

## CHILLIWACK MÉTIS ASSOCIATION

October 20, 2018 – Chilliwack Métis Association Annual General Meeting

This report is a summary of the activity for Chilliwack Métis Association (CMA) from October 2017 to October 2018. Report date: October 1, 2018.

CMA Mission Statement: “Our commitment is to organize; to define and implement an engagement process; to teach and learn our culture; to foster better relationships in our community and to inspire and mentor the next generation of leaders.”

### **Current CMA Board Members as of Oct 19, 2018 CMA AGM:**

Paul Gauthier	President and Citizenship Director
Ed Dandenault	Vice President
Fergus Dalton	Director of Youth
Trena Gauthier	Director of Children and Families
Louis DeJaeger	Director of Community Relations
Larry Goodman	Director at Large
Treasurer	Alena McInroy
Secretary	Joan Hetland

### **CMA Board of Directors update**

Oct 2017, CMA AGM was held with the following results. Newly voted President – Paul Gauthier, President to Vice President – Ed Dandenault, newly created positions re: Directorship for Youth, Children and Families – Trena Gauthier, Community Relations – Louis DeJaeger, and Youth Director – Fergus Dalton.

Our community was very fortunate to bring on new members to the board, Paul, Trena, Louis, and Fergus. Over this past year, their efforts, combined with the guidance and feedback from the previous board members Ed, Larry, Joan and Alena, have resulted in positive forward movement. Specifically: securing of funds for organizational and program capacity which has greatly benefited the CMA and it's Citizens. Re: organizational funding that has secured a business office and various venues that provide a place for gatherings/functions and programs that we have throughout the year.

## **UPIP FUNDING 2018-19 - full funding successfully acquired.**

Organizational capacity funding: \$4625 / Programs and Services funding: \$11,225

### **CMA Securing of Venue – Progress**

In the fall of 2017, CMA board of directors completed a “venue comparison” review consisting of 3 potential venue locations. Final decision was to rent the Odd Fellows Hall, located at 46008 Reece Avenue, Chilliwack. A number of factors influenced our decision, re: venue rental price, availability, location, ease of access, parking, and general functionality. Despite securing this venue, the CMA board maintained committed to our vision with the future securement of our own office space, a more suitable venue for gatherings. CMA is interested in exploring the idea of working with MNBC with the organization of future MNBC sponsored events involving local Region 2 chartered communities. It remains a long term goal for CMA and it’s community to eventually acquire/own a building/space that would be self-sustaining with Métis specific businesses.

In 2018, after careful review and discussion, the CMA board of directors decided that as of Sept 2018, CMA would secure a new venue at the Coqualeetza Sto:lo plaza location on Vedder Road, which included an actual office, and access to all of the venues located at this location re: boardrooms, meeting room, elder room, longhouse, kitchen etc.. Our community identifies how critically important it is for our community to receive continued funding support from our local, Provincial, and National Métis leaders. This will be instrumental to the continued and future success of our community.

April 2018, CMA board identified 3 service programs that will be offered/delivered to the community/Citizens. Tasks assigned to various board members with dates TBD.

- 1) Full sized paddle making/carving workshop
- 2) Genealogy workshop and assistance with MNBC application process in obtaining MNBC/CMA Citizenship
- 3) Decolonization workshop – to understand the long term effects of colonization.

### **Citizenship – Associate Membership**

Our current Citizenship – Associate Membership number is 255. This is an increase of 26 Citizens/members to CMA since October 2017. According to recent MNBC Citizenship list, dated 2018- there are 574 Métis people residing within the Chilliwack area, 255 of those 574 are registered with CMA as either Citizen or associate member, 319 of those people are Citizens with MNBC, but not with CMA. That is over half of MNBC Citizens that are not registered with their local chartered community. The CMA board had reviewed 2 crucial aspects to the Citizenship / membership process 1) removal of Citizenship fee to join CMA, 2) quicker response in submitting community acceptance letters for MNBC Citizen applicant. In streamlining the application process for both MNBC and CMA, there has been a noticeable improvement in completing MNBC application packages in a timely fashion. Our board has been thanked by CMA Citizens for having taken these positive steps forward. Citizenship Director- Paul Gauthier continues to work with “updating” of the current “CMA Citizenship and membership list”. This involves the reviewing of, and scanning of current and old “paper” Citizenship documents. To become

more Privacy law compliant, CMA will be destroying all “excessive” documents that had traditionally been collected during the CMA application phase, which included extensive family trees, birth, baptismal, marriage certificates etc...

### **Cultural Development Nights – Potlucks – Board Meeting**

CMA continued to hold monthly cultural development nights and potlucks; on average we attract 20-50 CMA citizens to these gatherings. We offer food snacks, beverages and activities for both youth and adult CMA Citizens. Cultural activities consist of having guest attendees such as fiddlers, jiggers, and special guests from MNBC. We have had cultural craft events such as beading, bannock making, mini sash weaving, paddle making, to name a few.

