

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Prepared by: Dawn Johnson | Interim Vice President | Fraser Valley Métis Association

September 11, 2025

The interim board, established after the March AGM with MNBC support, focused on assessing community finances, inventory, and governance improvements, including by-law changes and privacy policies.

The March 2025 AGM of the Fraser Valley Métis Association was a difficult moment for our community. Following the meeting, our community lost access to the Mamele'awt Centre, however, efforts are underway to find a new space where our community can gather, heal, and grow. The newly elected board can commit to creating a space for future cultural events and community engagement.

We are medicine and the healing has started.

During our time as an interim board, we participated in two successful events:

- The Red Dress Awareness Walk in May was a collaborative effort, led with heart and dedication by Alexis and Jen created a successful day. The event featured powerful speakers, songs and performances, and was topped off with a guided walk in honour of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). This cause holds deep significance for our community and we were grateful for the opportunity to raise awareness. Furthermore, we had the chance to connect with the mayor and strengthen relationships within the broader community.
- In June, the Fraser Valley Métis Association was invited to participate in Métis Day with the Abbotsford School District, an event that promotes cultural education. Students had the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities, including finger weaving with Joscelyne Fonseca, jigging with Fergus Dalton, pointillism with Danielle Hill, carving mini paddles with Pat Calihou, bannock making with Chris Kelly, and pemmican preparation with me. It was a wonderful day for youth to learn and celebrate Métis culture.

The Interim Treasurer compiled a financial review that brings clarity to FVMA's finances for the last two and a half years by setting up a better system through the use of Quickbooks online and highlighting the key steps to improve accountability, reporting, and sustainability.

Undertaking Big Foot Moccasin's inventory count was a big task, Danielle, Tracey, Joscelyne and Alexis worked very hard at it. The overwhelming volume of inventory was initially addressed; however, progress had to be suspended due to unsafe working conditions caused by the heat of summer.

Fergus, Tracey, and Jen have contributed countless hours on governance and privacy compliance.

Jen is also dedicating significant time to keeping our social media, website and Facebook platforms up to date with the help of Jeff, Jocelyn, and Tracey.

I acknowledge the interim board and their volunteer work, knowing a larger board working collaboratively means decision making is a group effort and will focus on the needs and success of a great community.

Our focus was to get you a clear picture of where our community is pertaining to the finances and inventory of Big Foot Moccasin. The newly elected board should create revised By-law changes and accountability with rules and procedures.

Thank you for your patience.