



COMMUNITY FOCUSED INITIATIVES REIGNITE!



We are working hard to lay the groundwork for events and spaces that will bring our community back together as soon as possible.

Taansi FVMA Community! We have some important updates to share with our community on behalf of the board of directors. We have been working so hard, behind the scenes, to better serve our community in 2026. Here's just some of what we have accomplished and aspirations for the new year!

Events Happening Soon

Growing Roots Childcare Mural

On January 28th, celebrated Métis artist Leah Dorion from Saskatchewan will be hosting a workshop to facilitate the creation of a Mural at the Growing Roots Métis-based childcare center in Mission which is being commissioned by MNBC. This is a wonderful opportunity for the community to get involved in creating artwork that will be publicly appreciated for years to come and serve as a positive representation of our collective culture for impressionable youth. The workshop is 2 hours long and space is limited, please reach out to contact@fvma.ca as soon as possible to express your interest in attending this event.

Potlucks coming soon

Watch your email and our website for a call to action for community members to lead and organize these as a committee.

EXCITING FOUNDATIONAL PROGRESS & UPDATES

FVMA Leases New Office Space to Open in February 2026

On November 1st, 2025 we signed a lease agreement for a small 530 sq. ft. office space located on Montrose Ave. in Abbotsford, directly on bus routes. We are very excited to hold regular programming at this location, to have a space to hold board meetings, and to complete administrative duties and event planning. We are working hard to complete renovations to see the center open up by February. It might be small but we are not limited to this space. For larger community events, we will find appropriate facilities to gather.

We are planning to hold an open house for our new location, the date is still to be determined, but we are aiming for early February. Once the renovations are complete we will be able to let our community visit and see the hard work we've put in to bring our new centre to life. We are seeking a licensed **plumber** to help us with the last steps. We are hoping there is one within our community. If this is you, please connect with us. We are looking for estimates!

A Note on Social Media Accounts

The accounts that FVMA used for Meta have an issue. The Board members are not the current administrators and despite the current admins being cooperative, the 2 factor authentication issue is preventing the transfer of these accounts. We no longer have administrative powers over either the FVMA facebook or Instagram pages. As such, we are no longer using them. We will look to consider new social media accounts in the future. For now, we are communicating via email. Thanks for understanding!

Email List

We have created a mailing list of members that allows us to reach more members with reliable updates from leadership regarding important news and events. If you would like to be added or removed from our mailing list please email membership@fvma.ca.

Bylaws and Governance - Your Input Matters

Over the past few years it has become apparent that our bylaws and policies are in need of a deep refresh and Vice-President Tarina Colledge committed to engaging the community in the process at the AGM. She has prepared a comprehensive survey that will allow our members to have their say on how they want our society to operate. Tarina wants you to know that even though she is a policy nerd she knows most are not. The survey is less about 'the bylaws' and more about your feelings. Your feelings, experiences, and perspectives matter to the whole board and they will be what drives our community further along the healing pathway. Together, our perspectives enable a more holistic direction. Who we were does not have to be who we are becoming. The survey is comprehensive and will take time, thought, and a good cup of coffee/tea. Be insightful. Be bold. Be heard. Ensure your voice is part of our future.

Walk through the survey by Feb 28, 2026:

<https://forms.gle/WhU3UUMxMxPcgMiM9>



PROGRAMMING IN THE WORKS



Matriarch Circle

We are aiming to get Matriarch Circle and other programming up and running in February. Plans are underway for Matriarch Circle on two Thursdays a month led by our Matriarch Representative Danielle. This will include sharing circles and crafting together. Many are excited to see this program up and running again. To ensure stability, Danielle will need a committee to help lead and organize. Reach out to contact@fvma.ca and matriarch@fvma.ca, if you would like to volunteer.

A Word From the Matriarch Representative

Nimiywêyân Danielle Hill. I am happy to introduce myself as your new Matriarch Director. Miywâsin – it is good to be together.

I am grateful to join this community and to walk alongside you in this role. This work is close to my heart, and I look forward to building relationships and learning together. We are excited to see our new space coming together. Because of this, we will soon be able to host Matriarch Circles again – a time to gather, share, and support one another.

Please continue to check our website and your inboxes for updates on when our first Matriarch Circle will begin.

