

# BC METIS FEDERATION

*Monthly Newsletter*

## Métis COFFEE TALK



Hosted by Keith Henry

Metis Coffee Talk - 7PM Thursday, January 26, 2023

## **METIS COFFEE TALK AIRS LIVE THIS THURSDAY!**

Metis Coffee Talk is going LIVE for our first episode of the year on our Facebook Page on Thursday, January 26th!

Join BCMF President Keith Henry and Vice President Rene Therrien for a great discussion, fiddle tunes, and an update from the Federation.

Tune in LIVE at 7 pm PST on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/bcmetis](https://www.facebook.com/bcmetis)  
If you have questions or topics you want to see on the show, please email [k.henry@bcmetis.com](mailto:k.henry@bcmetis.com).

# BCMF AT THE NATIONAL GATHERING FOR UNMARKED BURIALS



On January 16, BC Métis Federation's Director of Research was invited by the Special Interlocutor to provide welcoming comments at the National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Community Control over Information and Knowledge. Many First Nations, Inuit and Métis Survivors, Elders, Families and Communities attended this third national gathering.

During the welcome speech, Desjarlais explained that ignorance of the Métis experience in residential schools is reflected in the general misunderstanding of Métis people in the Pacific Northwest. In short, Métis people in the Pacific Northwest were robbed of their history and memory.

Director of Research Desjarlais stated, “In the conventional colonial model, research has mostly been done “on” or “for” Métis for the benefit of others. We committed to a strategy where we would assume ownership, control, and expression of all our stories, data, and traditions. I made it clear that research is a relationship! We gathered a team of local researchers from our communities across the Province of BC and developed a curriculum. As the researchers work in the archives and conduct interviews, they become self-determining in research.”

Read more about Joe's welcoming address on our [Research blog!](#)

## About the BC Métis Federation

The BC Métis Federation (BCMF) is a non-profit association that works to ensure the well-being of its growing membership across British Columbia (BC). Through capacity building, advocacy, and cultural revitalization efforts, BCMF works to advance Métis knowledge and self-determination and to encourage the use of the Michif language.

[Learn More](#) >>

The BCMF office is located in Vancouver, British Columbia, on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territories of the ɣ\*ᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄᓄ (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətaʔ/Səlilwítlh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

## Contact

BC Métis Federation  
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1 (604) 638-7220

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## **NATIONAL GATHERING ON UNMARKED BURIALS: BC METIS FEDERATION SURVIVOR PANEL SPEECH**

This year we had excellent Metis representation at the National Gathering on Unmarked Burials. Many attendees commented that they were happy to see this and could relate to our members and panellists.

Karen Andrews, a Metis Residential School Survivor, sat on the Survivors panel and shared an intimate recounting of her experience at a Residential School in the Northwest Territories and its impact on her since.

Her moving poem was a highlight of the day. We want to thank Karen for sharing her story and inspiring us to speak our truth. Maarsii, Karen! You can watch the recording of Karen's speech [here](#).

## **METIS YOUTH PANEL PARTICIPATION**

On the second and final day of the event, we witnessed the Youth speaking their stories and sharing their thoughts on Data Sovereignty.

Our stories hold immense power, and by sharing them, we heal a little bit more each time.

Vanessa Prescott, one of BCMF's incredibly talented youth, shares her story of growing up in a family that has experienced loss and trauma. She had the audience laughing and cheering when the Metis were referred to as "Dangerous and Rebellious" and taking a collective deep and healing breath together. Maarsii Vanessa, for sharing your truth and for your healing words.

You can watch the recording of Vanessa's speech [here](#).

**LI TAAN PAASII.  
LI TAAN KI VYAYN.  
FROM OUR PAST. FOR OUR FUTURE.**

# THE COASTAL WATER PROTECTORS VISIT VANCOUVER ISLAND



BC Metis Federation's Coastal Conservation Department hosted a gathering of the Coastal Water Protectors last weekend in Victoria.

This is the first time the newly expanded team has been able to get together in person. The 18 water protectors participated in a brainstorming session and outlined their roles and responsibilities, developed sub-committees, and reviewed and discussed their plans and goals for the coming year.

After completing their planning session, the water protectors participated in the "Create your Spirit Animal" workshop hosted by Louise Lambert. This exercise provided much-needed spiritual fuel after a day of strategizing and goal-setting.

Tune into [Metis Coffee Talk on Thursday, January 26th](#), to hear more about the meeting!

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