

BC Métis Federation
Board Meeting
390 - 3665 Kingsway
Vancouver, BC
Thursday, December 19th, 2024

APPROVED MINUTES

Attendees:

Board of Directors -

Keith Henry - President
Earl Belcourt - Vice President
Cindy Wilgosh - Treasurer
Jacquie Swaisland - Secretary
Rosanne Forget- Board Member
Rene Therrien - Board Member
Robin Mclay - Board Member
Jordan Therrien - Board Member - Youth Representative
Elizabeth Pearce - Elder Representative

Operational Team -

Sherry Daniels - Office Manager
Betty Fisher - Director of Finance
Joe Desjarlais – Director of Research
Angel Fisher - Director of Conservation
Tanner Oswald - Conservation Coordinator
Lisa Armstrong - Director of Child, Youth and Family
Kevin Henry - Metis Community Health Coordinator
Drake Henry - Health Project Coordinator
Jeanie Cardinal - Director of Culture and Language
Craig van der Merwe - Technical Advisor
Gib Van Ert - Legal Counsel, Olthius Van Ert
Virtual: Neil Abraham - Legal Counsel, Olthius Van Ert

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks 8:30 AM

President Henry welcomed the Board to the meeting.

2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda 8:35 AM

Agenda Item 10 c was added: Future Projects, Funding and Economic Development Opportunities

Motion 20241102-01 – To Approve/Accept the December 19th, 2024 Agenda as Amended

Moved by – Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Elizabeth Pearce

Carried

3. BC Metis Federation Leadership Roundtable 8:40 AM

President Henry asked each Metis Leader (Director) to provide a brief update on recent community and BCMF leadership activities.

4. Review and Approve Minutes 9:20 AM
a. Draft November 2nd, 2024

President Henry reviewed the draft minutes, and one grammatical edit was noted in Motion 20241102-05.

Motion 20241218-02 – To Adopt Future Minute Recording to Motions and Action Items Only

Moved by – Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Robin McLay

Carried

Motion 20241218-03 – To Approve/Accept the November 2nd, 2024 Minutes as Presented

Moved by – Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Jordan Therrien

Carried

5. BC Metis Federation Reporting (previous Item #6) 9:55 AM
a. Finance
a. 2024 – 2025 YTD April – October
b. Review of YTD Proposals
b. 2024 – 2025 Action Plan
a. Key Performance Indicators

Director of Finance Betty Fisher reviewed the YTD Budget update April – October., 2024. President Keith Henry provided a complete update on all proposals to date.

Motion 20241218-04 – To Approve/Accept the Year-to-Date April to October Finance Report as presented

Moved by – Renee Therrien

Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh

Carried

Motion 20241218-05 – To Approve/Accept the 2024-2025 Action Plan Key Performance Indicators Update as presented
Moved by – Earl Belcourt
Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland
Carried

Break 10:20-10:45 AM

Motion 20241218-06 – To Move In Camera
Moved by- Rene Therrien
Seconded by – Jacquie Swaisland
Carried

Motion 20241218-07 – To Move Out of Camera
Moved by – Earl Belcourt
Seconded by – Robin McLay
Carried

6. Governance 11:50 AM
a. BC Metis Federation Strategic Plan 2025-2028

Motion 20241218-08 to Approve/Accept the BC Metis Federation Strategic Plan 2025-2028 as presented
Moved by – Rosanne Forget
Seconded by – Rene Therrien
Carried

7. First Nations Leadership in BC
a. Michif Language
i. Review Resolution to Reject the Prioritization of Michif Language Classes in BC Schools
ii. Education Background Information
b. BCHRT Update

Agenda Item #7 was discussed in the In Camera session.

Action Item #1 – BCMF to draft a letter regarding concerns regarding Metis education in the K-12 System.

Lunch Break 12:00 – 12:30 PM

8. Department Updates 12:30 PM
- a. Industry
 - i. Employment
 - ii. Procurement
 - iii. Consultation Updates
 - a. CER Rules and Practice and Procedure Review
 - b. Onshore Pipeline Regulation

President Keith Henry provided the Industry Update Report. He noted that he will continue to work with Director of Industry Engagement, Taylor McLeod and Office Manager Sherry Daniels with the upcoming OPR meetings in Kamloops, Vancouver, Terrace and Prince George.

- b. Child Youth and Family (CYF)

CYF Director Lisa Armstrong provided an update on the fall and winter online education and awareness series.

- c. Michif Language

Cultural Director, Jeanie Cardinal provided a summary of recent Michif language initiatives.

Action Item #2 – Explore continuing Michif Language community workshops for 2025.

- d. Health
 - i. Emergency Assistance Program (EAP)

Health Coordinator Kevin Henry and Project Coordinator Drake Henry provided a report on recent EAP recipient requests. There were 6 eligible BCMF Members requests to review with an amended total of \$10,901.49.

Motion 20241218-09 To Approve/Accept the EAP Applications as Amended

Moved by – Renee Therrien

Seconded by- Robin McLay

Carried

- e. Housing

President Henry reviewed the Housing report.

- f. Greg Mazur Scholarship Fund

President Henry was pleased to report that 16 Scholarship recipients have received a total of \$24,000 in funding to date.

g. Research

Director of Research Joe Desjarlais discussed the ongoing Research Department projects.

Department Update Reports to resume after the Legal Update.

9. Legal Update 2:15 PM
- a. BC Metis Federation vs Canada
 - b. Exoneration Process 1885
 - c. Opinion for Metis in BC

Legal Counsel Neil Abraham joined the meeting virtually. Gib Van Ert and Neil Abraham provided a review of the legal opinion documents submitted to the Board.

- Department Updates Resume 3:35 PM
- h. Membership

Craig van der Merwe provided the Board with a demonstration of the new website improvements being developed for the Michif language and Membership website portals.

President Henry reviewed the Membership Report and was pleased to announce that free membership for children 18 and under will begin January 1st, 2025.

i. Conservation

Director of Conservation Angel Fisher provided an update on the recent department activities and forthcoming 2025 conferences in Richmond and Victoria.

- j. Communications
- i. Metis Coffee Talk

Previously discussed this in Agenda Item # 3.

k. Project Coming Home

There were no new updates to report.

10. Other 4:00 PM

- a. Christmas
 - i. Office Closure Dated December 23rd – January 3rd

President Henry reminded Directors and Staff of the upcoming holiday closure.

- b. Letter to Premier re: Metis Relationship regarding Education

This item was discussed in Agenda Item #7.

- c. Future Projects, Funding and Economic Development Opportunities

This Agenda Item was added and discussed in Item # 8. The BCMF will continue to explore new partnerships and financing opportunities.

11. Next Meeting 4:05 PM

The next Board Meeting date in 2025 to coincide with the Conservation Department conference in Oak Bay on February 7th.

Action Item #3 – To compose a letter to the BC Government regarding the lack of Metis education inclusion in BC Schools (Also see Action Item #1)

Action Item #4 – To compose a letter to the First Nations leadership regarding Title Claim clarification. President Henry to invite the leadership group to a meeting to discuss the issue in person.

12. Adjournment 4:07 PM

Motion 20241218-10 to Adjourn the Meeting

Moved by - Cindy Wilgosh

Seconded by – Earl Belcourt

Carried

Approved March 15, 2025

BC Metis Federation President

BC Metis Federation Vice President