

**BC Metis Federation**  
**13th Annual General Meeting (AGM)**  
**Saturday, September 7th, 2024**  
**The Parkside Hotel and Spa**  
**810 Humbolt Street**  
**Victoria, BC**

**Draft Minutes**

**Attendance:**

**Board Members:**

- |                      |                |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1) Keith Henry       | President      |
| 2) Rene Therrien     | Vice President |
| 3) Earl Belcourt     | Treasurer      |
| 4) Jacquie Swaisland | Secretary      |
| 5) Cindy Wilgosh     | At Large       |
| 6) Louise Lambert    | At Large       |
| 7) Jordan Therrien   | At Large       |
| 8) Rosanne Forget    | At Large       |

Regrets: Elizabeth Pearce-Elder Representative

**Operational Team:**

- |                       |                                    |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Sherry Daniels     | Office Manager                     |
| 2) Ashley Schwab      | Membership Clerk                   |
| 3) Drake Henry        | Health Project Coordinator         |
| 4) Kevin Henry        | Metis Community Health Coordinator |
| 5) Brady Smith        | Senior Strategic Policy Advisor    |
| 6) Betty Fisher       | Director of Finance                |
| 7) Kristina Souter    | Finance Assistant                  |
| 8) Rena Singh         | Finance Assistant                  |
| 9) Angel Fisher       | Director of Conservation           |
| 10) Zia Yadzani       | Manager of Coastal Conservation    |
| 11) Tanner Oswald     | Coastal Conservation Assistant     |
| 12) Taylor Mcleod     | Director of Industry Engagement    |
| 13) Jennifer Percival | Industry Employment Coordinator    |
| 14) Brad Giroux       | Industry Coordinator               |
| 15) Joe Desjarlais    | Director of Research               |
| 16) Dr. Bruce Shelvey | Research Consultant                |
| 17) Tanner Timothy    | Terrestrial GIS Contractor         |

18) Danielle Desjarlais  
19) Craig van der Merwe

Community Coordinator  
Technical Advisor

**Virtual:**

20) Sean Reid, KPMG  
21) Gib Van Ert, Olthius Van Ert

Auditor  
Legal Counsel

**Guests:**

Voting Members: Eligible BC Metis Federation members registered and were provided Voting Cards:

- 127 Full Members, including partner community leaders.
  - Quorum was Confirmed
  - Motions/Votes required: 64
- Estimated 147 attendees including industry representatives, Associate Members, non-Indigenous participants, guests who attended but unable to vote on governance matters.

**AGM Registration**

**8:00 – 9:00 AM**

**1. Opening Prayer**

**9:00 AM**

Metis Elder Betty Fisher opened the meeting with a prayer.

**2. Metis Fiddle Music**

**9:10 AM**

Vice President Rene Therrien provided some fiddle music to begin the AGM.

**3. Opening Remarks**

**9:15 AM**

- a) **Vice President Rene Therrien**
- b) **President Keith Henry**

President Keith Henry welcomed everyone to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. He thanked the Board of Directors and the Operational Team for their efforts and contributions to the BCMF and the AGM. He remarked about the incredible growth of the organization over the past 2 years. He encouraged all presenters to keep the meeting flowing in a timely fashion and assured attendees that all questions would be addressed and stressed the importance that the Members be heard.

Vice President Rene Therrien thanked everyone for attending and added that he was very proud of the growth of the organization and was looking forward to seeing the future growth.

**4. Call to Order – Verification of Quorum**

**9:20 AM**

President Keith Henry verified that quorum was confirmed by the attendance of 8 of the 9 sitting Board of Directors plus members in attendance.

**5. Approval of AGM Chair**

**9:25 AM**

Vice President Rene Therrien nominated Kevin Henry as AGM Chair.

**Motion 20240907-01 to Approve Kevin Henry as AGM chair**

**Moved by – Rene Therrien**

**Seconded by – Louise Lambert**

**Carried**

**6. Approval of Draft Agenda**

**9:30 AM**

**Motion 20240907-02 to Approve/Accept the Draft Agenda as presented**

**Moved by – Cory Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Judy Cadrin**

**Carried**

**7. Resolutions**

Chief Electoral Officer, Brady Smith presented Resolution SR-2024-1 to extend the existing term for Directors from 2 years to 4 years.

