

## *Judgement*

# MÉTIS NATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SENATE

Senate File No. 187

Dates: November 14, 2024 &  
March 15, 2025  
Registry: Senate Clerk

Between

: **Alexis Wells et al**

Applicants

And:

**Pixie Wells and Kelly Penner in their respective roles as President  
Vice-President of Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA) Métis  
Citizens resident in the Fraser Valley**

Respondents

Before Senators Edkins, Gladue, Murray, Sayers, Lucier, Pope and Dore

**Oaths administered by** Senator Edkins (\*see Senate comments page one of the Ruling)

Counsel for the Applicant: Self Represented

Counsel for the Respondents: Self Represented

Place of Hearing: Richmond, British Columbia

Written Submissions of the Applicant

Written Submissions of Respondents

Date of Judgement: April 22, 2025

## **JURISDICTION**

This is a dispute brought by way of complaint to the Senate Clerk sent to the Registry of the Métis Senate wherein the Citizens outlined in the Style of Cause, as Applicants, have raised a series of allegations against the Respondents in their capacities as President and Vice President of the Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA).

This Appeal is directed to the Senate and accepted by them pursuant to s. 8.0 subsections a. and d. of the Senate Act which reads as follows:

**Pursuant to this Act the Senate shall establish any such committees as are required by the Métis Nation British Columbia Constitution or Legislation and as required to carry out the following duties:**

- a. Mediation; and**
- d. Regional and Community Disputes.**

The Senate's jurisdiction in this matter is further confirmed by section 3.1 of the Senate Act which reads as follows:

**3.1 A c t as the judicial arm of the Métis Nation British Columbia in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.**

The Senate's jurisdiction in this matter is further confirmed by section 7.2 of the Métis Community Governance Charter dated December 16, 2007, between Métis Nation British Columbia and Fraser Valley Métis Association wherein it states:

**7.2 W h e r e a matter in dispute cannot be resolved by the Parties as set out in Article 7.1 herein, either Party may, in writing and with notice to the other Party, refer the matter in dispute to the Senate, in accordance with the Senate Act for determination. Such notice must comply with the established Senate policies and procedures.**

Finally, and in this instance, perhaps most importantly, jurisdiction is accepted and confirmed by both of the parties in their written submissions and personal attendances before the Senate, have voluntarily attorned to the Senate's jurisdiction in this matter.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT ALEXIS WELLS et al**

Oral and written statements including exhibits presented to the Senate by the Applicant

### **EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENTS**

Oral and written statements including exhibits presented to the Senate by the Respondents President/Vice President of Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA)

[1] This matter is being considered by the Senate under s.8.0 (d) of the *Senate Act* by reason of the fact that the issues raised, and the animosity created, is rendering the Administration of the Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA) problematic with a preponderance of the evidence raising questions about who is authorizing payments, for what reason, and whether or not they were justified. In addition, serious allegations are made by the Applicants regarding abuse of the Applicants by the Respondents' and their treatment of other Métis Citizens, but in particular, Elders.

[2] At the commencement of the Hearing, the Chairperson, Senator Edkins, read to all of the parties the protocol for participation in Senate Hearings. The Applicants and the Respondents were each asked to swear an oath as to the truthfulness of the evidence before they were permitted to take a chair and give their evidence.

[3] In this regard, Vice President, Kelly Penner, when being asked to swear an oath, for reasons not entirely clear to the Senate, took exception to swearing an oath which involved the style of cause wherein people's names were attached to it, but would only swear an oath saying that she would be truthful with respect to the evidence she was giving regarding Senate File No. 187.

[4] The Senate accepted her oath on those terms, mindful of the fact that the Senate File Number is simply a shorthand way of identifying the parties. It was never made clear what the motivations were, but in the future, the oath will have to be accepted in the form presented, or the evidence will not be accepted.

[5] The first witness, Arlene Masse, provided a great deal of information, both in her direct evidence and in cross examination, which raised issues which were far beyond the competency and jurisdiction of the Senate. Through this evidence, it became evident that there were assertions being made that funds not of an insignificant amount, were being misallocated. It further became apparent that quite aside from the common sense and natural justice aspects required to effectively administer a Métis Regional Government, there were serious breaches of duty imposed upon the Respondents in their capacity as a Director of a British Columbia duly incorporated Society.

[6] These, of course, are issues over which the Senate has no jurisdiction whatsoever, and if to be acted upon, would have to be reviewed by a Common Law Court. All of this raised the question in the minds of the Senators, as to what, if any, duty they may have to report this information to the common law authorities.

