



URGENT BUSINESS 1

APPROVED AT THE 2025 WINTER
MÉTIS NATION GOVERNING ASSEMBLY

Subject: Review of Senate Case 187

Legislation Affected: n/a

Submitted by: David Allard, President, Salmon Arm Métis Association

Submitted to: MNGA Clerk

Date Submitted: December 6, 2025

Vote Required for Approval: Majority

WHEREAS

1. The Judgements of MNBC Senate case 187 are posted on MNBC's website.
2. The foundation for these Judgements is based on allegations that have been categorically denied and determined to be **"unfounded accusations"** by the Fraser Valley Metis Association.
3. There are no processes in MNBC's legislation that allows for appeals of decisions based on "factual error or unreasonable verdict".
4. The consequences of the Senate's actions and pronouncements in this case have resulted in demonstrable harm.
5. To prevent similar results from happening again as well as finding ways to add accountability to the Judicial branch of MNBC's Governance system,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

- A. A Commission be created to investigate the overall appropriateness of Senate Case 187 for the purpose of finding ways of strengthening dispute resolution processes as well as looking into mechanisms that would allow individuals to formally question Senate decisions and conduct.
- B. The terms of reference for this Commission be presented for approval to the MNGA at a Special meeting on or before February 1, 2026.
- C. The findings of the report be presented at the 2026 Summer MNGA for review.

Attachments for Information:

- Senate Interim Judgement November 14, 2024
- Senate Judgement March 15, 2025
- Fraser Valley Métis Association Statement, November 8, 2025

Interim Judgement

MÉTIS NATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA SENATE

Citation: Alexis Wells et al vs. President/Vice President of Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA)
Senate File No: 187

Date: November 14, 2024
Registry: Senate Clerk

Between:

Alexis Wells et al

Applicant

vs.

And:

President/Vice President of Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA)

Respondents

Métis Citizens resident in the Fraser Valley

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

Counsel for the Respondents:

Self

Place of Hearing:

Richmond, British Columbia

Place and Date of Judgement:

Richmond, BC
November 14, 2024

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)

BACKGROUND

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 Act as the judicial arm of the Métis Nation British Columbia in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

Finally, jurisdiction is accepted and confirmed by both of the parties in their written submissions to the Senate voluntarily attorning to the Senate's jurisdiction in this matter.

This matter is being considered by the Senate under s.8.0 (d) 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 the abuse of the Respondents' authority in their treatment of Elders and other Métis Citizens, but in particular, Elders.

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 the chair and give their evidence.

In this regard, Kelly Penner, being one of the parties required 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.

The Senate accepted her oath on those terms, mindful of the fact that the Senate File Number is simply a shorthand identification in 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.

The first witness, Arlene Masse, provided a great deal of information, both in her own evidence and in cross examination, which raised the specter of issues which were far beyond the competency and jurisdiction of the Senate. Through this evidence, it became perilously 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 an Officer of a British Columbia duly incorporated Society.

These, of course, are issues over which the Senate has no jurisdiction whatever, and if it is to be acted upon, would have to be reviewed by a Common Law Court. This also raised the question in the minds of the Senators as to what, if anything, they might have a duty to report to the Common Law authorities.

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

Shortly after the Senate's temporary adjournment, the Senate reconvened, minus the one Senator and the two Senate Staffers mentioned above, who felt compromised should they continue. The Senate then heard some additional evidence from the Respondents and submissions from both the Respondents and Applicants.

At the conclusion of the small bit of evidence from the Respondents, and the submissions from both parties, a second adjournment was called. At the conclusion of that second adjournment the Senators confirmed their initial reaction and determination as to what should take place, the parties were called back into the Senate Room.

During the recess, the Senate, with respect to the complaints made by the Applicants about the Respondents, which included the abuse of Métis Elders and other Métis Citizens, it was concluded unanimously by the Senate, that these allegations were completely justified and that the attempts by the Respondents to defend their actions was nothing more than an attempt to defend the indefensible.

It was further concluded in the adjournment that it was completely unpalatable for the Senate to dignify the Respondents' inexcusable conduct by carrying on the Hearing with respect to the abuse allegations.

Also, 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 on 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.

Furthermore, the Senators unanimously agreed that the abuse allegations were to be referred back to the FVMA Citizens for a discussion at their forthcoming annual general meeting December 15th, 2024, and that this matter would remain open in the event that no satisfactory resolution was reached at the AGM and in such case, the Senate Hearing would resume at the request of the Applicants.

The Parties were then called back to the Senate Hearing Room wherein the Senator Chairperson, Senator Edkins, was charged with communicating the unanimous decision of the Senate.

Senator Edkins, with the able assistance of Senator Gladue, praised the Applicants for their courage and determination for bringing this matter to the attention of the Senate commenting that they had taken on a problem which the previous MNBC Board of Directors had essentially chosen to disregard.

