

# BC Métis Federation

Newsletter for the BC Métis Communities  
Spring Newsletter 2016



## Understanding the Daniels Case May 1st 2016

See Page 5 for Details

### BC Métis Federation ~Presidents Message~

This update I am very pleased to write to members given the significant developments affecting Metis people in BC and Canada.

The historic Daniels Case was won 9-0 in the Supreme Court of Canada in April after 17 years of fighting in the courts. Metis and Non Status Indians are all impacted but the question for us all now is to understand what this means? There is much confusion and questions and as an organization we are rebuilding a vision to shape how the Daniels Case will be interpreted for our members and partners. Therefore we are taking steps to redefine the future and holding a forum to assist people the legal interpretations of what the Supreme Court of Canada has decided.

We continue to move forward and there is no question we are in new and exciting times. Having said this we need to continue addressing current issues and must work together to support the continuing resurgence of Metis culture and enable more opportunities to reconnect our families and communities for the future.

Watch for many new and exciting updates on our website in the coming weeks and months.

Keith Henry  
President

#### In this Issue

Presidents Message P.1  
The Daniels Decision P.3  
Metis Economic Dev. Corp P.6  
BCMF Consultation Office P.8

Open Monday to Thursday  
from

9 am-3 pm

24 hours notice is required for  
appointments.

**BC Métis Federation**  
**300-3665 Kingsway,**  
**Vancouver BC**  
**V5R 5W2**

**Phone: 1 (604) 638-7220**

On the Web:

[www.bcmctis.com](http://www.bcmctis.com)

**General Email**

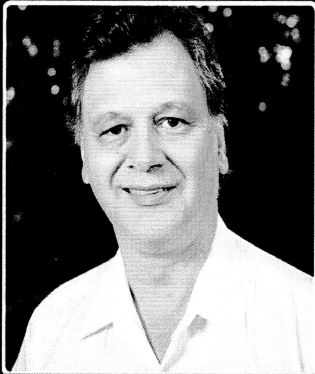
[info@bcmctis.com](mailto:info@bcmctis.com)

**Administration**

[S.daniels@bcmctis.com](mailto:S.daniels@bcmctis.com)



## Daniels: A New Threshold? – Joe Desjarlais



Canadians woke up on April 14 to the news that The Supreme Court of Canada granted a declaration that Métis and non-status Indians are “Indians” under s. 91 (24) of the Constitution.

Many will indeed celebrate this form of recognition on this historic day as a legitimate victory as a step in the hunt for justice.

For too long, as lawyer Jason Madden once opined, Métis have been treated as proverbial political footballs, falling between the jurisdictional cracks of this country. There was no one to turn, for, in the words of the high court, “policy redress.”

The ruling opened up the question of Métis identity, and appears to support the “many ways of being Métis.” It appears that restricted definitions and traditional historical definitions that have been endorsed and encouraged by certain Métis groups and governments in Canada to maintain status quo relations are challenged by this ruling, and it is unlikely that current relational restrictive models will hold or remain valid:

In the words of the court, “Métis can refer to the historic Métis community in Manitoba’s Red River Settlement or it can be used as a general term for anyone with mixed European and Aboriginal heritage.”

It appears that restricted definitions and traditional historical definitions that have been endorsed and encouraged by certain Métis groups and governments in Canada to maintain status quo relations are challenged by this ruling, and it is unlikely that current relational restrictive models will hold or remain valid:

In the words of the court, “Métis can refer to the historic Métis community in Manitoba’s Red River Settlement or it can be used as a general term for anyone with mixed European and Aboriginal heritage.”

There will be much speculation by Métis across this country how this ruling will translate to access to increased programs and services like health care or schooling, exercising rights to hunt and fish, or whether Métis will now be included in a seat at tables to reconcile Métis interests.

Some will look to characterize this ruling in terms of fiscal liability if benefits and claims are to be realized. Fear of scarcity often dominates the public imagination of Canadians, as well as First Nations. As example some years back, popular First Nations author Calvin Helin referred to “Worst case Fiscal Impact,” citing among other factors, the “Métis factor,” expressing apparent fears that if Métis rights develop further in law, “this could add billions to existing federal government spending.” Then on the eve of the SCC ruling, Sean Fine in The Globe and Mail ominously referred to “untold costs and complications to Ottawa.”

