

BC Métis Federation  
Board Meeting  
Fairfield Inn  
1655 Powick Rd  
Kelowna, BC  
Monday July 22, 2024

Attendees

Board of Directors:

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

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Board Member – Elder Representative  
Board Member – Women’s Representative  
Board Member - Youth Representative  
Board Member

Operational Team:

Betty Fisher –  
Angel Fisher -  
Joe Desjarlais -  
Taylor McLeod –  
Lisa Armstrong -  
Drake Henry -  
Jeanie Cardinal -  
Sherry Daniels -

Director of Finance  
Director of Coastal Conservation  
Director of Research  
Director of Industry Engagement  
Director of Child, Youth and Family  
Health Project Coordinator  
Director of Culture and Language  
Office Manager

Virtual:

Fraser Harland -  
Sean Reid -  
Kevin Henry -  
Brady Smith -

Legal Counsel, Olthius Van Ert  
KPMG  
Metis Community Health Coordinator  
Senior Strategic Policy Advisor

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

9:00 AM

President Henry welcomed the board to the meeting and thanked the Board and operational team for their support in attending the Greg Mazur Celebration of Life held on July 21<sup>st</sup>, in Kelowna.

*Li taan paasii. Li taan ki vyayn.*

*From our past. For our future.*

2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda 9:05 AM

**Motion 20240722-01 – To Approve/Accept the July 22nd, 2024 Agenda**

**Moved by – Rosanne Forget**

**Seconded by – Rene Therrien**

**Carried**

3. BC Metis Federation Leadership Roundtable 9:10 AM

The Board and Operational Team Members were asked to provide a brief update on recent activities within each department.

4. Review and Approve Minutes 9:50 AM  
a. Draft March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Motion 20240722-02 – To Approve/Accept the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Minutes**

**Moved by – Rosanne Forget**

**Seconded by – Rene Therrien**

**Carried**

5. 2025 – 2028 Strategic Plan Update 10:00 AM

President Keith Henry reviewed the three-year plan and commented on the success of the full day planning session that was held in Chilliwack in May. The communications team is working on a final draft to present at the AGM in September.

6. BC Metis Federation Reporting 10:05 AM  
a. Finance  
a. 2023-2024 Final Statements (unaudited)  
i. KPMG Audit Update  
b. 2024-2025 Year to Date

Treasurer Betty Fisher provided an update and has completed reconciling statements with auditors, KPMG. President Henry reviewed the projections and actual revenues from the previous fiscal year and was pleased to report that the revenues realized are aligned with the original projections. The original budget and a surplus have allowed BCMF to maintain and expand current programs and services. President Henry noted that the forecast for this fiscal year has increased significantly but cautioned that many economic development projects are still outstanding. He added that several projects have not been paid out and other internal revenue sources are being allocated. He emphasized the importance of supporting all economic development partnerships for this fiscal year.

Sean Reid, KPMG joined the meeting and provided an update on the Audit Report findings. He reported that KPMG has completed the Audit with the focus on revenue, deferred revenue and expenses. All areas of the Audit Report were reviewed and evaluated and no issues were reported with the sampling and analytics that took place and that there were no changes in accounting policies from the previous year.

Board Member Louise Lambert asked for a clarification on materiality and Sean Reid explained that the threshold for sampling had been increased. He thanked the Finance Team and Betty Fisher for their work and preparation. President Henry also thanked the Finance Team for the many hours of work involved.

Sean Reid reviewed the Financial Statements and highlighted the change in cash position from the previous year was a direct result of increases in corporate partnership agreement.

President Keith Henry noted the increase in travel, meetings and hospitality from the previous fiscal year and noted that this was a result in the many community town halls, and Spark program expenses that were added. President Henry reviewed the Projected Forecast 2024 – 2025 and noted that there will be a surplus at the end of the next fiscal year.