The floor was opened to members to ask questions.

A member asked for clarification on why the change was necessary. Brady Smith replied that the Resolution was approved by the Board of Directors at the Board Meeting on July 22nd, 2024.

President Henry added that the Board felt that a 2-year term was simply too short a time to see the programs and services and new strategy be implemented fully. The Board felt that a 4-year term was required to see the programming through from inception to completion.

Another Member asked what mechanism was in place to replace a Director should they resign during their term. President Henry replied that upon a formal resignation, an appointment to fill the position would be made until the next election.

**Motion 20240907-03 To Approve/Accept Resolution SR-2024-1 as presented**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Tracy Meier-Ragazzi**  
**Opposed – 2**  
**Abstained – 0**  
**Carried**

**8. Review/Approve BC Métis Federation 12th AGM Draft Minutes 9:40 AM**  
**a. September 23, 2023**

**Motion 20240907-04 To Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation 12<sup>th</sup> AGM Draft Minutes September 23, 2023 as presented**  
**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**  
**Seconded by – Rosanne Forget**  
**Carried**

**9. BC Métis Federation Reporting 2023-2024 9:45 AM**

**a. Annual Report – April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

A copy of the 2023-2024 Annual Report was presented. President Keith Henry provided a summary of the report which highlights the programs and services the BCMF provides and the growth of the organization over the last fiscal year. Highlights of the report included the Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) report with the majority of the programs having reached 100% fulfillment. He explained that the KPI's are an excellent way to measure overall performance of the organization.

President Henry added that Metis Resurgence has been a priority and emphasized the importance of programs such as Michif Language and community events on important historical days.

President Henry asked Community Coordinator Danielle Desjarlais to comment on the success of the new Greater Vancouver Community Association. She shared the success and efforts to build a new community organization which will include 19 municipalities in the Lower Mainland. Several events have already been held with a fantastic turnout.

President Henry briefly commented on the capacity building items including Communications, Governance, Child, Youth and Family, and Administration to name a few. President Henry added that further discussion on each item will be held by Department Leaders further into the meeting.

**b. BC Métis Federation Financial Statements April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023- March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Director of Finance, Betty Fisher was asked to introduce the Finance Team of Kristina Souter and Rina Singh. She thanked them for their hard work and dedication over the past year.

Auditor, Sean Reid from KPMG joined the AGM via Zoom to review the audited Financial Statements. The Auditors, met with the Board of Directors on July 22, 2024 to present the 2023-2024 Audit Report. Sean Reid added the Audit Report findings highlights included a significant increase in revenue in the Statement of Operations as a direct result of an increase in corporate agreements from \$1.7M to \$4.6M. He spoke about the difference in government versus private funding sources and how the funds can be used for programs and services. He also noted expenditures were up as a direct result of the new programs and services being added.

President Henry added that the success of the organization is a direct result of the funding sources being realized and thanked the entire Industry team, led by Taylor McLeod for their success in procuring these funds which go directly into programs and services for BCMF Members.

Auditor Sean Reid thanked Director of Finance Betty Fisher and the Finance team for all of their hard work

**Motion 20240907-05 To Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation Financial Statements April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 as presented**

**Moved by – Christina Belcourt**

**Seconded – Rosanne Forget**

**Carried**

**c. Appointment of Auditor for 2024-2025**

**Motion 20240907-06 To appoint KPMG as Auditor for 2024-2025 fiscal year**

**Moved by – Cindy Wilgosh**

**Seconded by - Jacquie Swaisland**

**Carried**

*Break 10:20 AM*

*Karen Dion and Metis Bev Dancers*

**10. BC Metis Federation 2024 - 2025 Action Plan**

**10:45 AM**

**a. 2024-2025 Action Plan Progress – Key Performance Indicators**

President Keith Henry highlighted the Action Plan and KPI's for this current fiscal year. Each program was reviewed with an explanation of the performance percentages to date.

