

BC Métis Federation Board Meeting
Thursday, May 18, 2023
BC Metis Federation Office
Suite 390 – 3665 Kingsway
Vancouver, BC

Draft Minutes

Attendees:

Board of Directors

1. Keith Henry - President
2. Jacquie Swaisland – Secretary
3. Rene Therrien – Vice President
4. Earl Belcourt – Treasurer
5. Louise Lambert – Board Member
6. Rosanne Forget – Board Member
7. Cindy Wilgosh – Board Member
8. Elizabeth Pearce – Elder Appointment Board Member

Operational Team

In Person:

1. Drake Henry – Health Project Coordinator
2. Kevin Henry – Community Health Coordinator
3. Brady Smith – Senior Strategic Policy Advisor
4. Joe Desjarlais – Director of Research
5. Jeannie Cardinal – Director of Michif Language
6. Ally Quinney – Cultural Impact Coordinator
7. Greg Mazur – Director of Industry Engagement
8. Sherry Daniels – Office Manager
9. Taylor McLeod – Industry Procurement Coordinator
10. Imroz Ali – Legal Counsel Clark Wilson LLP (PM)

Virtual

11. Karen Andrews – Industry Employment Coordinator
12. Brad Giroux – Industry Engagement Coordinator
13. Peggy Nowosad - Spark
14. Lana St. Hilaire - Spark
15. Jennifer Percival - Spark

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

10:00 AM

The Board and Operational Team members were welcomed to the meeting. President Keith Henry thanked everyone for their attendance. Vice President Rene Therrien also welcomed the Board and Operational Team to the meeting.

Elizabeth Pearce and Rene Therrien opened the meeting with a prayer in Michif and English. The Board of Directors were given Michif language resource binders and were asked to review the kits.

President Henry and the Board of Directors welcomed new Board Member elder appointment Elizabeth Pearce. President Henry thanked Office Manager Sherry Daniels for her incredible work in getting the new facilities ready for board meetings and cultural events.

Action Item #1 – Drake Henry to arrange new laptops for the Board of Directors that have not yet received one.

2. Review/Acceptance of Agenda 10:05 AM

Note: Item 10a. to be moved up to before the lunch break and item 10e to 2:25 PM

Motion 20230518-01 To Approve/Accept the March 4th, 2023 Agenda

Moved by- Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland

Carried

3. Review/Approve Minutes 10:15 AM
a. March 4th, 2023

President Henry reviewed the minutes from the March 4th Board Meeting. The majority of the action items have been completed.

Action Item #2 – Rene Therrien to ask his grandson and BCMF Member Jordan Therrien to become a Youth Representative on the Board of Directors.

Motion 20230518-02 To Approve/Accept the March 4th Minutes

Moved by -Rene Therrien

Seconded – Louise Lambert

Carried

4. BC Metis Federation 2022-2023 Budget 10:30 AM
a. Reporting April 1st 2022 – March 31, 2023

Director of Finance Betty Fisher presented the budget reporting in a consolidated format directly from the QuickBooks accounting software program. The new accounting software updating is almost complete. Betty Fisher announced that Reena Singh has joined the finance team

President Keith Henry added that partner awards continue to be an important source of income for the BCMF. The BCMF did not run a deficit and has used the budget surplus for new member programs as directed by the Board of Directors at the last meeting.

Motion 20230518-03 To Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation 2022-2023 Budget Reporting April 1, 2022 – March 31st, 2023

Moved by- Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh

Carried

b. 2023-2024 Budget Update

President Keith Henry provided the budget update. Revenues have increased from the previous forecast of \$4.4M to \$5.068M projections for fiscal year 2023-2024. Specifically, President Henry reviewed the cash flow projections and was pleased to announce awards originally forecasted to be \$1.7M will also increase and is confident that most of the award and funding will be realized. The funding received through partners and the economic development support is crucial to BCMF daily operations.

