



BC Métis Federation
Board Meeting

Online Teams Platform
Wednesday, February 17th, 2021
1:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Approved Minutes

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

Attendance:

1. Keith Henry, President
2. Rene Therrien, Vice President
3. Joe Desjarlais, Secretary
4. Earl Belcourt, Board Member
5. JJ Lavallee, Board Member
6. Greg Mazur, Board Member
7. Jacquie Swaisland, Board Member
8. Betty Fisher, Treasurer
9. Angel Fisher, Board Member

Regrets: Cindy Wilgosh, Board Member

Support Team:

1. Sherry Daniels, Office Manager
2. Drake Henry, Project Coordinator
3. Kassandra Sison, Communications Specialist
4. Malcolm Macpherson, Legal Counsel
5. Karen Andrews, TMX Employment Coordinator
6. Valerie Paice, Groundbirch/Foothills Coordinator
7. Steve Newton, Emergency Response Consultant
8. Brady Smith, Strategic Planning Coordinator
9. Taylor McLeod, TMX Procurement Coordinator
10. Janet Newbury, Consultant
11. Craig van der Merwe, Technical Support
12. Jeanie Cardinal, Michif Language Development Coordinator

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

1:00 PM

Earl Belcourt– Opening Prayer

Keith Henry – Welcomed New BC Metis Federation Communication Director Kassandra Sison

2. Review/acceptance of Agenda

1:05 PM

Motion 20210217 -01 To accept agenda as amended.

Moved Greg Mazur

Seconded Rene Therrien

Carried

3. Review/approve

1:10 PM

a. October 17th, 18th

Motion 20210217 -02 To approve minutes as presented.

Moved JJ Lavallee

Seconded Earl Belcourt

Carried

b. November 6th Proposed Motion.

Motion 20210217 -03 To approve the Foothills Pipelines (South B.C.) Ltd. Letter of Agreement as presented Yahk Section.

Moved Greg Mazur

Seconded Rene Therrien

Carried

c. December 7th Proposed Motion.

Motion 20210217 -04 That the Board of the British Columbia Metis Federation hereby approves the application to the Indigenous Natural Resource Partnership (INRP) for Community Capacity funding for the December 2020 to March 2022 fiscal years.

Moved Betty Fisher

Seconded Jacquie Swaisland

Carried

d. February 16th, 2021 Motion

Motion 20210217 - 05

WHEREAS the British Columbia Métis Federation has applied to the Canadian Government's Indigenous Languages and Cultures Program – Indigenous Languages Component Program for funding to support Michif Language.

AND WHEREAS, once the application for funding is approved, the British Columbia Métis Federation will be required to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Canadian Government in order to receive the funding for Project.

NOW THEREFORE the Board of the British Columbia Metis Federation hereby resolves to:

1. authorize the British Columbia Métis Federation to enter into a Contribution Agreement with the Heritage Canada.

2. designate the duly authorized signatory on behalf of the British Columbia Métis Federation to be Keith Henry as President for the purposes of signing the application for funding, the Contribution Agreement, or any other documents required under the Contribution Agreement; and

3. authorize the British Columbia Métis Federation’s Treasurer, Betty Fisher and Office Manager, Sherry Daniels, to manage the funds, expense claim process and to receive the payment cheque in relation to the Contribution Agreement.

**Moved Rene Therrien
Seconded Betty Fisher
Carried**

- e. Review AGM Minutes December 5th, 2020

The board reviewed the draft minutes only. The AGM minutes will be approved by members at the 2021 AGM.

- 4. Financial Reporting 1:20 PM
 - a. 2020-2021 Financial Reporting April 2020 – January 2021

BC Metis Federation Director of Finance Betty Fisher provided a review of the Financial Report which is accurate to the end of January 2021.

Funds balances will change to the end of March 2021 as there are balances of projects that will need to be paid out not yet reflected in the presented budget.

Cash flow of \$1.3M is based on all contractual amounts to date. The balance of cash due will be realized once the projects are complete.

Motion 20210217 -06 To approve the financial report as presented.

**Moved Earl Belcourt
Seconded Rene Therrien
Carried**

- 5. Membership Update 1:30 PM

BC Metis Federation membership support team member Angel Fisher provided an update on her new role as Membership Coordinator. She has been working with JJ Lavallee to update the membership list and complete research work on existing applications. There have been 11 new cards issued in January.

Legal advisor, Malcolm MacPherson provided a review of the Terms of Reference and updated By Laws and Membership.