President Henry spoke about the importance of Metis Resurgence and the Michif Language which is in a critical stage. He commented about the difficulty in presenting the programming with so few Michif

speakers available and encouraged any members who knew of Michif speaking family members who may have an interest to please consider applying as a teacher/mentor.

President Henry also spoke about the huge importance of the new Youth, Women, and Elder's programming and the importance of maintaining engagement with our youth and elders.

The floor was opened to questions and comments.

Metis Family Services representative, Adam Calvert spoke about how important it was to include BCMF and its members and giving them a voice. Metis Family Services works directly with the Ministry of Child and Family Services, and it is important that all Metis families and children in the province be included.

Another Member asked to clarify Metis representation on Vancouver Island. President Henry responded that the BCMF is hoping to have a partner community in the future to represent the specific needs of its large membership Island Members soon.

President Henry continued to review the Action Plan goals and activities. He added that the bottom-line budget requires \$5.7M to run the operational budget for this current fiscal year.

### **11. 2025-2028 BC Metis Federation Strategic Plan – Updated Vision**

**11:10 AM**

President Henry provided an update on the 3-year Strategic plan and explained that it was a 'road map', plan and future guide for the organization. He stated: "*The Strategic Plan reflects the holistic approach to improving and empowering Metis people in BC*". He added that the new plan has been guided by the needs of the membership and it includes several new adjustments including rights and recognition, which is not intended to be a threat to First Nations.

The BCMF wants its members to be recognized as Metis with access to funding and programs regardless of which organization they belong to and the BCMF will continue its quest to be recognized as an official Metis representative body. He continued to clarify and discuss the Charter or Rights under the Canadian Constitution, specifically the protected right of freedom of association.

President Henry provided a summary of the future plan including:

- Culture and Revitalization plan which will embrace culture and traditions, and connection to the land and water, and Metis culture. He emphasized that Member and community support is the key.
- Capacity Development - to continue to work with industry partners to create opportunities for our members
- Conservation – The change of the more inclusive name from Coastal Conservation. British Columbia is a diverse province comprised of coast and non-coastal environments.

- Culture and Language – continue to host events in all partner communities. Local engagement is crucial
- Economic Development – continue to develop relationships and diversify procurement partnerships is the key to the future for BCMF
- Education – continue to support the Greg Mazur Scholarship program to ensure more Members have access to education funding
- Housing – a new and emerging area for BCMF. Housing has become a major issue for our Members and BCMF hopes to develop resources in the future.
- Justice – to provide Metis rights advocacy resources to Members
- Research – continue to use evidence-based research on the history of Metis in British Columbia

The floor was opened to questions.

One Member proposed a ship naming for historical Metis leader Louis Riel and asked if the BCMF would support the proposal in the future.

Provincial Conservative candidate, Chris Sankey was given an opportunity to speak to the Members and offered his perspective as a First Nations person and current MLA Candidate. He encouraged BCMF Members to participate and get engaged in politics in a local, provincial and federal level. He added that participation is key to empowerment of Indigenous rights including those of the Metis people

*Lunch 11:45 PM*  
**Karen Dion and Metis Bev Dancers**

**12. BC Metis Federation Board Election**

1::00 PM

- a) President
- b) Vice President
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) 5 At Large Board Members

Chief Electoral Officer Brady Smith explained his role to ensure the proper legal process as outlined in Section 6 of BCMF's Bylaws and Constitution have been adhered to. He noted that the nomination process was opened for 3 and half weeks prior to the AGM, with 4 Executive Board positions, and 5 Director At Large positions. He also reviewed the ballot casting process with attendees.

Chief Electoral Officer Brady Smith announced that the 4 Executive Board positions were filled by Acclamation and that each At Large candidate would be give a 3-minute time slot to address the members before the ballots were cast. Candidates Rene Therrien, Rosanne Forget, Jordan Therrien, Robin McLay, Earl Storey, Elizabeth Pearce (statement read by Cindy Wilgosh). Louise Lambert announced that she

was withdrawing from the Election. Chief Electoral Officer Brady Smith asked the voting members to strike Louise Lambert's name from the ballot.