[7] At the conclusion of Arlene Masse's, evidence, a recess was called and the Senate retired to consider their position whereupon one Senator, and two Senate Staffers, resolved that by reason of their former employment, they were in a particularly sensitive situation and declined to participate further in the Hearing.

[8] Shortly after the Senate's temporary adjournment, the Senate reconvened, minus the one Senator and the two Senate Staffers mentioned above. The Senate then heard some additional evidence from the Respondents and a submission from both the Respondents and Applicants.

[9] At the conclusion of the additional evidence from the Respondents, and the submissions from both parties, a second adjournment was called.

[10] During that recess, the Senate, as regards the complaints made by the Applicants about the Respondents abuse of Métis Elders and other Métis Citizens, concluded that they were proven and that the attempts by the Respondents to defend their actions was nothing more than an attempt to defend the indefensible.

[11] Further, it was unanimously agreed by the Senators regarding the allegations relating to financial mismanagement that the Respondents should be requested to immediately resign from their executive positions in the Society which ran the affairs of the Fraser Valley Métis Association. Further, they should consider seeking common law legal advice with respect to the allegations made against them.

[12] Finally, it was agreed by the Senators regarding the allegations relating to both fiscal mismanagement and elder abuse, that before making a final Order, the Hearing currently in progress would be adjourned to December 15, 2024, which was the next Annual General Meeting of the FVMA. At which time the Respondents would be expected to place on the agenda the issues raised in Senate File No. 187 in the hope that some community based resolution could be effected thereby avoiding an Order of the Senate which would be made based on evidence already presented and the information which would be divulged at the meeting of December 15<sup>th</sup> when the Senate would be in attendance and using that occasion to reconvene its Hearing.

[13] This decision was taken partly in consequence of section 7.1 of the Community Governance Charter between the parties which states as follows:

**7.1 Any dispute concerning this Charter Agreement, including a dispute with respect to the interpretation, application, implementation or operation of this Charter Agreement or its Terms and provisions shall be, where possible, resolved by consensus.**

[14] The Senate was further moved to this conclusion by acknowledging that in all things, wherever possible, consensus is a mandated value in Métis society.

[15] The Parties were then called back to the Senate Hearing Room wherein Senator Chairperson Edkins communicated the above conclusions of the Senate, to the Respondents.

[16] Sometime after the adjournment the Senate became aware of the fact that the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, AGM had been cancelled and rescheduled to March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, between 1100 hrs. -1330 hrs., at the Mamele'awt Indigenous Education Centre (Gymnasium), located at 3277 Gladwin Road, Abbotsford, British Columbia. It was at or about the same time the Senate Clerk became aware of the fact that the Respondents had not resigned their positions and that there had been no resolution of the allegations regarding financial mismanagement and or Elder abuse.

[17] In the lead up to the March 15, 2025, AGM, the Senate, through its Clerk, on several occasions, reminded the Respondents, who were still the Executive of the FVMA, that they, being in default of the Senate's suggestions made at the date of the adjournment, regarding their resignation, and further with no resolution regarding the abuse allegations having been achieved, that the Senate would be in attendance at the meeting and would consider it a continuation of the November 14, 2024, Hearing, and would make a presentation during the March 15, 2025, AGM, as to what had occurred prior to that date.

[18] Approximately one hour before the commencement of the March 15, 2025, AGM the Senators attended at the meeting site where they were rudely confronted by a member of the Society unknown to them at the time, but who was later identified as Venessa Fleury, who was shouting at the Senate that she was feeling threatened and because we were not known to her announced that we were "invading my space."

[19] In this tirade she suggested that we might be from the MNBC, or the Senate, and as such not being member of the Society, were not entitled to be there and that "if you guys had read the agenda you would

know what is taking place here. We have a program going and why are you guys even here. You guys have to leave." It is worth noting that each of the Senators present were wearing their regalia, but no effort was made to inquire as to who they were. In consequence of this incredible display of anger and discourtesy the Senate retreated.

[20] An hour later, the Senate attended at the AGM premises and was then allowed to enter and at which time the Executive was reminded that in addition to the AGM being held, it was also a continuation of the Senate's Hearing into the allegations made against the Respondents which had been held November 14, 2024. The FVMA Executive refused to recognize that reality and insisted that this was exclusively the AGM of the FVMA. This, notwithstanding the fact that an agenda for the meeting given to the Senate Clerk clearly showed at item number **5. Senate Action No. 187.**

[21] At the commencement of the AGM, it was disclosed by President Pixie Wells that she had appointed Angiola Oddo to act in her place as Chairperson of the meeting and that she would be keeping order and moving through the agenda in a manner that would permit it to be finished at 1330 hrs. At the same time attendees were informed that adherence to the FVMA Bylaws regarding meetings would not be enforced.