**Motion 20240722-03 – To Approve/Accept the 2023-2024 Final Statements as presented**

**Moved by – Ear Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Rosanne Forget**

**Carried**

**Motion 20240722-04 – To Approve/Accept the Audit Report as presented**

**Moved by – Louise Lambert**

**Seconded by- Rosanne Forget**

**Carried**

*Break 10:50 – 11:15*

- b. 2024 – 2024 Action Plan
  - i. Key Performance Indicators

President Henry reviewed the Key Performance Indicators report and noted that some percentage figures needed to be updated. The key takeaways were that each department continues to work toward achieving all of their goals and commitments. He was pleased to report that BCMF is actively working on adding several new community partners including in Vancouver, the Fraser Valley.

**Motion 20240722-05 – To Approve/Accept the Key Performance Indicators as presented**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Rosanne Forget**

**Carried**

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*From our past. For our future.*

*Action Item #1 – All Operational departments to update KPI percentage figures as soon as possible*

7. Legal Case Update (previously Item #8) 11:30 AM  
a. Final Updated Statement of Claim

Legal Counsel Gib Ert of Othius Van Ert (OVE) announced that the Notice of Civil Claim was being filed on July 22nd, 2024. He added that there are now three confirmed plaintiffs each with Pacific Northwest Ancestry ties. He also stated that OVE has met with the BCMF communications team to address potential reactions. President Henry asked that all future communications regarding the case be forwarded to himself directly.

Board member Louise Lambert asked how to update partner communities about the case and President Henry responded that he would make himself available to make a personal presentation to each community as required.

*Action Item # 2 - OVE to produce a slide presentation for the Board of Directors, Partner community leaders*

**Motion 20240722-05 – To Rescind the previous Statement of Claim**

**Moved by – Louise Lambert**  
**Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland**  
**Carried**

**Motion 20240722-06 – To Approve/Accept and file the Statement of Claim dated July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Moved by – Rene Therrien**  
**Seconded by – Rosanne Forget**  
**Carried**

*Lunch Break 12:05 – 12:45*

- b. Human Rights Complaint 12:45 PM

President Henry announced that there are no updates to report at this time as BCMF has not received a response to date.

**Motion 20240722-07 – Explore hiring a new legal firm to represent BCMF in the human rights complaint case**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**  
**Seconded by – Rosanne Forget**  
**Carried**

**Motion 20220722-08 – To continue to support the human Rights legal case as originally filed**

**Moved by – Rosanne Forget**

**Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland**

**Carried**

8. Governance (Previously Item #7) 12:55 PM
- a. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Preparation
- i. September 7<sup>th</sup> Victoria, BC – The Parkside Hotel and Spa
1. Notifications
  2. Elections
  3. Proposed Resolution (proposal to 4-year elected terms)
  4. Budget

President Henry reviewed the preparations for the upcoming AGM to be held in Victoria on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Formal notification has been made on the BCMF website with nomination forms. Elections will be held and there will be an official Resolution to amend the BCMF bylaws to extend the term of all elected Directors from 2 years to a 4-year term. President Henry reminded all present Directors to submit their applications if they are running for re-election before the due date of August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

*Action Item # 3 – Communications department to make edit/correction to the nomination form*

President Henry reviewed the proposed budget for the event and asked that all partner community delegates be identified and submitted as soon as possible. Each community partner has been approved for 5 delegates to attend in order to represent their local community in person.

*Action Item #4 – Board of Directors to recommend individuals to Chair the meeting and forward the names to President Henry as soon as possible*

*Action Item #5 – Each partner community to notify Office Manager Sherry Daniels regarding their community delegates who are Full Members as soon as possible. All travel requests are to be submitted to manger Daniels*

*Action Item #6 – Communications team to prepare a template letter for the Board to distribute to potential political guests/participants*

*Action Item #7 – President Henry to invite legal case plaintiffs to attend the AGM*

**Motion 20240722-09 – To Approve/Accept the AGM Budget as presented**

**Moved by - Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Jordan Therrien**

**Carried**

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b. Metis Elders, Women and Youth Update

Youth Representative Jordan Therrien shared some of the highlights from the recent Elders and Youth strategy session that was held in Vancouver on June 7, 2024 and the upcoming Great River Fishing Adventure Elder and Youth Camp out August 3rd- 6th, 2024. Elders Representative Rosanne Forget added that the June event was a huge success with many great proposals and ideas resulting from the gathering including “Adopt an Elder” and many other cultural and community activities to be held throughout the province. These activities will foster strong ties and give youth and Elders a voice within their communities. A new logo and t-shirt design were shared with the Board.