The more discriminating will perhaps recognize by this ruling that as collectives the Métis peoples in Canada have a direct Constitutional relationship with the Crown. By extending the legal definition of Métis beyond the Powley Test and by defining Métis as s.91 Indians, Daniels brings Métis communities into conversation with broader legal discussions on the nation-to-nation relationship as defined in the historical treaty process. Not all Métis appeared jubilant. Métis Academic Adam Gaudry responded dryly on twitter, “And with the tiny opening the SCC provided in terms of “non-RR Métis,” watch for an explosion in pop-up Métis in the East hoping to cash in.” Gaudry, an academic with research interests in Red River history, also states, “What Daniels leaves unexplained is how the Métis Nation came to fall under Canadian jurisdiction in the first place, federal or provincial.”



## Daniels: A New Threshold? – Joe Desjarlais (Continued...)

Speaking to Gaudry's point, amidst the jubilation of victory, Métis people currently find themselves in a state of limbo. Are they landless-rights-bearing Canadians with special status or are they a people(s) moving towards becoming self-governing nations/communities?

Nobody appears to be asking this question. Not the Métis National Council and affiliates. The Métis Federation of Canada and The Congress of Aboriginal peoples have been silent.

In addition, nobody is asking what role these organizations will play. Will they "regulate" or will they facilitate? The practical reality is that by setting themselves up as a 'protection' or 'guarantor' of Métis 'individual rights' with national registries they compromise the movement towards self-determining Métis nations and make their organizations subject to government regulation.

What is clear is that this ruling makes it even more urgent that Métis and non-status communities negotiate the concept of mutual recognition for self-determined indigenous peoples. The courts seem to have indicated that days of 'splitting the pot' are over and a new possibility for reconciliation has been opened up if indigenous nations are willing to coexist and establish meaningful partnerships that can be to the mutual benefit of everyone.

At this important time the BC Métis Federation calls upon other Métis organizations to join other forward looking Métis leaders across Canada who are speaking in the language of partnership (nation to nation) so that we can get on with the more important work of getting governments, corporations and courts to begin thinking in those terms and speaking in that language as well.

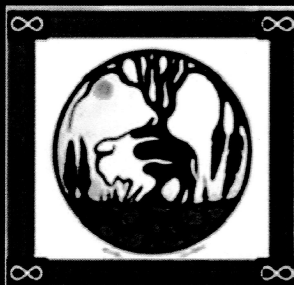
In the spirit of "many ways of being Métis", BC Métis Federation seeks to establish mutually-recognized relationships with other Métis organizations in order to support its mandate to facilitate and assist its member organizations/community/nations in their movement towards self-determination.

We desire to create a shared-future with Métis political organizations that are open to creating policies that translate competing interests into cooperative action in order to open up possibilities and opportunities for all Métis Nations in Canada.

At its best, the Daniels ruling provides the possibility to "consider" Métis communities as self-determined and self-governing nations with a unique historical connection to the Crown and First Nations. This also means a future in Canada where Métis are part of the national imagination that guides the actions of the Canadian government, its courts of law, and its society.

If people take the opportunity to open up the national conversation to a broader narrative, this ruling could set a new threshold for Métis-Canadian relations for the next 150 years.

Article by Joe Desjarlais



The White Buffalo Aboriginal and Metis Health Society wishes to extend our heartfelt condolences to the Sherry Arko family.

Sherry was a member of the White Buffalo board of directors who gave passionately back to the agency.

Her contribution of board governance, prioritizing culture, ensuring processes and accountability were always excellent. Her contagious laugh and her desire to see the very best in others and within our community will not be forgotten.

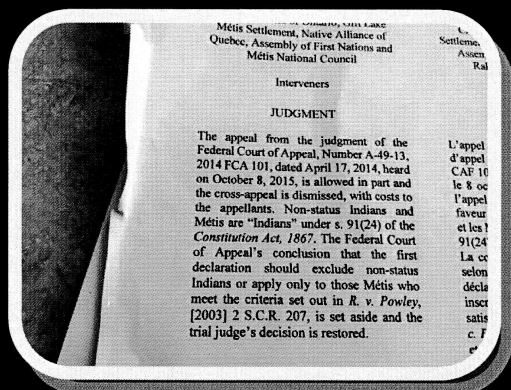
Sherry volunteered on local, regional and provincial boards, giving of her time and gifts to each community. Even during her recent fight with cancer, she remained active with White Buffalo up to our most recent board-governance meeting last month.