Maarsi for your welcome and your support. I look forward to connecting with you soon.
– Danielle Hill, Matriarch Director

Métis Music Nights

We are also excited to introduce Métis Music Nights on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm tentatively starting on **February 6th**, pending renovations. This new program will be a casual, peer-led, drop-in program, with a sharing circle facilitated by FVMA Secretary Jen Sanderson. It will focus on stories, relationship building and knowledge sharing. It will be open to anyone with a passion for learning about music and to make music with a special emphasis on Métis music culture and opportunities for networking and collaboration. For more information stay tuned to the website or email secretary@fvma.ca with questions or suggestions.

New Ideas Are Being Fostered

We have volunteers who have been brainstorming on the creation of a Youth Learning On the Land program as well as a Book Club, so please let us know if you would be interested in participating in either of these, or are interested in volunteering as the programs are still being developed. You can reach out to your Youth representative, Aiden at youth@fvma.ca for ideas focused on youth, or contact@fvma.ca for others.



WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO SO FAR

BigFoot Moccasin

A few Board directors attended the Louis Riel Day Event at Fort Langley. We took scraps of leather, jewelry findings, cabochons, beads, and more. We had a successful sale earning more than \$1000 in sales. This also resulted in another large sale being made for small medicine pouch kits for nearly \$3000. This is very helpful in offsetting our storage costs for the inventory acquired with BigFoot Moccasin. We are planning to sell some more of the inventory at future events, at the new office, and directly to community members.

The Bigfoot Moccasin inventory generally consist of:

- drum frames
- cabochons
- synthetic sinew
- beading needles
- beading thread
- raw hide chunks and scraps
- beads of various sizes
- jewelry findings
- beading tools
- rabbit furs
- Suede scraps and sheets
- industrial sewing machines
- leather cutting machines and templates
- bead looms
- FVMA t-shirts
- small medicine pouch kits
- sage smudges



If you are interested in knowing more about the inventory that can be made available for our community members to purchase, please reach out to us! We have 2 storage units full of things and our community members can purchase those directly from us. Email contact@fvma.ca for more information or to schedule a personal shopping appointment with a Board director. BFM can take payment only via e-transfer.



From Left: Jeff M., Fergus D., Justin A., Jen S., Danielle H., Tarina C., Tracey G., Peggy H., Aiden C., Dawn J.

Christmas Gathering

We were so happy to see much of our community at the Christmas gathering on November 29th 2025 at the Matsqui Recreation Centre. Many enjoyed a meal with our community, learned to play spoons, danced and gained some valued connections and cultural knowledge. The young ones got to meet Santa and enjoyed making crafts. We welcomed this opportunity to take a group photo of the entire FVMA board, plus our member bookkeeper, who has helped support our work.

NON FVMA COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

MNBC EVENTS

Gathering Our Voices

MNBC is asking **youth aged 15 - 24** to apply for the Gather Our Voices event which takes place on **March 15 to 20th** at the Vancouver Convention Centre. This free event includes workshop and cultural activities that are sure to be enriching and give youth a valuable chance to be heard and engage with others like themselves. For more information go to: <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/gathering-our-voices-2026>

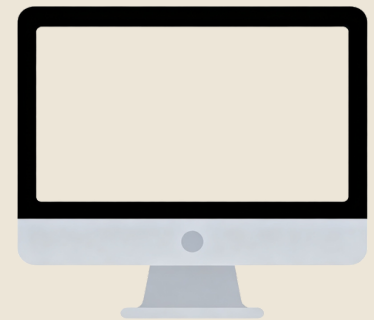
Climate Change & Marine Ecosystems Tour

MNBC is inviting **youth aged 15 - 30** who are passionate about environmental protection, to the Climate Change & Marine Ecosystems Tour with OceanWise West Vancouver, to explore conservation and marine ecosystems, on **February 20, 2026**, from 9 - 5 in Vancouver. For more information go to: <https://www.mnbc.ca/eco-collective>

Free Virtual Workshops

February to March 2026 there will be free Virtual Workshops Hosted by Outdoor Learning School. The line-up includes:

1. Feb 10: Supporting Youth in Learning from the Land
2. Feb 24: Getting Yourself Outdoor Learning Certified!
3. Mar 3: Mentorship in the Wild: Leadership, Adventure & Wonder
4. Mar 10: Spring Celebration of Outdoor Learning Books!