Women’s representative Louise Lambert provided a review of recent Women’s programs that have taken place in Kelowna, West Kelowna and Vancouver, including the Crime Smart Program and a Relationship Awareness program. She noted that the craft and cultural activities are very popular and when combined with the educational component, is a very effective way to deliver the programs.

*Action Item #8 – Women’s Committee strategy meeting to be organized with partner community leaders to review policy, governance and programming*

9. Department Updates

2:30 PM

- a. Industry
  - i. Employment
  - ii. Procurement
  - iii. Consultation Updates

Director of Industry Procurement, Taylor McLeod gave an overview of the Industry Report Brief. She reported to the Board that she has been very active in procuring new corporate partnerships which have been made possible by referrals from current partnerships/relationships developed over the last several years. Taylor McLeod also noted that there are currently no active pipeline projects within the Province, however new economic development partners are being pursued.

President Henry emphasized that the work Taylor McLeod has been engaged in is extremely important and thanked her for her dedication and hard work. He encouraged the Board to submit other potential partners and economic development proposals.

Taylor McLeod thanked her team of Jennifer Percival and Brad Giroux for their hard work and commitment to the success of the Department.

b. Youth Employment Strategy (YESS)

Strategic Policy Advisor Brady Smith spoke about his work in supporting the application process for a new multi-year proposal. He was disappointed to announce the application was not approved and President Henry reviewed the letter from ISC and asked if the Board would like to continue to pursue the application. The Board unanimously decided to withdraw support for any further applications or engagement with ISC on the YESS project. No Motion was proposed.

c. Child Youth and Family (CYF)

CYF Director Lisa Armstrong provided a summary and shared three recent MOU letters with three new partners including Niwikowin Metis Family Service Society and Metis Community Services Society of BC. These MOU's will allow BCMF to collaborate with each individual organization with and support programming for future child and family services for BCMF Members.

**Motion 20240722-10 – To Approve/Accept the MOU's (3) as presented**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by- Rosanne Forget**

**Carried**

d. Michif Language

Cultural Director, Jeanie Cardinal shared the latest developments including the highly successful recently held Michif language workshops in Kamloops, Terrace and Vancouver. Jeanie Cardinal commented on the crossover and collaborations with CYF notably the Language and Family Resource Kit. She spoke about a new “Silent Speakers” program soon to be launched and added that new Mentor Apprentices Program Coordinator Marla Klyne has been an excellent addition and is assisting with the new website development along with the mentor apprenticeship program

e. Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring - IAMC  
(Previously Item #10)

Treasurer Earl Belcourt spoke about the continued importance of the having BCMF involvement as the only Metis representative actively/consistently participating in TMX still today on the various committees. He continued that being present at these meetings and site visits is an opportunity to show other organizations and government bodies the character of Metis people in BC. The focus is now on production as distribution and tankers are now leaving BC ports as the project is operational.

f. Health (previously item 9e)

i. Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) New Applicants

Health Coordinator Kevin Henry and Health Project Coordinator Drake Henry reviewed the latest applicants requesting funding. Three applicants were reviewed and funding of \$4160 was approved. The

health needs of BCMF members continues with a variety of health issues being presented for funding assistance.

**Motion 20240722-11 – To Approve/Accept the EAP applicants as amended for a total of \$4,160**

**Moved by – Cindy Wilgosh**

**Seconded by – Rene Therrien**

**Carried**

*Action Item #9 – Health Department to add suicide prevention and mental health support links to the health website*

g. Housing (Previously Item 9f)

Director of Housing Joe Desjarlais summarized a recent proposal from TL Housing Solutions (TL), a non-profit housing provider. The proposal includes the formation of a housing society being formed as the first step. President Henry added that the BCMF will need to determine if this is a direction the organization wishes to go. He added that he and Joe Desjarlais met with TL and in order to approve a partnership the housing committee will need to be formed.

