

Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") BETWEEN:

Heritage Abbotsford Society (HAS)

AND

The British Columbia Métis Federation ("BCMF")

(together, the "Participants")

Whereas the Heritage Abbotsford Society (HAS) has adopted an Equity Statement that commits to principles as they relate to the BCMF and its members in the following ways:

- to dialogue and collaborate with Métis researchers regarding the collections they manage and the programs they deliver
- to commit to opposing any anti- Métis racism in all its various forms and work to decolonize the settler and indigenous histories that deny the lived-experience of Métis peoples and communities.
- to advocate for the repatriation and cooperative management of Metis collections and belongings
- to acknowledge that the cultural heritage of Métis peoples of Abbotsford must be respected by the users, interpreters, scholars, and custodians of collections as found in cultural belongings, communally-owned property and ceremonial items, archival materials, and audio-visual records

And whereas the BC Métis Federation (BCMF) is a non-profit association governed by a Board of Directors that represents self-determining Métis communities it commits to the following principles as they relate to a knowledge partnership with the HAS:

- to facilitate grassroots efforts to develop research, training, and historical capacity building and to advocate for access to archival collections for all BCMF's member communities spread across the province.
- to support the vital work of repatriating the history and memory of mixed-ancestry peoples and communities within the Pacific Northwest through an Indigenous Research Methodology that prioritized relationships throughout the entire knowledge transfer and promotes self-determination through processes that are characterized by healing, decolonization, mobilization, and transformation.
- to invite the HAS to share the relational goals of mixed-ancestry peoples and communities to create a collaborative, cooperative, and collative environment where local Métis communities own, control, and represent their own knowledge for their own benefit.
- to build relationships between Métis community and the HAS to work together for the betterment of the Métis people in BC.
- to preserve BC's Métis heritage, encourage cultural revitalization, organize community celebrations, and share our unique traditions and stories with the support and assistance of HAS where possible in Abbotsford for the benefit of our current members and to leave a legacy for future generations.

The BCMF and the HAS enter the following Memorandum of Understanding:

The Participants share the following commitments:

- Intellectual and ethical integrity of Métis peoples within the context of knowledge transfer
- Equal rights and dignity of all persons seeking access to Métis material culture and archival documents
- Freedom of speech and freedom of inquiry on all matters relating to Métis ways of knowing and being
- Respect and recognition of the many ways of being Métis in Abbotsford and throughout the Pacific Northwest

- Commitment to using our shared capacity for research, funding, and education for the betterment of all Métis self-determining communities in BC.

The Participants agree to the following baselines:

- Adhere to all applicable legislation and policies of the Government of Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and to applicable policies and procedures of BCMF and HAS protocols.
- Undertake joint initiatives and funding opportunities in the spirit of and according to the principles of the HAS's Equity Statement and its consistency with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act.
- we commit to journey together in a manner of mutual trust, respect, and transparency.
- understand that knowledge transfer requires the ongoing consent of Métis community leaders, elders, and knowledge keepers and that the knowledge that is generated, managed, and stored at HAS archives, museums, and websites is owned by our people and is for our own use and purpose.

All Participants will work towards the following objectives:

- cooperative and collaborative *knowledge transfer* wherein HAS's professional expertise and knowledge enhances the capacity of Métis peoples in Abbotsford to repatriate their history and to advance their self-determination
- work together to jointly sponsor and/or co-apply for *funding opportunities* to carry out archival research, oral history, and education to uncover and tell Métis history and memory in Abbotsford.
- encouraging members to *educate* themselves on historic Métis peoples and communities in Abbotsford and to seek out any material culture or archival holdings that represents the history and memory of Metis peoples in Abbotsford and the Pacific Northwest
- utilize shared *online and physical resources* to enhance the visibility and viability of Métis research in Abbotsford.
- encourage *knowledge partnerships* with local Métis researchers that empower unique self-determining Métis communities in Abbotsford to tell their story, in their own words, and for their own benefit.
- identify ways to celebrate the history of Métis peoples in Abbotsford and to cooperate in activities that enhance *knowledge curation and public education* at locations managed by the HAS.

The Participants agree on these terms of renewal:

This MOU will remain in place for a period of five years, effective, ^{July 23, 2024} _____. Annually, representatives from the HAS and BCMF will convene to discuss shared accomplishments, challenges to fulfilling the objectives, and opportunities for further cooperation and collaboration. The outcomes of these discussions will be shared with the respective boards of the HAS and BCMF. At the end of the five years, each executive/board will meet to consider continuing with the MOU. A Participant may terminate this MOU by giving 90 days' written notice to the other Participant. The Participants may amend or extend this MOU only by written agreement.

The Participants will abide by the following standards of communication:

All communications between the BCMF and HAS required under this MOU or in respect of any subsequent written agreements made pursuant to this MOU are to be addressed to the Participant Representatives (or their replacements or designates) detailed below.

Keith Henry
President and CEO, British Columbia Métis Federation

Keith Henry

Christina Reid
Executive Director, Heritage Abbotsford Society

Christina Reid

Signature: *Keith Henry*
Keith Henry (Jul 23, 2024 08:34 PDT)

Email: k.henry@bcmetis.com