Board meetings have been held monthly with the exception of the summer months of June, July, August. Our board has worked toward increased capacity and service funding monies through grant applications via MNBC. We have been very successful in this pursuit, and will outline said success further in this report.

### **Miscellaneous to report on:**

Nov 2017, Louis Riel Day celebration at Ft. Langley. This was well attended and a hugely successful event. Again, we teamed up with other chartered communities to show case a plethora of Métis events and culture. Story telling, jigging, bead working, rattle making, and wood-working were highlighted at this event. An archery area was set up outside along with Joe Smith’s “banger” table. Canada Parks 150 year celebration permitted free entry to all park visitors which was a definite bonus for our event. We had approximately 600 visitors in attendance and we were able to watch as Madam President Clara Morin Da Col raised the Métis infinity flag at the center of the fort grounds. Thank you to Waceya President, Shelby Desjarlais for delivering the address to the crowd during the flag raising ceremony.

Our Director of Children and Families, Trena Gauthier, continues to be employed with the Chilliwack School District as an Aboriginal Educational Assistant and continues to do an amazing job bring Métis specific content and recognition into the school. Trena continues to work with our Métis Elders in having them attend Promontory School to teach and talk to children about Métis culture and history. Our Métis Elders continue to perform an important role within our community and are eager to make themselves accessible to the youth of our community and to local schools. We are very fortunate to have them. Our Community has secured a \$5000 grant from the Chilliwack School District #33 via the Aboriginal Educational Advisory Committee, to assist Chilliwack Métis children within the school district. The grant enables us to support Métis students such as the 2 - \$1000 post-secondary schooling bursaries that we will be providing to high school graduating Métis students for graduation of 2018. The grant can also assist with administration related incidental costs.

Our community did secure \$750 of the available \$1500 ISPARC equipment grant application submitted in August 2017. In spring of 2018, our community purchased 6 tennis rackets, 4 badminton rackets, tennis balls, birdies, and portable net.

March 3, 2018. Trena was successful in securing a \$4500 grant from the BC Adoption re: Lifelong Connection Event grant. The grant money facilitated a forum/workshop in Chilliwack on, that raised the awareness of the number of Métis children that are currently in permanent non-Aboriginal foster care homes. This increased the knowledge base of approximately 46 participants, both local and regional Citizens; most were surprised to learn of the alarming number of local Métis children that are currently in foster care and for the need to explore more suitable options to address this issue. There remained left over funding and there will be a second local CMA dinner-information session late fall of 2018, Date TBA.

CMA header logo and Swag Logo Updated – the CMA board reviewed three logos submitted by Bonny from Sto Lo and a decision was made in support of one design, with a blue background, specifically for swag items. Our CMA main website logo was kindly updated by one of our CMA Citizens/Métis artisan, Bryan Stephenson with a digitized versions of our current logo being completed. These versions were placed on a thumb drive and passed on to our community for immediate use.

May – June 2018, CMA held an Elders Crime Prevention Forum – 3 separate presentations were made by local RCMP and Service Canada. These presentations were well attended by our community elders and the plan is to do these Senior presentations yearly to keep everyone up to date and to use the same presenters for Cultural Development Night presentations. Positive feedback was received by our elders.

Aug 18, 2018, we teamed up with all the Region 2 chartered communities to organize the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Region 2 Family day at Warner Loat Park in Burnaby. CMA was not the host community but did participate in attending the gathering. As with years of previous gatherings, this event featured local Métis artisans, food and beverage services archery and lawn games. There were live performances from jiggers and fiddlers and overall the event was another huge success.

Aug 24-26, 2018, the \$3400 active communities grant contributed to a successful 3 night, 2 day youth camp out weekend was held at the Chilliwack Vedder River Campground. The youth camp involved a number of activities re: story-telling, bannock making, elder medicinal plant walk, lawn games, canoeing and kayaking, and archery. ISPARC contributed to this event in facilitating the water sports and archery.

Our President, Paul Gauthier, continues to be actively involved with the Fraser Cascade Aboriginal Wellness Committee to represent our local Métis voice as it relates to the cultural safety training that is being delivered to the Fraser Health Staff. Paul also sits on a sub-committee that solely reviews the complaint process outcome when it involves an aboriginal complainant. Participation on-going.

President, Ed Dandenault and Secretary, Joan Hetland, completed the drafting of our community by-laws which have been submitted to Chris Gall for review and feedback. Our community strongly advocates that our constitution and that of our Provincial and Federal Métis Constitutions needs to have an equality and inclusion clause for **all** Métis people. Awaiting response from Chris Gall.

Submitted on behalf of Chilliwack Métis Association by Paul Gauthier – President.