He concluded that the genealogy form needs to be consistent with BC Metis Federation's internal approval process.

Clarification of BC Metis Federation's application and acceptance process should be strictly followed.

President Keith Henry - further clarification about new online membership application processes that are now available for members.

Conclusion and discussion that community acceptance for membership be thought through carefully.

Motion 20210217 -07 To accept the membership report as presented.

Moved Betty Fisher

Seconded Greg Mazur

Carried

Action Item #1: Angel Fisher and Malcolm MacPherson to continue the commitment to implement a cohesive Membership Plan.

Additional Comments from Joe and Keith regarding defining Community Acceptance Process– is this a regulatory system – what type of organization BC Metis Federation will be determined to a great extent by this important subject.

6. Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee (IAMC) 1:40 PM
 - a. Metis Representative Update

BC Metis Federation representative Earl Belcourt Provided an update

He reviewed BC Metis Federation's position on this committee as it currently stands. There are 3 Metis organizations within the province who wish to have a seat at this table. Kelly Lake has since joined the pursuit of representation on the IAMC. With only 1 voting seat, BC Metis Federation remains an 'observer'.

It is important to BC Metis Federation that we remain a participant in the IAMC, at whatever level. President Keith Henry clarified BC Metis Federation's participation with current representatives Earl Belcourt and Sherry Daniels involvement with meetings to date and this important work of cooperation needs to continue.

Motion 20210217 -08 To accept the IAMC report as presented.

Moved JJ Lavallee

Seconded Rene Therrien

Carried

- b. Emergency Response Project DRAFT Report

The board was presented the final draft BC Metis Federation Community Emergency Response Plan strategy by consultant Steve Newton.

The document was created based on input from several members and partner and Consultant Newton provided the key recommendations as follows:

1. *Establish a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) model for BC Metis Federation for emergency events; this position would be the external representative to other agencies and would have a primary responsibility for gathering situational awareness about emergency events and sharing it back to BC Metis Federation staff, Board, and members as appropriate.*
2. *Where external agencies support it, get the BC Metis Federation SPOC on their incident notification and information sharing lists, and/or able to participate in incident update calls, online meetings or in person at Emergency Operations Centres (EOC).*
3. *Provide freely available sources of situational awareness to members on the BC Metis Federation website and regularly promote their use through existing communications channels to encourage them to gather their own information and enable less dependence on BC Metis Federation leadership for information sharing.*
4. *Develop an Emergency Support Team that focuses on facilitating additional support to Metis people in BC during an emergency event. Outside existing programs offered by the Province and groups like the Canadian Red Cross*
5. *Training that can be delivered within the parameters of this project include content videos on:*
 - *Introduction to Emergency Management in BC*
 - *Introduction to the Incident Command System*

Both can be developed within the funding of this project and made available for posting on the BC Metis Federation website. There will be some requirement for IT support as it relates to putting the content on the BC Metis Federation website. An alternate subscription-based solution for hosting the training content may be a consideration and would require additional funding for long term hosting.

Motion 20210217 -09 To approve the BC Metis Federation (BC Metis Federation) Emergency Plan February 2021 as presented.

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded Jacquie Swaisland

Carried

7. Trans Mountain Expansion (TMX) 2:10 PM
a. Ministry of Finance Project Update

Legal Counsel MacPherson and President Henry updated and shared insight not the Federal process with the MOF.

BC Metis Federation board was also advised the consultant firm supported to address the Federal contract.

- b. TMX Comms Project – IAMC

BC Metis Federation TMX Project Coordinator Greg Mazur provided a project summary.

TMX Team members are working on procurement and employment strategies. Their additional support and participation have been crucial to current progress for Metis small businesses and members.

New inquiries are coming in and they continue to work diligently on all opportunities available to members throughout the province.

There have been recently new procurement opportunities for BC Metis Federation members businesses.

One of the main items to update is the upcoming BC Metis Federation virtual job fairs which start February 25th. BC Metis Federation Communications Specialist Sison reported that media coverage rollout in both digital and print has been implemented and is ongoing.

The board discussed the acceptance of other Metis association members on BC Metis Federation project initiatives despite concerns about whether benefits should go beyond our specific members. The Board agreed that BC Metis Federation will continue to provide open opportunities and take the high road with members and Metis small business owners. We want to welcome everyone together in the spirit of cooperation.

Motion 20210217 -010 To accept the TMX Comms Project IAMC report as presented.