We are deeply grateful for her contribution and generosity of leadership, transparency and accountability in our community. We thank her family for sharing her with us.

*White Buffalo Aboriginal and Metis Health Society board members and staff*

## ***Did You Miss Métis Coffee Talk?***

You can watch the show live each week or browse the archive of past shows and watch them on-demand at [BCMetis.com](http://BCMetis.com).



Visit to Watch the latest updates  
on the Daniels case

# Understanding the Daniels Case

Open to All Members  
Non-Members &  
General Public  
FREE ADMISSION

May 1st 2016  
1 pm-4 pm

Guest Speaker



**Bruce McIvor**  
Indigenous Rights  
Lawyer  
First People's Law

The Daniels decision is likely one of the most misunderstood decisions ever released by the Supreme Court of Canada.

**What does the  
Daniels Decision  
mean?**



**BC Métis  
FEDERATION**

1 (604) 638-7220  
[www.bcmetis.com](http://www.bcmetis.com)

Location

**Hilton Vancouver  
Metrotown**

6083 McKay Ave  
Burnaby BC



[bcmetis.com/coffee-talk](http://bcmetis.com/coffee-talk)

**Live  
Broadcast**



Register Your Business With MEDC

[www.metisedc.ca](http://www.metisedc.ca)

## MEDC to Present to National Aboriginal Economic Development Board

Métis Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has been asked by the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board to present on how the work of the British Columbia Métis Federation Economic Development Corporation is advancing Métis economic development outcomes for Métis individuals and entrepreneurs throughout the province of British Columbia. This work connects well with the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board's priorities of "Promoting the Importance of Indigenous Economic Development" and "Supporting Indigenous Business".

'We are very encouraged to see that our endeavours with the Metis Economic Development Corporation is being noticed on a national level.' says Shauna (Collister) Benson, acting Executive Director for the corporation. 'A business plan was created by the BC Métis Federation to align with the natural resource projects which are taking place throughout the province. Since inception in July 2015, we have created excellent active partnerships, encouraged more Métis business and Métis communities to come forward to participate and have been able to put competitive bids together for some of the major projects that are out there. Having expanded on the original business plan, we are looking at Agricultural, Clean Technology and Aerospace projects, where we have Métis businesses that are already able to advance in these sectors, and will continue to move on opportunities as they arise or make these opportunities ourselves.'

Keith Henry, President of the BC Métis Federation and Métis Economic Development Corporation Board Chair stated, 'We needed to find a way to be able to support our communities, our businesses and our culture. There was not a lot of support for this within our framework, so we created a mechanism to help us move forward on community and cultural initiatives, as well as help our Métis entrepreneurs. We worked hard to have BC Métis Federation recognized as an Aboriginal Partner with many of the proponents in the Province and Ms. Benson and the MEDC Board has been able to help us move the corporation to the next level. With the positive outcome of the Daniel's case, we feel this is yet another positive step forward for ourselves as Métis in the province of British Columbia.'

On May 31st and June 1st, 2016 the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board (NAEDB) will meet at the Songhees First Nation. The Board has recently adopted their 2016-2019 Strategic Plan and will meet to discuss and receive presentations from various organizations regarding the pillars within this plan. This will include discussions on Indigenous Community Readiness, Promoting Indigenous Economic Development and Building the Economic Potential of Lands and Minimizing the Environmental Impacts. For further information on the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board and its activities, please visit their website at:

<http://www.naedb-cndea.com>



BC Métis Federation is proud to be one of the event partners and supporters for the Métis cultural event being hosted by the White Buffalo Aboriginal and Métis Health Society.

The event entitled "Honouring our Life Givers – Night at the Drum: Alive With the Fiddle" will be held on Sunday, May 8th. BC Métis Federation will be contributing to the Métis cultural performance showcase.

Tickets are available online at [www.kamloopslive.ca](http://www.kamloopslive.ca). Proceeds benefit the Reaching Out Project – A Domestic Violence Outreach Initiative.

