

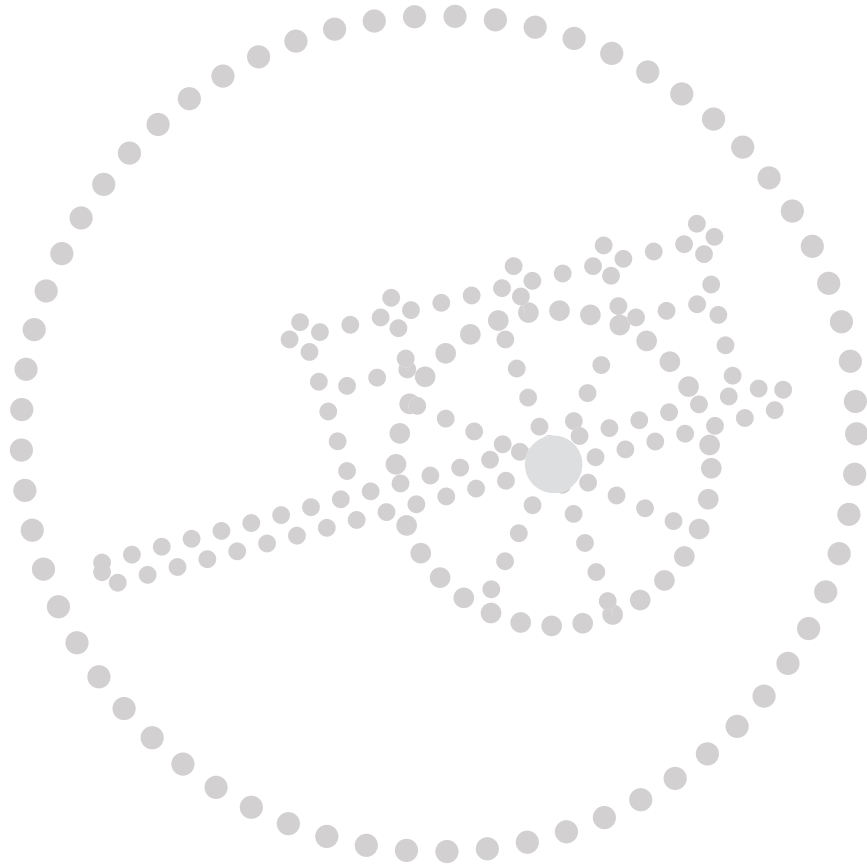


RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES  
**MÉTIS**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL



# Métis National Dialogue: **ECONOMIC RECONCILIATION**

February 28-29, 2024 | Versante Hotel, Richmond, BC







## Message from Cassidy Caron

President of the Métis National Council

Maarsi everyone, thank you for coming to the first Métis Nation Economic Reconciliation Forum here in Richmond, B.C. The Métis National Council remains committed to supporting the Economic Development priorities of the Métis Nation and exploring existing and future policies and programs with our federal and provincial partners in the spirit of Economic Reconciliation.

Today we gather with a diverse range of partners, including our Governing Members who will discuss their current and upcoming Economic Development initiatives in their respective regions and spotlight ways in which the Métis Nation can work together to support economic prosperity across the Homeland. We also gather here today to work on the development of the greater Métis Nation Economic Development priorities, which were adopted at the 2022 Métis National Council General Assembly. We stay devoted to our commitments and continue to work to support the Governing Members in their economic development goals and discuss policy-based solutions towards Economic Reconciliation for the Métis Nation.



Métis economic development is more than job creation and procurement. Rather, it is founded on a vision of economic self-determination for the Métis Nation and is aligned with Article 3 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). It is a model based on the sustainability and autonomy of a Nation within a Nation that is empowered to support its citizens to thrive and not just exist. In accordance with Article 5 of UNDRIP, the Métis Nation's vision for economic development is based on the right to maintain distinct economic institutions, while retaining the right to participate fully in the economic life of Canada. Based within the Métis homeland and intricately tied to Section 35 inherent Aboriginal rights, Métis economic development aims to access resource rights and maximize own-source revenue in pursuit of establishing and capitalizing on durable economic opportunities, and therefore, securing the economic viability needed for the Métis Nation to meet the needs of its citizens. Ultimately, economic reconciliation for the Métis Nation is the ability to produce long-term sustainable revenue while ensuring its economic viability within Canada.