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded JJ Lavallee

Carried

c. INRP Project Update

President Henry provided a process update for the Indigenous Natural Resources Partnership Project. The project application remains under review with Natural Resources Canada.

The board will be updated once a decision has been made regarding the application.

8. TC Energy 2:35 PM
a. Groundbirch
b. Foothills

President Henry provided a summary review of the engagement work to be completed and outline of role with partner communities.

A working sheet on the Groundbirch project was shared with the Board as the example to better understand the reporting for the traditional knowledge project work.

9. Northeast BC Connector 3:00 PM

President Henry provided a summary of the project work to date and the recent call with the partner communities in Hudson Hope, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John, and Fort Nelson.

10. BC Métis Federation Action Plan 2021-2022 3:15 PM

BC Metis Federation Strategy Consultant provided an update on the progress of the Action Plan. The plan was completed with internal support of all Directors and is based on a vision to meet current project needs while supported the new BC Metis Federation board approved Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

The 2021-2022 Action Plan was presented as Year 1 of the new 3-year vision and established several Key Performance Indicators in the three priority areas of:

- *Capacity Building*
- *Member and Community Support*
- *Metis Resurgence*

The theme will be phrased as “From our past, for our future”.

Motion 20210217 -11 To accept the BC Metis Federation Action Plan as presented.

Moved Greg Mazur

Seconded Rene Therrien

Carried

Action Item #2: Communication Specialist to support President Henry with the release of 2021-2022 Plan in the coming week for members and partners.

11. BC Metis Federation - Indigenous Services Canada 3:30 PM
a. FICP Multiyear Application 2021-2024

President Henry provided a summary of the engagement with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) staff in Ottawa to support the new application to the Federal Interlocutor Contribution Program (FICP) April 1st 2021, - March 31st, 2024 building on work with the department these last 2 years.

BCMF continues to build a relationship with ISC and the application process is ongoing forward expecting funding support for three years based on the presentation made to the board.

Motion 20210217 -12 to approve the BC Metis Federation FICP application as presented.

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded Betty Fisher

Carried

12. Michif Language/Cultural Project Update 4:00 PM

BC Metis Federation Vice President Rene Therrien and Michif Language Development Coordinator Jeannie Cardinal provided an update about the status of the 2020-2021 project. The Michif language initiatives are ongoing and great progress is being made.

The early grades academic curriculum for grades K-6 continues. To date work on the translation of 112 stories into Michif for inclusion into the curriculum continues. The project is slated for completion by March 31, 2021.

BC Metis Federation has now applied to the Department of Canadian Heritage to continue and expand the curriculum for secondary grade 7-12 curriculum with a new multiyear application.

Motion 20210217 -13 To accept the Michif Language Development Project report as presented.

Moved JJ Lavallee

Seconded Rene Therrien

Carried

13. Draft Justice Strategy

4:15 PM

BC Metis Federation consultant Janet Newbury presented the final draft of the document entitled “Framework to launch a just and inclusive Métis Justice Strategy process”. The board was provided an overview including key recommendations as follows:

In particular, the BCMF recommends that the Province of BC:

- 1) Revisits the provincial Métis Relationship Accord and includes the BC Métis Federation as a signatory, to better reflect the diversity of Métis communities and interests in the province. The Relationship Accord should be flexible enough to allow individual communities recognition that parallels what has been created for First Nations (regarding Delegated Authority, for instance).*
- 2) Develops a process by which a provincial Métis Justice Strategy will meaningfully include diverse Métis representation. This would require, at a minimum, signing an MOU with BCMF to embark on a Justice Strategy process and finding a way to also engage some form of representation for the approximately 70,000 unaffiliated Métis people in BC.*
- 3) Ensures diverse Métis representation are party to the implementation of all lines of action listed in the BCFNJS that relate to “Indigenous people” in BC (see earlier section of this report for specific instances).*
- 4) Provides sufficient financial support to member-serving Métis organizations for the development of a robust Métis Justice Strategy, including time and resources to facilitate engagements throughout the province to capture diverse Métis voices.*
- 5) In alignment with its stated commitment to reconciliation, sufficiently fund capacity building for Métis organizations and communities in all areas of practice, including the capacity to engage in traditional activities, support children and families, and develop policies and laws – all of which can serve a preventative function when it comes to justice inequities.*

Simultaneously, the BCMF recommends that Métis member-serving organizations (such as BCMF):

- 1) Continue to forge genuine relationships with First Nations in BC, as an important step towards justice strategizing.*
- 2) Continue to build relationships among Métis organizations, communities, and individuals (affiliated and unaffiliated) in BC.*
- 3) Work with organizations who serve diverse Métis people in BC, including Legal Aid BC, Friendship Centers, Native Courtworkers, and more.*
- 4) Hire a dedicated justice strategist, to meaningfully engage Métis people throughout the province and liaise with the Province of BC towards the development of a robust provincial Métis Justice Strategy.*
- 5) Continuously advocate for legislative and policy changes on behalf of Métis people in BC, in alignment with evidence of existing structural inequities.*

The board was in strong support of the final report and recommendations.