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:

**Florence “Pixie” Wells (Respondent A), acting in the role of
President and Kelly Penner (Respondent B) acting in the role of
Vice-President of the 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 A and B of the 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, Respondent B, 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 provided a great deal of information, both in 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 the first witnesses 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 15th 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 15th, 2024, AGM had been cancelled and rescheduled to March 15th, 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 a Board member of FVMA, 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 Respondent A 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.

[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 a member of the Board 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] The Board members conduct was also witnessed by other people in attendance at the meeting who expressed concern when informed that the Board member 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] Respondent B 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 15th, 2025, a letter was forwarded by MNBC President, Walter Mineault, dated March 20, 2025, to Respondent A 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.



METIS NATION
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Exhibit "A"

March 20, 2025

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

Taanishi President Wells and Board,

On behalf of Metis Nation British Columbia (MNBC), I am reaching out in response to Fraser Valley Metis 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 shslt hold Annual General Meetings at least once per year based on time and notice requirements of the M,tis 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,

j

Walter Mineault
President, M,etis Nation British Columbia

Exhibit "B"



Fraser Valley Metis Association

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 wwwJvmaca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Fraser Valley Metis Association Volunteer Board Resigns in Protest of MNBC Overreach

Fraser Valley. BC - March 27. 2025

The Board of the Fraser Valley Met,s Association (FVMA) Is reslgnmg. effective 1mmed1ately. In protest of the ongoing actions taken by Metis 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 rnade this difficult dec,s1on not to hinder our commurnty from moving forward. but rather to allow space for Metts in the Fraser Valley to chart a path that ,s meaningful to them with integrity of grassroots. and community-led Metts governance

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

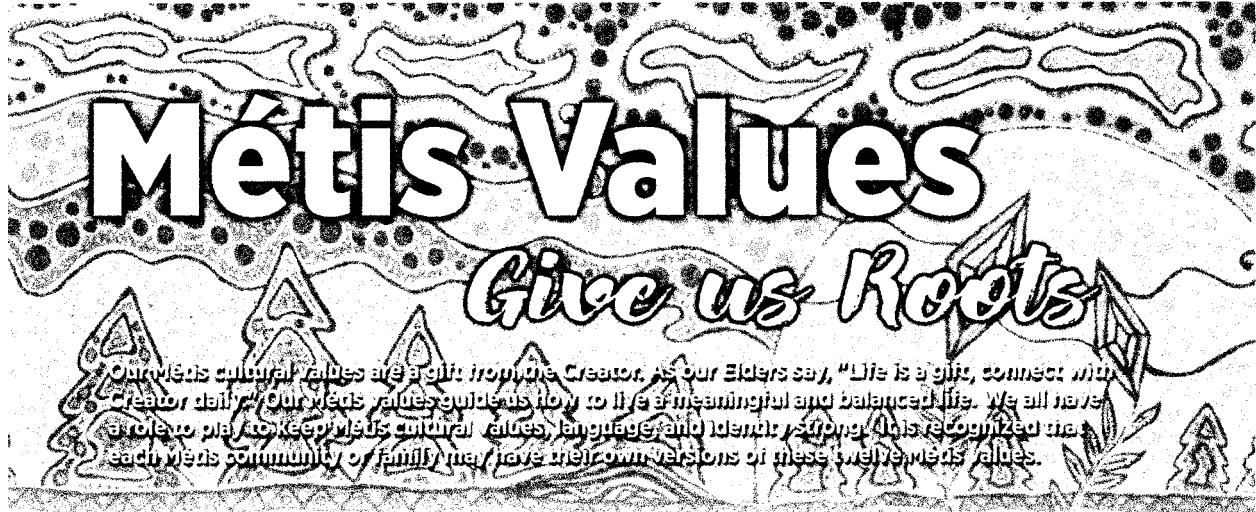
MNBC's actions not only undermine the autonomy and cultural safety of this commurnty but also stand in direct contrad,chon to their own Code of Conduct and Ethics Policy. Community Charter Agreement. and Governance Pohc1es. MNBC has failed 10 uphold 11s commitments to transparency, accountabl1ity, and respect for community self-governance. as outhned ,n these policies The weapon1zation of the Senate disregards the pnnc,ples of falf and 1mpart1al dec1s1on-making. procedural fairness. and non-interference in chartered communities, eroo,ng trust and harming the very p◆ople MNBC claims to represent

Our hearts are with the community as 11 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 Melis Assoc1atlon

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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.