*White Buffalo Aboriginal & Metis Health Society Presents:*

# **HONOURING OUR LIFE GIVERS NIGHT AT THE DRUM: ALIVE WITH THE FIDDLE**

**Mother's Day, May 8th, 2016  
7:00 pm - 9:30 pm @ Sagebrush Theatre**

**Nathan Cunningham**  
Sponsor & Performer

**Rene Therrien**  
Sponsor & Performer

**Raynie Gervais**  
Sponsor & Performer

**Cvetozar Vutev**

**Fara Plamer & Sisterclan**

**Lii Michif Kamloops  
Dance Troupe**

**The Margit Sky Project**

**Shalni Prowse School of  
Highland Dance**

**B.C. Metis  
Federation Jiggers**

**Kamloops Old Time  
Fiddlers and Friends**

**Good Heart Drum**

**Tickets \$25. Available at [www.kamloopslive.ca](http://www.kamloopslive.ca)**



Proceeds benefit the Reaching Out Project – A Domestic Violence Outreach Initiative

For further information please contact White Buffalo Aboriginal and Metis Health Society at 250-554-1176

## Consultation Office to Serve Members

### Members and Partners,

The BC Métis Federation Consultation Office (the BCMFCO) was formed by the Board in late 2015 in response to growing concerns that grassroots member's voices were not being included or considered in proposed development projects. The BCMFCO's mission

is to facilitate and support meaningful participation of BC Métis Federation's grassroots members in major development decisions in BC.

Its vision: equity for BC Métis Federation members in terms of voice, benefit and ability to participate meaningfully. In order to support this mission and vision, the BCMFCO offers a wide-range of supportive services to members and to partner communities. These services include, but are not limited to, liaising with proponents and government agencies, coordinating participation in field studies, environmental assessments, and reviewing the work of external consultants, conducting internal assessments and research to support inclusion of Métis Indigenous Knowledge in federal and provincial regulatory processes, education and skills capacity training for this work, and research related to the substantiation of Métis Rights in BC.

The BCMFCO has developed, and continues to develop internal tools and resources that members and leadership from partner communities can draw on to support well-being of grassroots members, and support participation in proposed developments. This includes the development of a project registry, a record of communication database, and the launching of a Métis Knowledge and Land Use project, on which we will start work in January, 2016.

Over the next years, the BCMFCO will grow in size and scope, and as our knowledge of BC Métis Federation members, the BCMFCO will issue regular updates, and have regular discussions regarding development projects in BC. Métis people are uniquely tied to the environmental, social, cultural, and economic environments in BC, as in the rest of Canada, and BC Métis Federation members deserve to be included meaningfully in all of the major (and sometimes minor) development decisions in this province. In the spirit of Reconciliation, the BCMFCO invites proponents operating within BC, and proponents with plans to develop in BC to engage with the BC Métis Federation in dialogue. We need to create a safe space for conversation in order for consultation and mutual learning to happen meaningfully, and we will endeavour to provide that space for proponents who wish to enhance their relationship with BC's Métis people.

If you have questions, concerns or comments, we wish to hear from you. If your community is getting requests or notifications from industry or government, we want to support you and your community, and if you are interested in sharing your Métis Knowledge, please contact us at the email or telephone number:

**Kelly S. Davison**

**Consultant, BC Métis Federation Consultation Office**

**3665 Kingsway #300, Vancouver, BC V5R 5W2**

**p: 604 638-7220**

## Court of Appeal Rules in Favour of Métis Foster Family

BC Métis Federation is celebrating the victory at the Court of Appeal with the Métis foster child SS who will remain with the Métis foster family. This case will continue forward and this decision marks a major victory that our Métis community applauds.

BC Métis Federation will continue to support the Métis family and a number of other steps are being taken to support the best interests of SS.

### Comments from our readers

**Wendy Alden March 4, 2016 at 1:53 pm**

So very glad to just now read the news of the little foster girl being able to remain in BC with her loving foster parents. Thank goodness for a judge who does have the best interests of the child as a top priority. Of course, this is not the end of the struggle to maintain her in this loving home but it's a step in the right direction.

For my little bit of support via emails to Keith Henry in January, I am very glad to have offered the foster parents maybe more confidence in knowing total strangers care enough to back them up with the future court actions. Also, not sure if my email to the lawyer representing them had any influence, or if it was submitted to the Judge, if so, glad I thought to contact him also.

Bless you & your group for being so supportive too. Let's hope the future court decisions are similar to today's. Do let the foster parents know I am so very happy for them and also the little girl.