Motion 20210217 -14 To approve the Framework to launch a just and inclusive Métis Justice Strategy process as presented.

Moved Rene Therrien

Seconded Earl Belcourt

Carried

Action Item #3: Communication Specialist to support President Henry with the release of the document, ensuring consistency with corporate branding.

Action Item #4: President Henry to follow up recommendations with potential partners to create new Justice Strategy Coordinator to assist implementation of recommendations.

14. “Project Coming Home”

4:45 PM

President Henry advised that this project was on hold at this time due to impacts of COVID-19. The project remains a priority of the organization.

15. Human Rights Case vs Indspire

4:50 PM

a. Shane Phillips

Legal counsel Malcolm MacPherson provided an update on the case. Conversations with Indspire are ongoing. A recent letter from Indspire’s CEO was reviewed.

A lengthy discussion on how BC Metis Federation board members felt followed with each member providing their thoughts/opinions. It was a unanimous conclusion that BC Metis Federation continue ongoing dialogue with Indspire.

Action Item #5: Follow up with the Board once the legal team has had a chance to talk to Indspire’s lawyer.

16. Legal Update

4:55 PM

a. Bylaws Update

b. Special General Meeting

Legal Counsel MacPherson reviewed several recommended wording changes to the current society Bylaws. The legal team has set out several committee questions to accept the changes and recommendations. These changes are necessary to update the Bylaws.

Action Item #6: The board appointed a Bylaws Committee with the immediate task of getting the Bylaw questions reviewed and ready for acceptance by the Board.

Committee members: Earl Belcourt, Betty Fisher, Taylor McLeod.

Support staff Sherry Daniels and Angel Fisher to provide tech support.

Cindy Wilgosh will be asked if she would still like to participate.

This Committee formed to approve the Bylaw change recommendations and report back to the Board.

A BC Metis Federation Special General Meeting will be called when the proposed changes have been reviewed by the Committee and final recommendations to the board.

17. Other

5:25 PM

a. COVID-19 Project

Project Consultant Drake Henry provided an update on work that has been done to date to assist members affected by COVID-19.

A summary was presented providing details on the reported impacts by an estimated 200 Metis families in BC. He is continuing to reach out to members to discuss impacts of COVID-19.

The conclusion is that BC Metis Federation members have been significantly impacted, Some of the key highlights:

- *25% reporting infections*
- *25% report job loss*
- *Major Food insecurity*
- *At risk to lose current housing*
- *Lack of Personal Protective Equipment*

Motion 20210217 -15 To approve the BC Metis Federation COVID-19 Report as presented

Moved JJ Lavallee

Seconded Greg Mazur

Carried

It was note that there was serious disappointment about the fairness and equity of COVID-19 relief funding for BC Metis Federation from the Government of Canada.

Action Item #7: President Henry to send a copy of the BC Metis Federation COVID-19 Summary to continue to seek additional relief fund support for impacted members and families estimated at 350-400.

b. Proposed Office Update

The board was advised that the office expansion and move is all completed with a new suite address of #390, not #300 any further.

President Henry thanks Office Manger Daniels for her significant work to ensure a smooth move.

Motion 20210217 -16 To go in camera.

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded Betty Fisher

Carried

Motion 20210217 -17 To go out of camera.

Moved Greg Mazur

Seconded Jacquie Swaisland

Carried

Motion 20210217 -18 To approve the terms of service for the Office Manager, Director of Finance and President/CEO as presented

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded Greg Mazur

Carried

President Henry and Treasurer Fisher declared a conflict of interest and removed themselves from the vote.

18. Adjournment

6:00 PM

Motion 20210217 -19 to adjourn at 6:05 PM.

Moved Earl Belcourt

Seconded JJ Lavallee

Carried

**Approved March 25th, 2021 BC Metis Federation President
BC Metis Federation Secretary**