At 1:50 PM the Members were asked to cast their ballots, and they were collected and taken for counting by Chief Electoral Officer Brady Smith.

### **13. BC Metis Federation Committees**

**2:05 PM**

#### **a) Youth**

Youth Representative Jordan Therrien updated the membership on the latest youth program initiatives including unveiling of the brand-new logo and t-shirts. He discussed some of the new activities and ideas and introduced the initial community Youth representatives.

#### **b) Elders**

Director Rosanne Forget spoke on behalf of Elder Representative Elizabeth Pearce. She emphasized the importance of connecting youth and elders with kinship and provided an update on the recent Youth and Elders meetings held in Vancouver in June. She also discussed the "Adopt-an-Elder" proposal and was pleased to announce that two new facebook pages have been developed to represent the two groups and give them a space to share ideas.

#### **c) Women**

Director Louise Lambert reviewed recent programs, activities and held across the province with support from the partner communities. Initiatives included programming for women's empowerment, equality, justice, physical and mental well being, violence prevention and breaking down barriers. New programs were being developed and will be announced at a future date.

#### **Chief Electoral Officer Brady Smith returned to the meeting to announce the Board Election Results:**

- 1. Rene Therrien**
- 2. Jordan Therrien**
- 3. Rosanne Forget**
- 4. Elizabeth Pearce and**
- 5. Robin McLay**

**Elected as Directors At Large.**

**Motion 20240907-07 To accept the results of the 2024 Election and destroy the ballots**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by Cindy Wilgosh**

**Carried**



*Break 2:30 – 2:50 PM*

**14. BC Metis Federation 2024-2025 Priority Initiatives Update**

**3:00 PM**

**a) Legal Case Declaration Update**

Legal Counsel Gib Van Ert of Olthius Van Ert joined the meeting by Zoom and provided the members with an update on the legal case which was recently filed against Canada. The floor was opened to questions.

Each Department Leader was asked to provide the Members with a brief update on each department.

**b) Pacific Northwest Metis Research- Joe Desjarlais**

Director of Research Joe Desjarlais spoke about his personal journey in discovering his Metis past and identity. His experiences are grounded in community. He introduced the research team and community-based researchers and thanked them for all of their hard work and dedication.

The key is the relationship building within the communities. He encouraged everyone to review the website [www.MetisinBC.ca](http://www.MetisinBC.ca).

He added that the importance of the study of the presence of Pacific Northwest Metis and in particular, the Treaty 8 region in Northeastern BC will be crucial in understanding the presence of Metis people in BC and he shared information on newly discovered documentation of historical scrip records from this region.

**c) Industry – Taylor McLeod, Jennifer Percival and Brad Giroux**

- i) Procurement**
- ii) Employment**

Director of Industry Procurement, Taylor McLeod introduced her team of Industry Employment Coordinator Jennifer Percival and Industry Coordinator Brad Giroux. She thanked industry sponsors from Enbridge and others who were able to attend the meeting. She was pleased to report that the current \$15 Million procurement goal was attainable and that the BCMF has now signed agreements with 37 industry partners. She discussed the focus on moving away from TMX, which has come to an end however there are several new major projects being developed.

Director of Industry Procurement Taylor McLeod went on to summarize some of the upcoming Projects including:

- Sunrise – \$3B expansion for Enbridge. She explained the program and the signed agreement with the CER.
- Aspen T North in FST St John 1.5 B.

*Li taan paasii. Li taan ki vyayn.*

*From our past. For our future.*

- North River Midstream NEBC Connector Project.
- Pointed Mountain Pipeline Project pushed to 2025
- Pembina Expansion

Jennifer Percival spoke about her work in employment engagement and her role in attending job fairs and community meetings throughout the province.

Brad Giroux was pleased to present the new BCMF Job board which was recently launched. He reviewed how to navigate the new site with a slide presentation and discussed the important work developing the partnerships with industry a wide variety of industry partners.

**d) Conservation Department – Angel Fisher**

Director of Conservations Angel Fisher introduced the conservation team. She added that the department is based on two pillars of education and awareness. She shared the new podcast called the Aqua Agenda podcast available on YouTube and Spotify.

