



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
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Director

Danielle Hill
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