[22] In consequence there was no Motion to adopt and approve the agenda despite efforts to do so, and make amendments to the same, nor anything other than the Bylaws to the Society offered as a procedural guide for the meeting.

[23] The consequences of these decisions were two hours of utter chaos.

[24] One of the issues to arise prior to any of this was who would be allowed to vote at the meeting. This arose without any of the formalities required, such as a Motion. As a result, the issue degenerated into a shouting match between the Citizens raising the issue and the Board Members present who included the Respondents and Vanessa Fleury.

[25] The issue surrounding the right to vote arose out of a communication made to the members of the FVMA prior to the meeting which imposed a restriction on voting which was in addition to those required by the Bylaws of the Society and had the effect of making it more difficult for the opponents of the current Board to vote.

[26] As regards this issue, and as a direct result of the lack of order, no resolution to this matter was ever achieved.

[27] At this time, the Senate feels compelled to remark that board member, Venessa Fleury, who had greeted the Senators that morning embarked on a verbal tirade against the people raising the issue regarding voting and was perhaps the most outrageous abuse of her fellow Citizens that occurred throughout the day.

[28] Venessa Fleury's conduct was also witnessed by other people in attendance at the meeting who expressed concern when informed that Vanessa Fleury was active in educational programs involving children.

[29] Without any resolution having been achieved regarding the agenda, the right to vote, or points of order being made regarding the above, the issue of financial statements were finally brought to the floor.

[30] Vice-President Penner then took the floor with a report she had prepared and had it projected onto a screen which rendered it illegible to the majority of the people present, by reason of the size of the projected print.

[31] In consequence, hard copies were requested. When it became apparent, they were not available, an adjournment was called and approximately 15 minutes later, the meeting was re-commenced with some hard copies being made available.

[32] Immediately questions arose as regards the vagueness of the report and the inability of the presenter to provide the specifics requested and the discussion, once again, degenerated into chaos with nothing being accomplished or any further information being revealed as regards the issues the Senate had hoped would be resolved.

[33] As a result of the Board's conduct and lack of control over the meeting, nothing on the agenda had been dealt with, nor had the Senate been able to obtain any further useful information.

[34] One thing did occur which confirmed the Senate's earlier opinion regarding elder abuse. This was the conduct of the Respondents during the meeting which was consistent with what had been described in earlier evidence.

[35] In consequence of all the above and given the lack of any decorum or control of the meeting, the Senate resolved it could not further dignify the meeting with its presence and announced its departure.

[36] The Senate Clerk, after leaving the meeting with the Senators, was subsequently informed that the meeting had been adjourned indefinitely shortly after their departure.

[37] Subsequent to the meeting of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, a letter was forwarded by MNBC President, Walter Mineault, dated March 20, 2025, to the FVMA President, Pixie Wells, regarding the conduct of the meeting and the consequences which had occurred from there not being an election of Officers. A copy of that letter is attached and marked as Exhibit "A" to this Judgement.

[38] A week later a document was published by the FVMA Board dated March 27, 2025, wherein they resigned and is attached and marked as Exhibit "B" to this Judgement.

[39] Shortly after the resignation, the MNBC Board, following through with their correspondence of March 20, 2025, and arranged to have a Special General Meeting of the FVMA on April 8, 2025, at which time an interim Board of Directors was elected. The interim Board is now arranging to hold an Annual General Meeting, at which time a permanent Board of Directors will be elected and the incorporated Society brought back into good standing.

## DECISION

[40] The Senate, notwithstanding the resignation of the Respondents, which in some regards deals with the issues raised in the Appeal, feels there are outstanding concerns which require discussion and comment.

[41] Firstly, it is important to understand that the FVMA is a Society incorporated under the Societies Act, a Statute of the Province of British Columbia, as is the case with the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, who carries on business under the firm name and style of Métis Nation British Columbia and that both of these Societies are required to have a Constitution and Bylaws with the Constitution containing the name of the Society and its objects, or the purposes for which it was incorporated.

