

Rocky Mountain Metis Association

President's Report AGM May 15th, 2021

Tansi and welcome to the RMMA AGM

This year has been unprecedented in our history with the ongoing pandemic and all that it has brought. Unfortunate side effects of that is the very un-Metis situation to gather as we often do and be a family. Fortunately, we have been able to procure funds that has made this difficult time somewhat easier for some of our hardest hit members. The economic downturn, loss of work due to safety restrictions, and all the other difficulties it has brought, has been a blow to our entire society. Many in our community, already in pressured financial straights and least likely to be able to bear the brunt of this, were hurt immediately. Thankfully organizations like our own MNBC, Columbia Basin Trust and the Food Rescue program of the Second Harvest group, were able to give us funds to support food security, medical support & supplies, PPE, and some programming for the mental health initiatives for our members.

Limited programming in cultural and community was something we strove to accomplish even with the severe restrictions in place by Health BC. Online. We had some limited socially distanced events but most by Zoom. Our former navigator Krista Clark worked very hard to ensure that all of our Covid protocols were adhered to, and that safety was our number one. She was able to run these and fully support the food security program to the total amount of \$86,000. A program, now with some additional funds, that has continued to run, on a very limited basis for the few members we are still helping. The interventions totalled over 300 people and families over the course of the last 15 months. That's a lot of gift cards. We would also like to thank Marlin, our Treasurer, for procuring and controlling the funds and Elder Dorothy Ratch, who's credit card she let us use to ensure we could purchase items, quickly, locally, and by phone in Creston, (yes we have her paid up!)

Krista Clark, our navigator trainee, has completed her training term and has moved onto other employment now and the new council will be seeking a person to fill that role soon. This position has proven invaluable to our community. As volunteers, your council works hard but it's the everyday connection that is difficult to maintain. We could not have supported all our members in the way we did last year without Krista's hard work and we thank her.

As for me, I will be stepping back from the president position today, as the last year has also affected me and my health, but I am staying on council and will be helping the new executive over the coming year.

Thank you all for attending today and thanks to the staff from MNBC that have also joined us along with our Region Director, Debra Fisher, and our Region Women's representative, Jana Schulz. MNBC has entered an exciting time of growth, and their support over the last year only shows even more promise moving forward.

I want to thank several members of our council that are not running again. Elder Dorothy Ratch, who has guided us with grace and wisdom, like elders do. Carmelle Laroche; who has been a long-time director, our genealogical guru, and huge advocate in the community for so many of our marginalized people, Kris Murray; who's work with Interior Health in this last year could not have been easy. Finally, to Marlin Ratch who has been our rock in guiding the business of the local for so many years. Thank you all for your service.

Meegwich/ Merci/ Thank you all

Candice Langeman

RMMA President