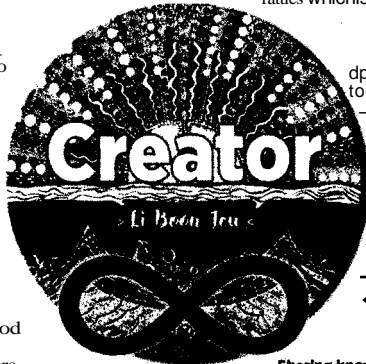


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Sharing knowledge and teaching what you know to someone else is an important act of kindness. Kindness is a key aspect of traditional Métis education and child development.



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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.





November 8, 2025

Public Statement – A Chapter Closes

The Fraser Valley Métis Association (FVMA) Board, elected by our membership at the September 2025 Annual General Meeting, is aware of the serious accusations and personal attacks that have circulated online and within our community. These attacks have targeted former volunteers and Board members, accusing them of theft and misconduct.

A spirit of resilience and overcoming is ingrained in us all—it is part of our Métis identity. This Board, elected less than 60 days ago, is grateful to past leadership for their sound fiscal stewardship and dedication to the FVMA. In 2023, the Board was acknowledged for exceptional financial management.

We want to be absolutely clear:

- The Fraser Valley Métis Association confirms that all funds are fully accounted for.
- There has not been any evidence of theft, loss, or misappropriation within the Association's finances.
- Allegations of theft or misappropriation are entirely false
- Accusations have been disproven by two independent financial reviews, and a full review all data sources and accounts.

These unfounded accusations have caused real harm. Former volunteers—who gave their time and energy to serve the FVMA community—have seen their reputations damaged and, in some cases, their livelihoods affected. This is unacceptable.

Volunteering on a society Board is a demanding responsibility. Volunteer Board members must navigate complex regulations, financial oversight, and community needs, often with little training and few resources. Despite these challenges, both past and current leadership have acted with integrity and in the best interests of the community. Those who serve the FVMA carry more than administrative duties—they carry our community's spirit. When they are supported, our sense of kinship thrives; when they are not, that sense of community falters.

We recognize that some individuals have chosen to spread misinformation and personal attacks against three former community leaders. Undermining credibility serves no one. Our community is stronger when we lift each other up and stay focused on our shared goals.

THE PATH FORWARD

Respectful Spaces: FVMA is committed to respectful communication and ensuring that community social spaces remain safe, inclusive, and accountable. Immediate actions are underway to remove non-members from social platforms and align all online spaces with updated guidelines.

Governance Renewal: As committed at the AGM, FVMA is launching a governance review and modernization initiative. A Special General Meeting will be held online to seek member approval and input, ensuring our citizens help shape the results. New governance documents will return to the membership for adoption at the next AGM.

Financial Integrity: FVMA continues to consult financial, insurance, and governance advisors to strengthen wise practices and reduce risk. Volunteer leaders often carry financial exposure when fronting payments;



FVMA is actively exploring secure payment systems to reduce that burden. Dual signatories have always been used and will remain standard.

Bigfoot Moccasin: FVMA remains the legal owner of Bigfoot Moccasin, including all business assets, inventory, and trade name. The purchase was made in good faith during a period of national uncertainty to create a path toward self-sustainability and lessen dependence on external grants. There have been no decisions about the future for this venture. Options will be identified, and our member community will be provided an opportunity to share insight. In the meantime, we will continue to steward the good name of this business.

Transparency & Engagement: We encourage members and allies to seek updates directly through FVMA's official channels and to support efforts to rebuild trust and strengthen relationships with adjacent Métis communities and local partners across Abbotsford, Mission, Dewdney, and Aldergrove.

OUR CALL TO THE COMMUNITY

We ask all members, citizens, and allies to return to our shared fire—to speak with humility, listen with respect, and walk forward together in good faith. Metis people have endured hardship before, and each time, we have grown stronger from it.

In the Métis way, we know that even after fire scorches the earth, the land heals. Beneath the ash, new roots take hold. In Michif, this is [Wesahkoteeweenowuk](#) - the regrowth that rises from what was lost, the renewal that follows the hardest seasons. It reminds us that our strength comes from the same place as our pain: deep within our shared ground. We are grateful to past leaders Pixie Wells, Kelly Penner and Vanessa Fleury for their service to this community and for opening our healing circle with the very song that tells this story. We ask the community to help us close this chapter, and embrace new beginnings. The slander stops here.

We will continue to rebuild trust, nurture truth, and carry our responsibilities with integrity. The Fraser Valley Métis Association stands in that spirit of renewal—ready to plant new medicines, regrow and reconnect.

The healing begins now.

Miigwetch,

Tracey Good
President

Jen Sanderson
Secretary/Privacy

Fergus Dalton
Director

Aiden Coops
Director

Peggy Haire
Director

Tarina Colledge
Vice President

Dawn Johnson
Treasurer

Justin Alenius
Director

Danielle Hill
Director