[42] The Constitution of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia sets out as

follows: BRITISH COLUMBIA

NAME OF SOCIETY: MÉTIS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Incorporation Number: S0036019

Business Number: 88754 8485 BC0001

Filed Date and Time: November 28, 2018, 01:11 PM Pacific Time

The name of the Society is MÉTIS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The purposes of the Society are:

1. The name of the society is MÉTIS PROVINCIAL COUNCIL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. The purposes of the society are:

a) To advance, at all possible occasions, the interests of the Métis people through collective action;

b) To include all Métis citizens resident in British Columbia;

c) To stand as the political representative of all Métis citizens of British Columbia;

d) To achieve full recognition of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia and its jurisdiction within the Canadian Confederation;



- e) To promote progress and prosperity among Métis citizens in all educational, social, cultural, economic and political areas;
- f) To promote and administer the Métis Employment and Training Initiative and Strategy for the Métis people of British Columbia;
- g) To work toward setting up a tripartite process with the Federal and Provincial (governments for the purpose of negotiating self-government agreements on lands and resources; the transfer of the portion of Aboriginal programs and services available to Métis; and cost sharing arrangements relating to Métis institutions, and services;
- h) To honour great Métis leaders;
- i) To promote Cultural Heritage Days throughout the Province of British Columbia;
- \*j) To promote mutual respect, cooperation, sharing, tolerance, honour, honesty and integrity as the basis inter-action among Métis;**
- k) To work with other provincial Métis Nations in Canada for the betterment of all Métis people of Canada.

**\*Emphasis by the Senate**

[43] The Constitution of the Fraser Valley Métis Association sets out as follows:

CONSTITUTION

NAME OF SOCIETY: FRASER VALLEY MÉTIS ASSOCIATION

Incorporation Number: S0044434

Business Number: 86153 0913 BC0001

Filed Date and Time: June 19, 2018, 10:50 AM Pacific Time

The name of the Society is FRASER VALLEY MÉTIS ASSOCIATION

The purposes of the Society are:

- a) Promote the general interests of the Métis people of the Association.
- b) The Association will act as the elected political representative organization of the Métis people of the established aforementioned Region;
- c) Establish appropriate relations with various levels of government and Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (MNCBC) in order to assist in establishing an appropriate place for the Métis people;
- d) Seek justice for the Association, including the promotion, advancement and protection of legal, constitutional and inherent rights of the overall Métis Nation;
- \*e) Social harmony between the Métis and others, and among all people, by the promotion of common human virtues of honour, tolerance, respect, sharing and integrity;**
- f) Seek, promote, implement, conduct, or carry on agreements, initiatives and arrangements for the promotion of progress and prosperity of Métis people within the boundaries of the Association, in accordance with the purpose of the Regional body, in all appropriate fields including education, culture, employment, training, economic development, and social justice.

**\*Emphasis by the Senate**



[44] Paragraph (e) of the Fraser Valley Métis Association identifies honour, tolerance, respect, sharing and integrity, as core objects and therefore core values, not only of the Society, but of the Métis Nation that it is promoting and representing.

[45] Paragraph (i) of the Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia Society identifies these same virtues in its purposes.

[46] The Senate takes notice and expresses the obvious when it states that the objects set out by the FVMA and the MPCBC are the values that form the cultural and spiritual foundation of the Métis Nation. Without mandating the practice of these virtues, the Nation would not have survived to the point where it now stands, nor would it stand if they were neglected today.

[47] The existence of these virtues, and knowledge of them by the Fraser Valley Métis Association and its Board of Directors, is demonstrated by the fact that a hand-out was being given to all attendees at the March 15, 2025, meeting. A copy of which is attached and marked as Exhibit "C" to this Judgement.

[48] The MNBC, like both of the incorporated Societies, has a Constitution through which it has created a form of Government, which Constitution forms a binding part of the relationship between the whole of the Métis people resident within the Province of British Columbia.

[49] On December 16, 2007, MPCBC, carrying on business under the firm name and style of MNBC (Métis Nation British Columbia) entered into an agreement with the Fraser Valley Métis Association wherein the two parties agreed on a framework wherein they would cooperate in the running of their two Societies.

[50] In this Agreement, at paragraph 6 of the preamble, it states as follows:

6. FVMA hereby agrees to abide by and adhere to the *Constitution* of the MNBC and the MNBC Legislation.

[51] Further, in this Agreement at section 3.1 the parties agree:

### 3. Accountability

3.1 FVMA acknowledges its fiduciary relationship and duties to Métis Citizens and or Métis Citizens represented by FVMA and agrees to be financially accountable to its Citizens, and the MNBC and shall be entitled to receive annual financial statements at its request.

