

BC Métis Federation
Board Meeting
Friday, June 6th
Peace Region Metis Community Association Office

Approved Minutes

Board of Directors -

Keith Henry - President
Earl Belcourt - Vice President
Cindy Wilgosh - Treasurer
Rosanne Forget- Board Member
Robin McLay - Board Member
Jordan Therrien - Board Member - Youth Representative

Missing –

Elizabeth Pearce – Board Member

Operational Team -

Sherry Daniels - Office Manager
Drake Henry - Health Project Coordinator
Gib van Ert – Legal Counsel
Kevin Henry – Community Health

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks 9:00 AM

Peace Region Metis Community Association President Jocelyn Eisert welcomed the board to Fort St. John and provided an overview of current developments and the cultural festival (Family Jamboree) this week. She provided insight about the current situation within the Metis community in Fort St. John and the work towards the event.

2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda 9:10 AM

Motion 20250606-01 – To approve the agenda as presented as amended, added AGM to “Other” section.

Moved by – Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Robin McLay

Carried

3. BC Metis Federation Leadership Update 9:15 AM

- a. BC Metis Federation Board Members
 - i. Youth
 - ii. Women
 - iii. Elders

Motion 20250606-02 – To approve the definition of the BC Metis Federation Elder as follows:

The new Metis Elder definition highlights the importance of Elders within partner communities:

- 1) Must be appointed by the Partner Community Boards**
- 2) Partner Community-focused leadership - Metis Elders prioritize the well-being of their community and future generations.**
- 3) Cultural preservation - Elders are keepers of traditional knowledge, medicine, language, and culture, and they willingly share this knowledge within their partner communities, and with the BC Metis Federation.**
- 4) Supportive and nurturing - Metis Elders provide emotional support, love, and nurturing to partner community members.**
- 5) Accountability and responsibility - Elders are accountable to their partner community, and work to fulfill their responsibilities.**
- 6) Kinship and family ties - The concept of kinship being like an extended family underscores the importance of relationships and community bonds within Metis culture.**

These qualities are essential for Metis Elders, as they play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and promoting community well-being.

Moved by – Earl Belcourt

Seconded by – Jordan Therrien

Carried

Action Item #1 – BC Metis Federation Elders Committee will create a Terms of Reference to further define key items such as terms and expected behaviours.

There was conversation about the need to ensure partner community reps to participate more for the various committees following this presentation.

The Youth rep summarized the ongoing work with the schools as a start in Terrace with the new bison mascot. The board reviewed photos and a few short videos about the event. It was clear that the new youth approach created a great response from all students, with this initial work completed with a Grade 4 classroom in Terrace. Not all students were Metis but all students enjoyed learning about Metis culture.

Action Item #2 – BC Metis Federation youth rep will create a new youth cultural workshop with Louis Jr. for the K-12 schools. The youth workshop will be developed with the Director of Michif language and produce a one-page overview for teachers to consider throughout BC.

The Metis women have revised their committee priorities. It was noted in the recent meeting about the challenge being a Metis women rep with local First Nations at times. On a positive note, there have been new Metis women reps starting to participate from the partner communities. The Metis women have

decided to start to build a facebook page plus other tactics. The operational team will be asked for support to create this new tool.

The next steps for the Metis women are to seek support for a new June 21st event in Clearwater. There will be a budget conversation as well between the women, youth and elder's coordinator to complete the budget needs for 2025-2026.

One of the requests is to plan a future Metis women's, youth, and elders workshop the day after the AGM in September. The workshop is requested for mental health and wellness.

Action Item #3 – BC Metis Federation Women, Youth and Elders reps will create a budget of priorities for 2025-2026 to submit to Director of Finance Betty Fisher

4. Review and Approve Minutes 10:15 AM
a. Draft April 27th, 2025

Motion 20250606-03 – To approve the April 27th minutes as presented

Moved by – Cindy Wilgosh

Seconded by – Earl Belcourt

Carried

5. BC Metis Federation Reporting 10:20 AM
a. 2025-2026 Action Plan – Final
b. Finance – Update

Motion 20250606-04 – To approve the 2025-2026 Finance Report ending April 2025 as presented

Moved by – Rosanne Forget

Seconded by – Robin McLay

Carried

Action Item #4 – BC Metis Federation to release the 2025-2026 Action Plan presented to the board.

6. Legal 11:15 AM
a. BCHRT Update
b. Legal Case vs Canada
c. Law Society re Clark Wilson

The lawyer provided an update about the case against Canada. The crown response was reviewed, and strategy and documentation were advised. BC Metis Federation expects examination to begin in the fall with trial in late 2025 or early 2026.

The board also agreed on the BCHRT process going forward in the case with the UBCIC.

7. Key Department Updates

1:00 PM

a. Health

i. Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) Applications May 2025

Motion 20250606-05 – To approve the May applications (3) as presented by the staff**Moved by – Earl Belcourt****Seconded by – Robin McLay****Carried**

b. Industry

i. Regulatory Updates

1. Sunrise Expansion
2. Pouce Coupe
3. NorthRiver Midstream

Robin McLay presented the update about the department, regulatory work, economic development, etc.

c. Housing Project Victoria Update – Sooke

Motion 20250606-06 – To approve the Family Legacy Project participation as presented**Moved by – Jordan Therrien****Seconded by – Cindy Wilgosh****Carried**

d. MCFD Review Final Submission

The board reviewed the final recommendations to MCFD. Awaiting the next step in the process by the Province.

e. Conservation

The board reviewed and appreciated the information from the department, especially the focus on the wildfire kits provided in Clearwater and Kelowna. The board also remains strongly supportive of the other conservation programs such as beach clean up, etc.

f. Research

i. Library and Archives Canada

There was a reinforcement to identify additional research documents such as baptismal certificates the department reported and has been locating to further support the Pacific Northwest Metis history. The team was requested to ensure all such records are shared to assist BC Metis Federation prepare for the case with Canada. As such ensure the Director of Research has included these specific documents in the documentation.

- g. Michif
 - i. Learning Bird Proposed Agreement

Motion 20250606-07 – To approve the Learning Bird Agreement as Proposed**Moved by – Robin McLay****Seconded by – Rosanne Forget****Carried**

The BC Metis Federation board discussed the importance of AI and creating a strategy for staff, board, and partner communities. There was a lot of priorities placed on this.

Action Item #5 – BC Metis Federation board member Jordan Therrien was asked to work with Drake Henry and others to plan a new BC Metis Federation symposium.

Break 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM

- 8. Other 2:45 PM
 - a. Gifts from Mr. Don Woodcock

The board was advised about the significant Metis cultural gifts and information from Mr. Don Woodcock. The board was very appreciative of this support from Mr. Woodcock.

- b. Peace Region Metis Community Association Jamboree:
 - i. June 6/7 Jamboree
10908 100 Street FSJ
FSJ Seniors Hall

The board discussed the positive support for the sponsorship towards the event with our partner community. BC Metis Federation was one of several sponsors, but the resources provided enables Peace Region Metis Community Association to leverage and attract partners. The event is feasible and will realize a small profit for the partner community.

- c. 2025 Annual General Meeting

Action Item #6 – BC Metis Federation AGM will be held September 13th and 14th in Kelowna.

- 9. Next Board Meeting 3:00 PM
 - a. August Terrace, BC

Action Item #7 – BC Metis Federation board will meet August 15th at the Skeena River Metis Community Association office.

10. Adjournment

3:10 PM

Motion 20250606-08 – To adjourn at 3:55 PM**Moved by – Cindy Wilgosh****Carried****Approved August 15th, 2025****BC Metis Federation President****BC Metis Federation Vice President**