



**Metis Commission for Children and Families of BC**

**Agency Update and Successes**

**2010**

### **History of the Metis Commission:**

The Metis Commission for Children and Families of BC is a non-profit Society that was begun in 1998 in a collaborative process with the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Metis Provincial Council. The society consists of a Province wide Board of Directors and Provincial Government Representatives. It was established to advise the Metis Provincial Council of BC and the Federal and Provincial Governments of services to Metis Children and Families.

### **Our Mission Statement:**

*“Building Stronger, Healthier Métis Communities, Families and Children-Reviving and Supporting Traditional Metis Values– Linking Metis Communities with other Communities, Stakeholders and Governments”*

### **The Goals of the Metis Commission:**

- Advise: Regarding services to Métis Children and Families BC
- Promote: And preserve the retention of cultural identities for Metis Children and Families
- Develop: Policies and operational standards for Metis Children and Families
- Make: Recommendations concerning the readiness

### **Strategic Partnerships:**

In geographic areas of the Province where the potential Metis client base does not support the viability of a Metis Service Delivery Centre, the local Metis community organization may enter into an agreement for services to be delivered through a non-Metis service delivery structure. These arrangements must be supported by a written agreement which describes the services to be delivered.

### **Metis Commission Service Regions: There are 7 in total for the Province**

- \* Vancouver Island
- \* Lower Mainland
- \* Thompson/Okanagan
- \* Kootenays

\* North Central

\* North West

\* North East

**Our Deliverables that make the Commission who we are:**

- For those areas of the province where the Commission does not have a specified partner (either Metis service provider or other aboriginal organization), the Commission will describe it's process for providing support or advocacy in order to responsibly administer its response to notice serviced under the CFCSA
- Develop protocol agreements with all the service providers, who will be in receipt of notices of hearing, serving Metis children throughout the province.
- Develop a mechanism to report the receipt of reportable to the Director of Aboriginal Policy ad Service Support (APSS).
- Work with APSS to broker new relationships with organizations that provide services to Metis Children and Families.
- Explore and determine the availability of the advocacy and support of Aboriginal service providers in communities where there are no local service providers.
- Support service providers to Metis children to develop templates for cultural planning.
- Support the Ministry and Aboriginal Agencies in the construction of the plans of children in care of MCFD AND Delegated Aboriginal Agencies
- Facilitate and support the development of cultural plans for Metis children in the care of MCFD and Aboriginal Agencies
- Coordinate and facilitate the development of cultural plans for Metis children in the care of Delegated Aboriginal Agencies and MCFD.
- Develop a framework for cultural plans in collaboration with MCFD and Delegated Aboriginal Agencies.

- Provide a quarterly report to the Director of Aboriginal Services, on the achieved deliverables, commencing June 30, 2010, and ending March 31, 2011.
- Provide a representative for the MCFD adoptions exception committee, attend meetings, and participate as requested.
- Research and draft a catalogue of services for Metis Children and Families, and make it available to other organizations.
- Provide support to service providers who care for Metis children
- Support Metis Agencies whom are trying to achieve delegation.

**What the Metis Commission team is working on:**

**Provincial Metis Child and Family Services Framework:**

- The Metis Commission for Children and Families of BC and Metis Nation of BC with the support and funding from the Ministry of Children and Family of BC has come together to jointly carry out a 4 Year Project to develop a “Provincial Metis Child and Family Services Framework”.
- The intent of the Metis Commission for Children and Families of BC and the Metis Nation of BC are to research, develop, implement and evaluate a Provincial Metis Service Delivery Model that is based on Traditional Metis values, practices and ways of knowing. While it will complement the Ministry of Children and Families Aboriginal Services Delivery Change Conceptual Framework Principles of Self-Determination, culture, language, Holistic Approach, Structural Interventions, and non-Discrimination; the model will be founded on Metis values that speak to self-reliance, resiliency, responsibility, emancipation and collectivity. The scope of the Provincial Metis Service Delivery Model Initiative spans over a four-year period and encompassed four distinct stages:
  1. Year One: Research Project
  2. Year Two: Development Plan
  3. Implementation Plan
  4. Evaluation

