

Don Courson

for Region 4 Director MNBC



"Community requires the participation of all members, families, elders, parents and our youth .
Engagement is needed for our Metis culture,
Being Metis is more than a membership card."

Don believes that leadership is best provided when there is shared confidence, respect, and communication between citizens ,community and the MNBC Board of Directors.
Don will work to represent and support all Community members and the Region 4 Metis communities.

Vote for Don on September 7, 2024

Email : doncreg.4@gmail.com

BIOGRAPHY

Don has been registered and engaged with the Metis Nation of BC since 1996, served as Vice President in the West Kootenays 1998 and then President in 2018. With Regional Director support, there are stronger Metis communities. Don has been dedicated to building community engagement and participation to strengthen, acknowledge and celebrate our Metis culture.

As a Regional Director, it is Don's intent to ensure that Metis citizens in the Kootenays are informed of all MNBC program opportunities, and **ensure that MNBC programs include the Kootenay Region** on an equitable basis. The MNBC Board needs dedicated individuals to represent all Metis people in BC and ensure that our place at the Metis National Council is provided every consideration .

Don is familiar with and comfortable in governance and leadership roles, dedicating himself to advocating for and representing the collective interests of all the Region 4 communities.

QUALIFICATIONS / Experience

WKMS Community VP / President – (1998-2022), WKMS Elder (ongoing)

BC MANR – 20 years of strong relationship providing written input and support in program developments

ISPARC – Regional Lead, advocating, facilitating programs for youth and health

West Kootenay Aboriginal Health Collaborative - Working towards better services and awareness of Metis health issues with IHA.

Education – Aboriginal Ed Prog -SD-8 rep.(20 yrs), SD 10 –(2yrs)

Selkirk College Liaison – 20 plus years

Columbia Basin Trust – Liaison with programs and funding, Metis in the Basin

Community Involvement – Metis representation at Canada Day

events, local Museum displays and exhibitions, Remembrance Day, Louis Riel Day, SD8 Aboriginal Day. National Aboriginal Day, Don has been open to any invitation acknowledging our Metis Culture & Heritage, provide local community connection as requested. Don has tirelessly worked to engage the local community in cultural activities (beading, weaving, jigging etc)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

BCIT: 1975 Graduate, Forestry Diploma ,Class President

Ministry of Forests: Retired, Senior Protection Officer – Aviation (35 yrs)

Balfour Recreation Commission – Director, elected

BC Golf Association – West Kootenay Regional Director-Chairman 10 yrs

BCGEU - Union Rep, Component Chairman, Executive member, 10+ yrs

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Don Courson - commitment:

The new MNBC Board of Directors will prioritize the Needs of the Metis citizens and community, providing local services wherever possible.

We commit to improve the timing and confirmation for all Citizenship related concerns.

We are an Indigenous People recognized in the Canadian Charter, with Sect 35 Rights within a Constitutional Framework and Rights provided for all Metis and MNBC citizens.

We will be dedicated to creating consultive respectful dialogue with both Federal and Provincial Governments, agencies whom co-operate and mutually benefit our programs and services.

We will make our Citizens the priority to improve the lives for the MNBC CITIZENS in all we do.

We will prioritize ALL FUNDING to best meet the needs of our citizens.

Our Initiatives will be confirmed and directed by citizens moving forward.

Your personal challenges with services and supports are important and can be supported by our MNBC governance

To date, the following key programs have been identified:

1. **Citizenship confirmation** - renewal, notification and timely response.
2. **Health Services** – primarily supporting Seniors and families.

Additional support for health needs, (hearing aids, eye wear, dental, medication, etc.).

3. **Senior Wellness and Health**

- medical support, transportation supports, supported housing, etc.

4. **Education – K1-12**

- Our youth need to learn our Metis Culture and see themselves in the Indigenous Education programming

5. We NEED to hear from the citizens on priority concerns for our citizens.

We need your MNBC VOTE on Sept 7,2024. Confirm your registered with updated address and Confirmation.

Please take the time to communicate via phone, email, face book, etc.

Don Courson – Region 4 Director – Kootenay Region

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