Motion 20230518-04 To Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation Budget Update 2023 – 2024

Moved by – Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Rosanne Forget

Carried

c. 10 a. Youth Employment Support Strategy

11: AM

Director of Industry Greg Mazur was pleased to present the BC Metis Federation Spark Program (Formally the Youth Employment Support Strategy or YESS) which will provide post secondary education funding and youth employment support to full members between the ages of 19-30. Meetings with Service Canada were held this last year and as a result, the youth project was identified with a very short approval window and a team was assembled to successfully complete the application. The budget for the program is \$793K. Greg Mazur introduced the team for Spark; Lana St. Hilaire, Jennifer Percival, Karen Andrews and Peggy Nowosad. The pilot project planning is underway for Prince George and Kelowna. The new logo was shared with the Board and team Member Lana St. Hilaire shared the story of how the Spark name was adopted

Action Item #3 – Membership to provide a list of youth members to the Spark team for email outreach to consider registration for either of the upcoming intakes in Kelowna or Prince George.

5. BC Metis Federation Action Plan 2023-2024

11:45 AM

a. Review Action Plan -Year to Date Progress

b. Review Key Performance Indicator Progress

President Keith Henry reviewed the board approved 2023-2024 Action Plan progress by comparison of the Key Performance Indicators. The Report was extensive and President Henry asked all Board of Directors to review the report and provide feedback and suggestions for the many programs discussed and continued critical feedback is important.

Board Member Earl Belcourt discussed future support for BCMF initiatives on Vancouver Island

Action Item #4 – Change next Board Meeting to read August 17th in Terrace, BC in the Action Plan.

Action Item #5- Work with Director Earl Belcourt to create a marketing strategy for Vancouver Island.

Action Item #6 – President Keith Henry to prepare on a comprehensive marketing strategy to present to the Board of Directors at the next meeting with a brand guideline to be developed.

Action Item #7- Correct the date for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation to September 30th, in the Key Performance Indicator document.

Motion 20230518-05 To Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation Action Plan 2023 – 2024 update
Moved by - Rosanne Forget
Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh
Carried

Lunch Break 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

6. Town Hall Community Meeting Update 1:30 PM

President Henry was pleased to report that the Town Hall community meetings to date have been successfully held in Kelowna, Surrey, Clearwater and Terrace.

The next scheduled meeting is in Fort Nelson June 10th

7. Research Department 2:15 PM
a. ICCE Project Update

Director Earl Belcourt summarized the Indigenous Center of Cumulative Effects (ICCE). BCMF was disappointed that our continued participation has not resulted in project funding. Director of Research Joe Desjarlais spoke about the lengthy process involved and his disappointment in not being awarded the funding. The Board was asked to discuss the future of BCMF's participation and they unanimously supported the decision to continue to support Director Earl Belcourt as a voice for Metis people but to continue to raise the importance of Metis inclusion and access for these national research funds.

Motion 20230518-06 For the Board of Directors to support Director Earl Belcourt to continue to participate on ICCE as recommended by Earl Belcourt
Moved by- Rosanne Forget
Seconded by – Rene Therrien

8. Project Coming Home 2:30 PM
a. Review Feasibility Study

Brady Smith gave an overview of the Feasibility Study. He shared the results of the recent member outreach survey: 98% of the respondents felt it was important to have a cultural center.

Community Town Hall feedback also demonstrated strong support to showcase Metis culture.

Sales and Revenue growth need to be considered along with staffing issues and administrative costs. The recently completed, Cultural space is leased, and a dedicated true commercial space would require funds of appx \$4-\$7M. The Study recommended using the current upgraded space as a temporary Cultural Centre until more Government funding is received.

President Henry added that BCMF will continue its research on the evolution of the Pacific Northwest Metis people. He recommended a motion to accept the Project Coming Home Report as presented.

Motion 20230518-07 To Approve/Accept the Project Coming Home Report as presented.

Moved by – Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Rosanne Forget

Carried

Action Item #8 - Brady Smith to contact Dale Haggerty and Derrick Whiteskycloud regarding participation and review of the Project Coming Home feasibility study.