The department's online presence is growing the addition of these two new platforms. She also emphasized the importance of community engagement and the huge success of Shoreline Cleanups, and all the recent community events the Department has been involved with.

**e) Michif Language – Keith Henry/Rene Therrien**

President Keith Henry and Vice President Rene Therrien reviewed the Michif language tools and platforms as Director of Michif Language, Jeanie Cardinal was unable to attend the AGM. He talked about programs such as Silent Speaker, the Michif- Frenc Mentor Apprentice Program, and the Michif language laughs and sharing circle. He added that there have been several language workshops held with the communities with more planned for the future

Vice President Rene Therrien added that the Language Project takes approximately 3 years and 900 hours of study, President Henry encouraged the members to consider joining the project and learning the highly endangered language.

**f) Metis Child youth and Families – Keith Henry**

President Henry sent regrets for Director of Child Youth, and Family, Lisa Armstrong who was not able to attend the AGM. The child and family strategy is to directly engage with the Province to include BCMF members with the Ministry of Children and Family Services to support members.

The Orange Sash program and awareness campaign have been a success to bring awareness to CYF issues and new online fall series of events is forthcoming.

The Provincial Ministry of Children and Families has engaged BC Metis Federation in proposed legislative changes/updates to the current Child, Family, and Community Services Act. BC Metis Federation has presented their input and will be reengaging soon on follow up.

**g) 2024-2025 Membership – Ashley Schwab**

Membership Clerk, Ashley Schwab updated the attendees on the growth numbers on membership which has grown by more than 50% for the same time last year.

The main areas of growth continue to be the Lower Mainland, Thompson Okanagan and Vancouver Island.

**h) Project Coming Home – Brady Smith**

Senior Strategic Policy Advisor Brady Smith and President Henry provided a brief overview of the Project Coming Home plan renderings and the concept was shared.

He added that the BCMF has a clear vision about the significance and importance of the first Metis specific cultural center in BC. The focus has shifted from new construction to repurposing an existing facility somewhere in the Vancouver area.

**i) Metis Housing – Joe Desjarlais/TL Housing Partners**

Director of Research and Housing Joe Desjarlais introduced Daryl Simpson, Rick Ilich, Jesse Miller, from Townline Housing Solutions (TL Housing).

TL Housing were asked to speak about their model for housing development in particular, non-profit housing opportunities.

They are in the early stages of fact finding to explore relationship with organizations such as BCMF.

**j) Emergency Assistance Program – Drake Henry and Kevin Henry**

Health Project Coordinator Drake Henry was pleased to report that funding of the program has allowed the BCMF to assist 56 members with over \$72,000 in financial assistance for emergency health related costs.

He also discussed recent engagement with the Provincial Ministry of Health about key issues such as the loss of mental health resources for Metis people in BC by the First Nations Health Authority. As such the health team is working with potential insurance providers to assess the future feasibility of a membership health program through Blue Cross.

Community Health Coordinator Kevin Henry added that the EAP was also able to assist members who were displaced this year by the impacts of the BC fire situation.

President Henry presented Operational team member Jennifer Percival with a new sash as her family lost their entire home due to fires in 2023.

**k) BC Metis Federation Greg Mazur Scholarship Program – Jennifer Percival**

Industry Employment Coordinator Jennifer Percival reported on the success of the Greg Mazur Scholarship fund. She recognized the role of Greg Mazur and the support he provided until he passed away in December 2023. Jennifer thanked the family and advised members of the support received during the Celebration of Life for Greg in July in Kelowna.

Jennifer introduced a few of the Greg Mazur scholarship recipients who were present at the AGM. She emphasised the importance of the need for increased post secondary funding for BCMF students throughout BC.

**15. Adjournment**

**4:55 PM**

**Motion 20240907- 08 To adjourn the 2024 Annual General Meeting**

**Moved by – Earl Belcourt**

**Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh**

**Carried**

**Closing Prayer**

**5:00 PM**

**Metis Elder Betty Fisher provided a Closing Prayer**