[52] The Senate particularly takes notice of the fact that the Offices held within the Nation are frequently in the *Constitution* and Bylaws referred to as being fiduciary in nature and that reference to that effect is very specific in section 3.1 of the Governance Charter which is quoted above.

[53] The Senate acknowledges and accepts that the core values set out in the two Society's Constitutions, along with their recital in the hand-out of the March 15, 2025, meeting are the very core of the Métis Nation and that adherence to them is critical to our survival and further that every elected Officer, and in this case particularly the Officers of the FVMA, must promote and abide by them.

[54] Not only is this required of them as a simple duty, but as a fiduciary duty which Black's Law Dictionary describes as *a person holding the character of a trustee, or a character analogous to that of a trustee, in respect to the trust and confidence involved in it and the scrupulous good faith and candor which it requires.*

[55] The Senate, in reviewing the performance, demeanor and actions of the Respondents find that they have neglected their financial responsibilities to the extent that they might be called reckless, but also that their interaction with their fellow Citizens offends most, if not all, of the items mandated in the Society's Constitution and the cultural norms identified in Exhibit "C" to this Judgement. This, we would have found to be true, even if the term fiduciary had not been applied to their duties, but with it, the conclusion is inescapable.

[56] The Senate, having reviewed all of the evidence and the significance of ignoring its mandate as the judicial arm of the Nation and the extent to which these breaches of fiduciary duty effect how the Nation is perceived and or perceives itself, are recommending that the MNBC work with the MNGA (Métis Nation Governing Assembly) to use the mechanism available to them under section 10 of the MNBC Constitution to effect its recommendation.

[57] Section 10 of the MNBC Constitution reads as follows:

**10. Every Métis Citizen has the right of association and to assemble and organize at the community level. No restrictions may be placed on exercise of this right other than those necessary to protect the peace and order of the Métis Nation as prescribed by the Métis Nation Governing Assembly.**

[58] The Senate have concluded in this Judgement that the actions of the Respondents deeply and adversely affected the peace and order of the Métis Nation. It now falls to the MNGA and MNBC to take whatever steps it believes is appropriate in order to give effect to Section 10 of the *Constitution*.

[59] Furthermore, it is the considered opinion of the Senate that an appropriate consequence for the actions of the Respondents would be a prohibition from holding any Office in the MNBC, or its concordant bodies, for a period of Three (3) years. In making this recommendation, the initial consideration by the Senate was for a period of Five (5) years but it was persuaded to mitigate this to Three (3) years in the belief that the Respondents' actions were not entirely malicious in nature but rather reflected an overzealous attitude towards their powers.

[60] The Senate remains mindful, however, of the misallocation of funds allegations that were raised by the Appellants. It is the Senate's recommendation that the interim FVMA Board of Directors delve further into this matter now that the FVMA financial records are available to them and if judged appropriate, report their findings to the police agency of jurisdiction for investigation.

[61] In closing, the Applicants are acknowledged for their courage and determination to bring this matter forward to the attention of the Senate.

March 20, 2025

President Pixie Wells and Board  
Fraser Valley Métis Association  
#320-33771 George Ferguson Way, PO Box 8000  
Abbotsford, BC V2S 2M5

Taanishi President Wells and Board,

On behalf of Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), I am reaching out in response to Fraser Valley Métis Association's (FVMA) failure to follow through on your Annual General Meeting that was initially held on March 15, 2025. What happened at your AGM was unfortunate and is in direct violation of MNBC's Constitution and Articles 3.3 and 3.4 of our chartered agreement with you which stipulates the following:

- Article 3.3: *FVMA shall hold Annual General Meetings at least once per year based on time and notice requirements of the Métis constitution (or bylaws) and the MNBC Constitution*
- Article 3.4: *FVMA agrees to hold democratic elections for its officers and directors within two (2) years of its last election*

All our Citizens have a democratic right to vote, and we must protect that right at all costs. To proceed as you are currently proceeding limits that right and is not in the spirit of good governance nor does it uphold the democratic process. It also undermines our core values as a Nation, mutual respect, integrity, and kindness.