For more information go to: <https://outdoorlearning.com/event/2026-winter-virtual-workshops/>

Indigenous Justice Centre Legal Clinic

Monthly legal clinic at the Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd from 1:00-4:00pm. This clinic is open to First Nation, Métis, and Inuit people on a drop-in basis. Chilliwack Indigenous Justice Centre 201-9235 Sasquatch Alley (In District 1881 Above Emerson Park Resale) Questions? Contact Jasmine Clarke at 778-704-1355 or jasmine.clarke@bcfnjc.com

Hands-on Habitat Restoration Volunteer Opportunity for Youth

Vedder River Restoration, Youth-Led Action for Freshwater Health will provide **youth aged 16-25** in the Fraser Valley with an opportunity to participate in the stewardship of the Vedder River, a watershed that holds significant cultural, environmental, and recreational values. This project will empower youth with practical skills and leadership in sustainability, while monitoring and improving freshwater quality and habitat for salmon and other native species along the Vedder River in Chilliwack. Youth will learn about both Indigenous and western approaches to ecosystem health, get exposed to different career pathways within restoration and sustainability, and learn how to use creative storytelling to encourage the broader community to do their part in ensuring freshwater health.

Applications are due on Sunday, **February 8**. More details and the application form are available at <https://fbcyouthprogram.ca/vedder-river/>.

PARTICIPANTS VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS NEEDED

Licensed Plumber Required

Now that we officially have a home for the Fraser Valley Métis Association, we would like to welcome our community members to participate by volunteering any valuable skills or passions you may have to offer or teach. We particularly need a plumber and possibly a new fridge. We may even need to upgrade our flooring in the near future. Email contact@fvma.ca to let us know if you are as passionate about the community as we are and able to offer help.

Donations: Our new home has been a blast to get ready. We knocked out walls. We sanded, painted, installed new lights, and more. The old floors are not ideal, but they will do for now. We will be on the watch for the right materials and grants to help us replace the floor in the future.

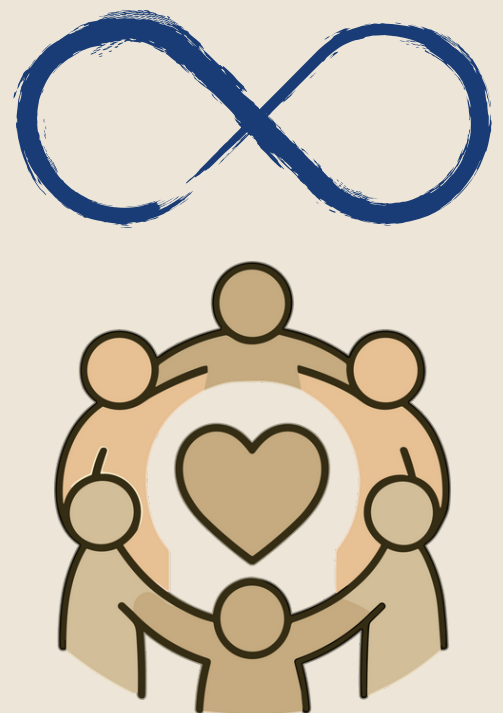
Logistics and warehousing: We have two storage units with unassembled shelving and space that could be better organized. We are seeking community members with skill in racking and categorizing to help us finagle this all down to one storage unit to reduce the monthly storage costs the FVMA is carrying. If that sounds like you, reach out and let's get a plan together.

Knowledge and Skill: Got a passion you want to share or teach? We aim to make a contact list for our community members that are also knowledge keepers, skill teachers, language sharers, and more.

Email contact@fvma.ca to let us know if you are as passionate about the community as we are.

Walking Forward Together

This Board of Directors is grateful for the trust the community placed in us when we were elected. We want to thank you all for your understanding and patience as we stepped forward in a good way. We know that waiting has been hard, but the wait will be part of a solid foundation to build upon - a home that is ours. Small spaces for small gatherings. Small gardens to grow medicine and food. When there is so much uncertainty, starting small is still starting in a good way. We hope you are willing to re-start with us.



With Respect and Gratitude - FVMA Board of Directors