### **Regional Engagement Session:**

- The Metis Commission of Children and Families of BC and the Metis Nation of BC will collaborate on a series of Community-Based consultation and research gatherings, to be followed up by a Provincial Metis-specific visioning session with key stakeholders from the Metis communities, Metis Child and Family Service Providers, Metis parents, Foster Parents of Metis Children and other key informants
- We are in year one of the project and this first year entails holding 14 focus groups throughout the Province. These focus groups will be conducted over the months of October and November 2010. The schedule for Provincial focus groups will be posted on the Metis Nation website along with registrations for your region.

**Metis Connection:** This is a newsletter started in March of this year and has been created by our Best Practices Coordinator and showcases what is going on in our office and in the regions. This newsletter is sent out to all the Metis services providers and community members along with MCFD members to read.

**Provincial Catalogue:** The purpose of a Provincial Catalogue of Family Services of BC is to provide immediate contact information about available services to assist the Metis communities, Metis families and Ministry and non-Ministry frontline workers. The catalogue will be a guide to locate services within the Metis service and the Ministry service regions of the Province of BC. The Commission will have the first draft of the catalogue completed in December.

**Provincial Best Practices Practitioners Meetings:** For the past year on a monthly basis the frontline practitioners from the Metis agencies and Aboriginal agencies get together on a conference call. The discussions are supportive and idea generating as well as solution focused to assist each other on issues that may be affecting their area of work. We have special guests that are part of the meetings and they have included Gary Mavis from the Aboriginal Foster Parents Federation. We have representation from the MCFD Interior region and they are Colleen Lucier Aboriginal Deputy Director and Jacques Goutier Aboriginal Consultant. The meetings are an hour in length and have been successful by the amount of consistent participation.

**Best Practices Framework:** This work is being created by our Best Practices coordinator and will consist of Metis Best Practices around culture and the Metis child. This information will provide education and provide a direction for foster parents, adoptive parents and MCFD frontline workers to embrace the Metis child's rich history and culture. The framework will speak to traditions, language, the connection to family and to the Metis community as being crucial to

the child and the family.

**Quality Assurance Framework:**

To create an integrated, strengths-based quality assurance system which reflects shared Aboriginal values and traditions and provides the basis for evaluation and improvement to relevant services provided to Aboriginal children, youth and families served by delegated Aboriginal agencies. Some of the deliverables for the Quality Assurance that will be carried out by the Metis Commission quality assurance contractor includes:

- Conduct a survey to gather baseline information, identifying what quality assurance and improvement work is currently being done in delegated agencies, and what outcomes and indicators are being used;
- Review Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) *Principles of Integrated Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework* and other existing Indigenous models for the purpose of informing this process;
- Develop integrated quality assurance and quality improvement frameworks that reflect the values and traditions embedded in each Delegated agency and include indicators of practice and specific measurable outcomes. The frameworks need to reflect and support the Aboriginal Practice Standards and Indicators: Practice Standards Redesign Project;
- Work with stakeholders to develop an implementation plan and outcome reporting mechanisms;
- Identify resources needed for agencies to develop and maintain Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement programs;
- Work with MCFD to develop a Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework for Aboriginal children served by the Ministry;
- Work with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) BC Region to identify Performance Indicators;
- Work with the Directors Forum Information Management Portfolio regarding database and information management; and
- Identify goals, create work plans, and find resources to support the efforts of the Working group.

**The Commission's further successes:**

- Enhanced our relationships with Ministry frontline social workers
- Consistent with sending and receiving Metis court notifications from the regions
- Built stronger relationships with the Metis community as well as Metis Nation BC

- We have been enhancing our presence in the Province with the work and the transparency we have been conducting.