Regretfully, the Board has made the difficult decision to request that FVMA call a *Special General Meeting* and election within 30 days of receipt of this correspondence. This *Special General Meeting* will be supported and attended by MNBC. We are directing that the meeting be held at a neutral site in your community and MNBC will cover all meeting expenses. Until this action is taken, the MNBC Board of Directors has directed that the FVMA board members be removed as representatives on all MNBC committees and removed from all external advisory committees as MNBC representatives. During this period, all funding to FVMA will cease until after the meeting and election.

The Board did not make this decision lightly. Despite all that has happened, we are prepared to work with FVMA following the outcome of an election. It is our sincere hope that you will act accordingly and fulfill your obligations outlined in your chartered agreement and upheld by MNBC's Constitution. Failure to do so could result in MNBC rescinding your chartered community agreement. Thank you for your attention to this and we await your response.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Walter Mineault  
President, Métis Nation British Columbia

Exhibit "B"



## Fraser Valley Métis Association

321-33771 George Ferguson Way, Box 8000

Abbotsford, BC V2S6T9

236 622-1717

fraservalleymetisassociation@gmail.com

www.fvma.ca

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Fraser Valley Métis Association Volunteer Board Resigns in Protest of MNBC Overreach**

Fraser Valley, BC – March 27, 2025

The Board of the Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA) is resigning, effective immediately, in protest of the ongoing actions taken by Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) and Appellants who have weaponized the Senate to exert state-like authority, rooted in mechanisms that echo colonial structures and values.

We have made this difficult decision not to hinder our community from moving forward, but rather to allow space for Métis in the Fraser Valley to chart a path that is meaningful to them with integrity of grassroots, and community-led Métis governance.

We remain deeply committed to the Métis people of the Fraser Valley and will continue to support our relatives in any way we can outside of the formal FVMA board structure.

MNBC's actions not only undermine the autonomy and cultural safety of this community but also stand in direct contradiction to their own Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy, Community Charter Agreement, and Governance Policies. MNBC has failed to uphold its commitments to transparency, accountability, and respect for community self-governance, as outlined in these policies. The weaponization of the Senate disregards the principles of fair and impartial decision-making, procedural fairness, and non-interference in chartered communities, eroding trust and harming the very people MNBC claims to represent.

Our hearts are with the community as it navigates this challenging moment. We know the strength and resilience of our people will prevail.

**With Respect and in Solidarity,**

~The Resigning Board of the Fraser Valley Métis Association

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# Métis Values

## Give us Roots

Our Métis cultural values are a gift from the Creator. As our Elders say, "Life is a gift, connect with Creator daily." Our Métis values guide us how to live a meaningful and balanced life. We all have a role to play to keep Métis cultural values, language and identity strong. It is recognized that each Métis community or family may have their own versions of these twelve Métis values.



The traditional role of our grandmothers is to welcome new born children into the family and community. The baby is swaddled in the moss bag which is a child rearing method of our ancestors. Our Métis Elders are vital for honestly passing forward many cultural teachings to our next generation.

Balance is a cultural teaching. Two women are entwined holding eagle feathers, and the pairs of sunflowers represent the sacred balance life requires. Likewise, the sun and moon both give balance and life to the earth.



Elders teach us to check in with our hearts. The three Métis people are each holding up hearts to teach us that respect is lived and role modeled. Living from the heart can elevate ourselves and create respectful relationships with others.

Métis people give thanks for the bounty from the fall harvest. Keeping seeds and thinking about Mother Earth's cycles is an important aspect of traditional Métis land use. The people are holding up sunflowers and turtle rattles which is a symbol of Mother Earth.



The greatest law of love is expressed when two people both put their heads together to form a loving bond. Love is associated with growth and abundance.

All chores require discipline and patience. Taking the time to do things together patiently is a core Métis value.



Métis women are unloading a Red River Cart and are sharing the workload by coordinating their efforts. The carts allowed our Métis families to carry our food sources from the land back to our family camps to share with others.

The tepee poles connect everything in the home, give stability and bind everyone together as one. Erecting a tepee provides the community with an opportunity to work together.



Métis families work together to load boats with provisions and trade supplies by working in a supply line to share the work load. Caring is helping each other with tasks of daily living.

Sharing knowledge and teaching what you know to someone else is an important act of kindness. Kindness is a key aspect of traditional Métis education and child development.



Riding into an unknown future or territory can be scary but with courage and strategic planning the adventure may create discovery of new places and provide important life lessons.

Admiring nature's beauty, maturity, and diversity teaches tolerance. Respecting all life and the boundaries of other life forms is an important cultural teaching. Giving everyone and everything the space to grow at their own rate, in their own unique way, creates growth and beauty within the community.