Sincerely Wendy

**Jim Stritzel March 4, 2016 at 4:17 pm**

Congratulations to the little girl, her foster family and the BCMF on the Court of Appeals Ruling in favour of the Foster Family.

This great outcome could not have been done without the persistent support and advocacy of the BCMF leadership and members. Thank you Keith and the rest!

Know we will keep doing the same support and advocacy as the case progresses to full appeal later this year.

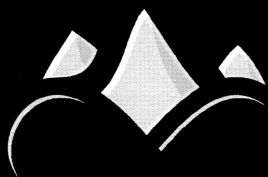
Contrast the stance and advocacy of the BCMF with that of the other supposed BC Metis advocacy organization. Difference in day and night. Get it done versus throw in the towel/give up.

Shows which is really looking out for our Metis values, families and children.

Proud day to be Metis. Proud day to be member of BCMF.

Jim Stritzel and Family





## Provincial Government Correspondence

Scott Fraser, MLA of the Alberni-Pacific Rim Constituency and NDP spokesperson for Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation, has written BCMF to congratulate us on the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in the Daniels

**Scott Fraser, MLA**  
(Alberni - Pacific Rim)  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Phone (250) 953 - 4771  
Fax (250) 387-4680



Constituency Office:  
3945B Johnston Rd  
Port Alberni, BC V9Y 5N4  
Phone (250) 720 - 4515  
Fax (250) 720 - 4511  
[scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:scott.fraser.mla@leg.bc.ca)

April 19, 2016

Métis Federation

Via: email [K.Henry@BCMétis.com](mailto:K.Henry@BCMétis.com)

Dear BC Métis Federation:

I am writing to extend my congratulations regarding the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling in the Daniels case. It was a long struggle and a well-deserved victory.

Your organization is an important one for Métis in British Columbia and I appreciate how significant this decision is for you. I look forward to supporting you as you work with the federal and provincial governments to address the immediate and generational impacts of this decision.

Yours truly,

Scott Fraser, MLA (Alberni-Pacific Rim)  
NDP spokesperson for Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation



## INAC and BC Métis Federation Progress

BC Métis Federation continues to work with Federal and Provincial governments on Métis governance and Issues surrounding our Nation. Please find the recent correspondence from Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.



Indigenous and  
Northern Affairs Canada

Affaires autochtones  
et du Nord Canada

Your file - Votre référence

Our file - Notre référence

Mr. Keith Henry  
President  
British Columbia Métis Federation  
300 - 3665 Kingsway  
VANCOUVER BC V5R 5W2

Dear Mr. <sup>Keith</sup> Henry:

I am writing in regards to conversations that occurred during our meeting of December 2, 2015. I committed during that meeting to follow up with you on a number of questions and issues. Since that time, we have had the opportunity to look into the matters you raised in more detail and so I wanted to provide you with the following information.

You raised the topic of the upcoming celebrations for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation. Specifically, you asked how and if Aboriginal organizations and peoples would be invited to participate. As you may be aware, preparations for and programming related to these celebrations are being led by Heritage Canada. Following our meeting, we have had discussions with colleagues at that Department. Heritage Canada would be pleased to discuss this matter with you further at your convenience and is best placed to provide you with additional information on how your organization and its members may be able to access programs and funding aimed at ensuring a strong Aboriginal participation in celebrating this important landmark in the history of Canada. Contact information for Heritage Canada related to the Canada 150 Fund for project and initiatives in British Columbia is as follows:

Phone: 604-666-0176 or 1-866-811-0055 (toll-free)  
Fax: 604-666-3508  
Email: PCH.bro-wro.PCH@canada.ca

Mail: Canadian Heritage  
Canada 150 Fund  
351 Abbott Street, Suite 205  
Vancouver BC V6B 0G6

.../2

## INAC and BC Métis Federation Progress

(Continued)

- 2 -

I am also pleased to be able to inform you that our Minister extended the engagement of Mr. Tom Isaacs as Ministerial Special Representative. Mr. Isaac will be continuing his work to explore and provide recommendations on how the Government of Canada can best move forward with partners toward a new reconciliation framework on Section 35 Métis rights. This engagement process is a key step forward on a path of reconciliation and renewal toward a shared prosperous future for the benefit of Métis people and all Canadians. A report will be prepared for the Minister summarizing what was heard during these exploratory talks, along with key recommendations from the Ministerial Special Representative about how best to move forward. It will be at the Minister's discretion as to whether the report will be made public.