**Motion 20240315-10- To Approve/Accept proceeding with the first steps in implementing a partnership with TL**

**Moved by – Rosanne Forget**

**Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland**

**Carried**

h. BCMF Greg Mazur Scholarship Fund (previously 9g)

President Keith Henry was pleased to announce that BCMF has reopened the Greg Mazur Scholarship application portal for a new round of student applications. Office Manager Sherry Daniels added that over \$2700 was raised at the Greg Mazur Celebration of Life and will be added to the fund for BCMF students. Application for assistance can be applied for in each academic year.

*Action Item #10 – Have Communications/IT Department add a scholarship donation link to the BCMFS scholarship webpage*

*Action Item #11 – Office Manager Sherry Daniels to personally thank the Mazur family on behalf of the BCMF for the donation*

i. Research (previously 9g)



Director of Research Joe Desjarlais shared a MOU with the Heritage Abbotsford Society. He added that working in collaborative way with these partnerships is extremely important to the current research initiatives and provides invaluable relationship building at a local level. The recent community letter campaign to local municipal offices was very effective with two new partnership being developed with Abbotsford and Coquitlam Archives.

**Motion 20240722-11 – To Approve/Accept the draft MOU between the City of Abbotsford Archives and the BCMF**

**Moved by – Jordan Therrien**

**Seconded by – Rene Therrien**

j. Membership (previously Item 9i)

Membership Team member Jacquie Swaisland updated the Board on new membership intake and was pleased to announce that applications were up significantly in the first half of the calendar year. New membership continues to grow in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and Okanagan.

*Action Item #12 – Membership Department to work with partner community leaders regarding Membership protocols (to take place after the AGM)*

k. Coastal Water Protectors (previously 9j)

Director of Coastal Conservation Angel Fisher provided the Board with updates on recent activities within the department including the success of the recent beach cleanups, their new podcast. Coastal conservation outreach continues to develop and grow and Angel Fisher is looking forward to hosting another event on Vancouver Island in conjunction with the community Meet and Greet in August.

l. Communications (previously Item 9k)

i. Metis Coffee Talk

President Henry reminded the Board and Operational team to tune in to the upcoming episode of Metis Coffee Talk which is scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024.  
Annual General Meeting August/ September

m. Project Coming Home (previously item 9l)

Strategic Policy Advisor Brady Smith updated the board and recent dialogue with the City of Vancouver. More follow up planned.

10. Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee 5:00 PM  
(moved to 9e to allow Director Earl Belcourt to leave Meeting)

11. TMX Equity Discussion – Letter from Canada 5:15 PM

President Keith Henry announced that a response letter had not been received yet and will advise if any response is sent.

12. Other 5:20 PM

- a. Picnic in the Park Kamloops
- b. Open House August 6<sup>th</sup> – Victoria
- c. Skeena Valley Country Music Festival August 16-18 Terrace

Director Cindy Wilgosh shared that the first Picnic in the Park for partner community North Thompson Aboriginal Cultural Centre Society was a success and the next event will feature “Pizza in the Park”. She noted it was a great way to get the community out and was happy to have members from Kamloops attend.

Keith Henry added that Community Coordinator Danielle Desjarlais was working on outreach for Victoria and area members for the Victoria Community Meet and Greet on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Victoria. He also noted that all Directors were invited to attend the Skeena Valley Festival August 16-18.

*Action Item # 13 - Membership Department to update Vancouver Island list with new members share with Treasurer Earl Belcourt and Community Coordinator Danielle Desjarlais*

13. Next Meeting 5:30 PM

The next meeting will be scheduled after the AGM in September.

14. Adjournment 5:35 PM

**Motion 20240722-12 to Adjourn the Meeting**

**Moved by – Jacquie Swaisland**

**Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh**

**Carried**