and Capitalization Policy. The policy was created by Director of Finance Betty Fisher as recommended by the audit firm KPMG:

1. Purpose

This accounting policy will establish the method of maintaining fixed asset information and the minimum cost (capitalization amount) that shall be used to determine the fixed assets that are recorded in BC Metis Federation’s annual financial statements. These fixed assets will be those utilized by BC Metis Federation Board of Directors, staff and contractors.

2. Fixed asset definition

A fixed asset is defined as a unit of property that;

- *That has an economic useful life that extends beyond 12 months.*
- *Was acquired for a cost of \$1,000.00 or more.*

Fixed assets must be capitalized and depreciated for financial statement purposes/

3. Maintenance of Fixed Asset List

A “Fixed Asset List” shall be kept by BC Metis Federation Finance Department and shall be reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer at the close of any given fiscal year end to ensure the document is accurate and up to date. The following information will be captured for each asset.

Assigned asset number

Description

Asset Category
Date asset was purchased
Asset's cost
Asset's estimated useful life span

4. Capitalization threshold

BC Metis Federation establishes \$1,000.00 as the threshold amount for minimum capitalization. Any items costing below this amount will be expensed in the BC Metis Federation financial statements.

5. Capitalization method and procedure

Fixed assets shall be recorded at the cost as at the date of purchase. Assets will be recorded to have useful lifespan of 3 years.

6. Useful Life

The useful life of an asset is that period which the asset provides benefits to BC Metis Federation. Estimates of useful life will consider factors such as physical wear and tear and technological changes that bear on the economic usefulness of the asset. The following chart will summarize the expected useful lifespan of the asset:

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Useful life</i>
<i>Computer Desktop</i>	<i>3 years</i>
<i>Laptop Computers</i>	<i>3 years</i>

7. Depreciation Method

BC Metis Federation has established the declining balance method of depreciation at 30% for all fixed assets. Depreciation will begin in the month the asset is placed in service. Under the declining method the basis of the asset is written off over the useful lifespan of the asset.

8. Recordkeeping

Invoice of the unit will be retained in the Fixed Asset binder.

Motion 20220804-07 – To approve the Fixed Asset and Capitalization Policy as Presented

Moved by- Rosanne Forgot

Seconded by – Rene Therrien

Carried

*An additional item presented at this time was the new COVID-19 support program application submitted to Indigenous Services Canada was reviewed. The board was advised that we should expect an answer by the end of August.

f. In Camera Session

Motion 20220804-08 – To go in camera

Moved by- Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh

Carried