You also asked for information related to programming offered by our office. As you may be aware, the funding offered by my office for representative organizations is provided through the Aboriginal Representative Organization – Basic Organizational Capacity funding program. Program details, eligibility and application process can be found on the Indigenous and Northern Affairs website at:

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1386699114943/1386699171938#h2-3>.

Should your organization apply for this program, your application will be given all due and proper consideration by my office.

Should you require any additional information on any of the above, do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to clarify where and as possible. Similarly, should I have inadvertently not addressed any matter that was raised, please let me know.

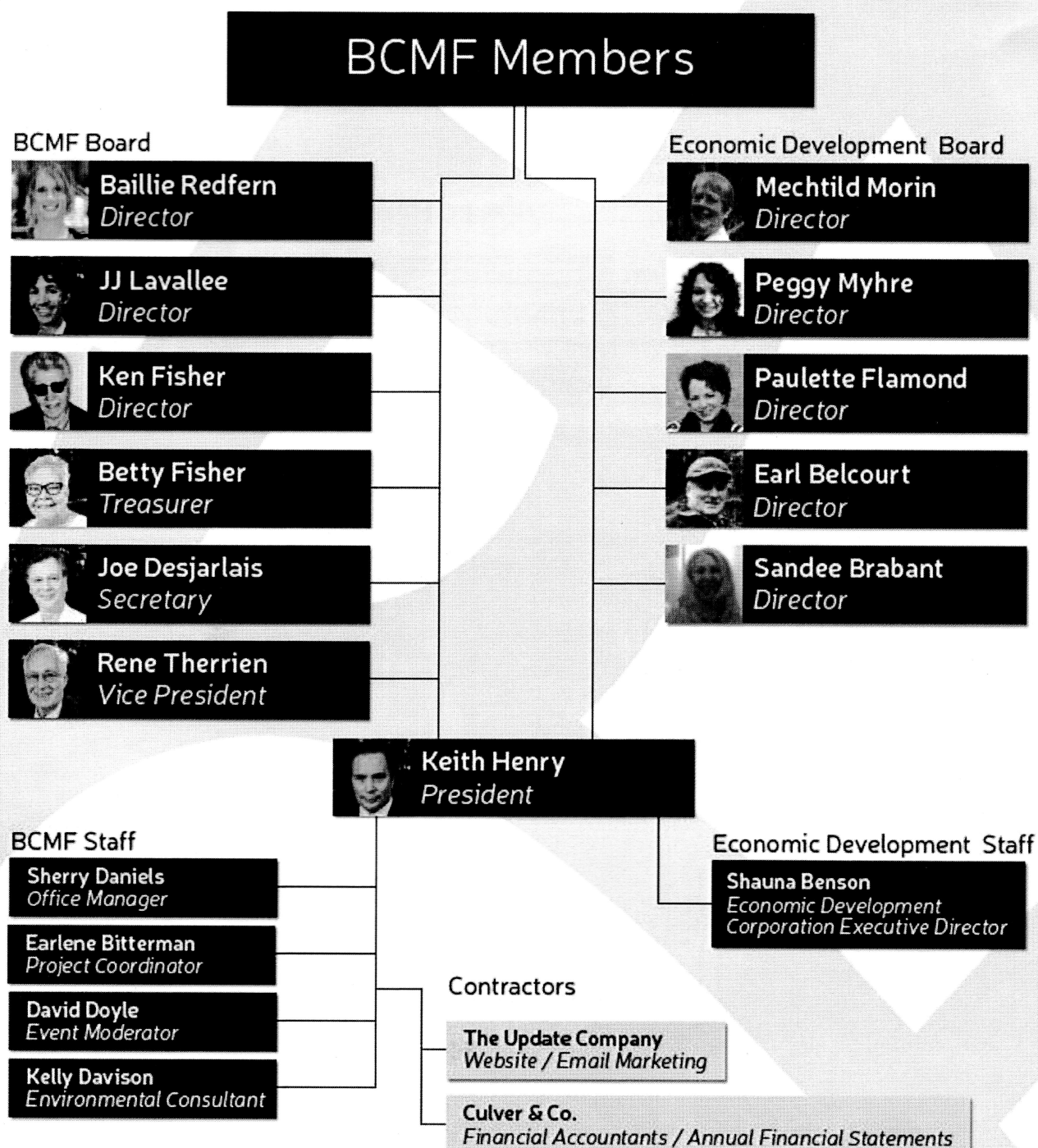
Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank you for having taken the time to come and meet with us at our office. During the last few months we have had the opportunity to sit down with a number of representatives from different organizations. The information you shared with us regarding your organization's perspectives, views, and activities was genuinely appreciated and valued as part of our ongoing effort to build strong and positive relationships with Métis peoples across this country.

