

Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC Overview

Presentation by:
Marlene Swears – President of the Board





MISSION STATEMENT

- As the legislated community, we foster a Métis specific child welfare system that bridges relationships between communities, services, and government to ensure cultural safety for Métis children, youth, and families.

VISION STATEMENT

- Advancing transformative change for the well-being of Métis children, youth, and families.



Our Purpose

- To restore and strengthen the concept of “community” among Métis people
- To promote Government and Métis policies and actions that value families, especially the extended family, as the core of society
- To eliminate poverty and promote the self sustaining capacity of Métis individuals and communities
- To promote the traditional Métis social values of vigorous respect for individual autonomy and service to the community
- To protect Métis children as the core of Métis communities and the of the future of Métis people



History

- The Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC was established in 1998 and is solely funded by the Provincial Government of BC.
- It was incorporated as a non-profit society under the British Columbia Society Act on September 20, 1999.
- Under the leadership of the original 6 Commissioners the Métis Commission was established as a non-political body to advise governments with regard to services for Métis children and families in British Columbia.
- Today, the Métis Commission is identified within provincial legislation as the designated Metis community for children, youth and families within the child welfare system throughout BC.



Regional Commissioners

- The Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC is made up of a province wide Board of Directors. The Directors are referred to as Regional Commissioners.
- In addition, there are non-official members who act as advisors, such as the Executive Director of the Federation of Aboriginal Foster Parents.
- In order to apply to sit on the Métis Commission Board you must either have a degree in social work or years experience in the field; and must be Métis. In addition to this criteria there is also an interview process to determine suitability.



Goals of the Métis Commission

- Advise: Regarding services to Métis children and families of BC
- Promote: And preserve the retention of cultural identities for Métis children and families
- Develop: Policies and operational Standards for Métis children and families
- Make: recommendations concerning the readiness of Métis communities to deliver services



Long Term Goals

- In the long term, the Métis Commission aims to conduct research that supports:
 - Transformative change that provides better outcomes for Métis children, youth and families;
 - Continued capacity building; and
 - The development of the Métis Commission as an information hub in the province of BC.



For More Information

1 – 166 Oriole Rd. Kamloops, BC V2C 5X6

Ph: 250-372-8688 || Fax: 250-372-9111

Toll-free: 1-877-606-3847

Email: reception@metiscommission.com

www.metiscommission.com



The Métis Commissioners, CEO & Adviser taken at the 2011 AGM