Note: Item 10 e.

2:55 PM

Emergency Assistance Program

Board Member Rosanne Forget declared a conflict of interest and temporarily left the meeting.

Health team members Kevin Henry and Drake Henry discussed the recent cases the BCMF received to provide financial support for Members in need for medical related costs. The program was successfully launched in April 2023.

There is \$8000/month allocated to fund the program with 8-12 members approved every month. The EAP is a one-time financial award available to Full Members only.

Motion 20230518-08 To Approve/Accept the Emergency Assistance Program Report

Moved by- Rene Therrien

Seconded by – Louise Lambert

Carried

Action Item #9- To update Kevin Henry's email address on the program application to communityhealth@bcmetis.com.

Action Item #10- To create a news release about the success of the Emergency Assistance Program and its impact on members.

Action Item #11 – To update language on website to include “one-time funding only”.

Break 3:30 PM – 3:45 PM

9. Legal Declaration Case Update

3:45 PM

a. Clark Wilson LLP Case Update

Legal Counsel Imroz Ali updated the board on the Legal Declaration Case. The Clark Wilson team continues to work with President Keith Henry and Director of Research Joe Desjarlais and representative plaintiffs.

Individuals who have faced discrimination who are full members with Pacific Northwest ancestry are of particular importance. Meetings have been held with representative plaintiffs have been identified. Mr. Ali stated that the BCMF and Legal team must work within the framework as best we can, meaning Metis

with geographic connections with contemporary Metis identity are extremely critical to the case. The legal council would like to ensure we have exhausted all possible members as candidates for the case and has asked the Board to consider any other potential Members.

BC Metis Federation will continue its dialogue with Kelley Lake Metis Society to contribute to the case.

10. Other 4:40 PM
- a. Covered at 11 AM
 - b. Cultural Program Update

Director of Michif Language Jeannie Cardinal and Ally Quinney provided an overview of the Cultural Program. Strengthening connections with partner communities to share expertise and knowledge is strongly encouraged as each will provide resources and share and learn from each other. The new program will be ready to be added to Programs and Services page in the near future.

The Board proposed that each Partner community be contacted directly with the funding request form for Community Cultural Events. The Cultural team will follow up with the partner communities. President Henry suggested Michif language workshops could be held in the new facilities

Action Item #12- BCMF to explore the implementation of a cultural language camp as an alternative to the major cultural funding in the summer of 2023.

- c. Industry
 - i. Enbridge Sunrise Expansion Project
 - ii. North River Midstream Engagement

Tabled to next Board Meeting.

- d. Membership 5:10 PM

Director Jacquie Swaisland updated the Board on the first quarter membership numbers. The recent additions of the documentation list to the membership landing page have been very helpful. All new applications will have a document checklist attached to each file. The Membership Acceptance Committee has continued to meet every 4-6 weeks to approve difficult applications.

Director Earl Belcourt proposed new security upgrades to the office to support all office staff.

**Motion 20230518-09 To support the request from the membership department for security upgrades in the office. Management to obtain a quote and proposal for the security upgrades.
Moved by – Rosanne Forget
Seconded by Louise Lambert**

- e. Housing Project – SPARCBC Approval 5:15 PM

Director of Research Joe Desjarlais announced the SPARC Capacity project which was recently approved giving BCMF the opportunity allow membership to respond to homelessness and housing issues: This is an information gathering project only. The key steps and action items are to engage with partner

communities and obtain feedback which will be shared at the AGM in September. The Project has a 1-year project timeline.

Motion 20230518-10 -To Approve/Accept the Sparc BC Housing Project Report

Moved by- Louise Lambert

Seconded by – Rosanne Forget

Carried

11. Next Meeting

5:25 PM

The next Board Meeting to be held on August 17th in Terrace, BC

12. Adjournment

5:30 PM

Motion 20230518-11 - To adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM

Moved by- Louise Lambert

Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland

Carried

DRAFT