Sincerely,



Ian Ketcheson  
Director  
Métis and Non-Status Indian Relations Directorate

# Organizational Chart



## Beading Workshop University of BC with Ballie Redfern



## BC Métis Federation Membership

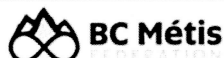


John Doe

#123 - 456 Scenic Drive  
Somewhere, BC V7V 8V9

Gender: Male  
Birth Date: July 1, 1970

Membership Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



- The Canadian Constitution Act, 1982 provides:**
35. (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.
  - (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes Indian, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada.

MEMBERSHIP ID NUMBER

05200080

ISSUE DATE: 31-01-2011

The BC Métis Federation has three categories of Membership

- BCMF Full member
- BCMF Associate member
- BCMF Honourary member

The BCMF Membership Application package consists of four parts:

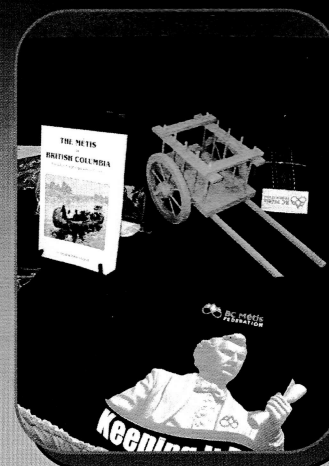
- Application Form
- Statutory Declaration Form
- Consent to Release Form
- Genealogy Diagram

To download the application package and review further information, please visit: <http://bcmetis.com/membership/>



Join the  
Discussions on  
Facebook @

[www.facebook.com/BCMétis](http://www.facebook.com/BCMétis)



Help Support the  
BC Métis Federation  
buy purchasing Métis  
sashes, Red River  
carts, Flag, T-shirts  
and pins.

[www.bcmétis.com](http://www.bcmétis.com)





www.bcmétis.com

Donate now with..

**PayPal**<sup>TM</sup>



*Support Open and Transparent  
grass-roots Métis Democracy*

**Cheques made out to the  
"BC Métis Federation  
Society"**

BC Métis Federation  
300 – 3665 Kingsway,  
Vancouver, BC, V5R 5W2

**Direct Deposit**

Scotia Bank  
4299 Kingsway, Burnaby  
BC V5H 1Z5  
Account# 70540 0044415

**Further Information**

<http://bcmétis.com/donate/>



## Executive and Board of Directors

### Directors

Keith Henry—President (North Vancouver): K.Henry@BCMétis.com

Rene Therrien—Vice-President (Terrace): R.Therrien@BCMétis.com

Joe Desjarlais—Secretary (North Vancouver): J.Desjarlais@BCMétis.com

Betty Fisher—Treasurer (Surrey): B.Fisher@BCMétis.com

Ken Fisher—Director (Vancouver): K.Fisher@BCMétis.com

Baillie Redfern—Director (Vancouver): B.Redfern@BCMétis.com

JJ Lavallee—Director (Surrey): J.Lavallee@BCMétis.com

### Staff and Contractors

Sherry Daniels— Office Manager: S.Daniels@BCMétis.com

Earlene Bitterman—Project Coordinator: E.Bitterman@BCMétis.com

Shauna Benson—Executive Director Métis Economic Development Corporation:  
S.Benson@bcmétis.com

The Update Company – Website / Email Marketing: Admin@BCMétis.com

Culver and Co. – Financial Accountants / Annual Financial Statements



*Design by Glacier Graphics*



**BC Métis Federation**  
300 – 3665 Kingsway,  
Vancouver, BC, V5R 5W2  
1 (604) 638-7220  
Email: Info@bcmétis.com  
On the Web:  
[www.bcmétis.com](http://www.bcmétis.com)