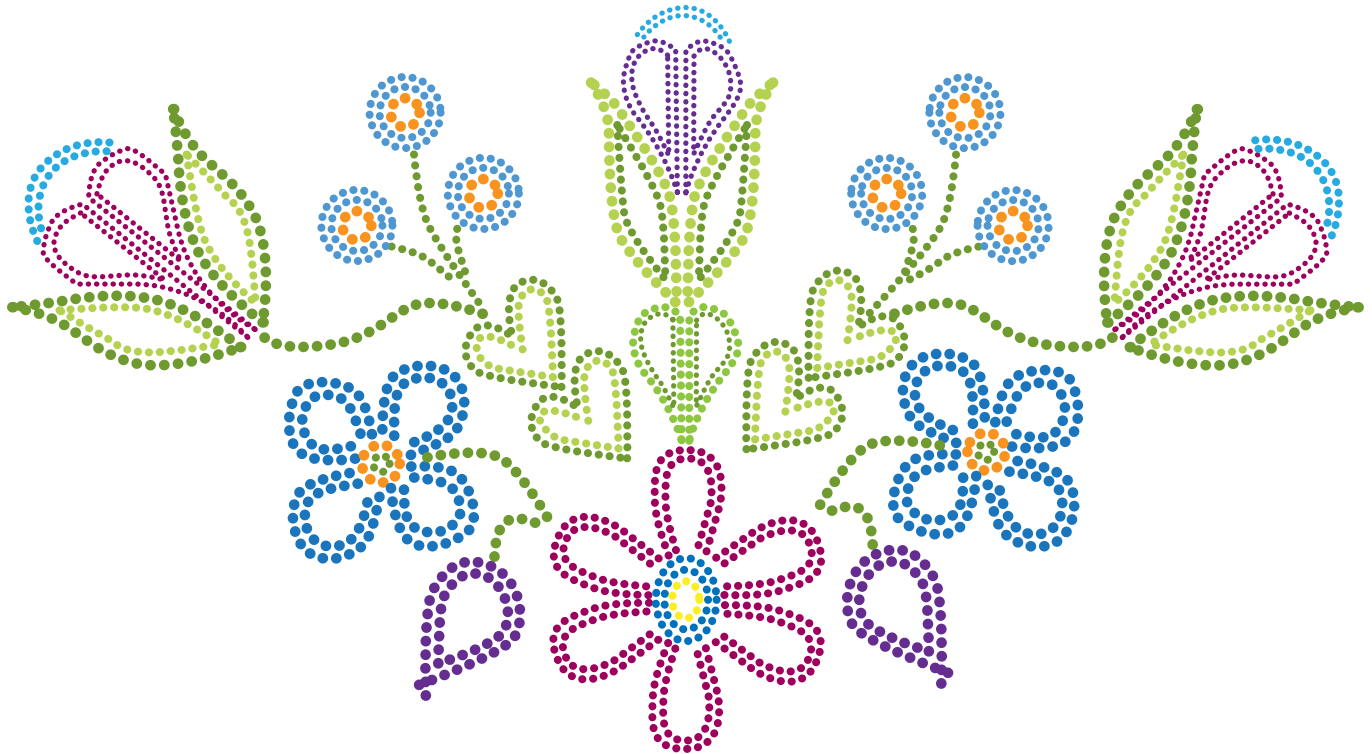
When discussing Economic Reconciliation for the Métis Nation, it is crucial to appropriately address and analyze the unique needs and challenges of Métis businesses. The Métis Nation, the Nation of the original entrepreneurs, is comprised of passionate, driven, and resilient business owners. Métis business owners face unique challenges that need to be addressed accordingly. We recognize the positive impact of our Métis Capital Corporations who continue to work tirelessly to provide lending services to our businesses and entrepreneurs across the Homeland. The Métis Nation strives for economic self-determination as a Nation within a Nation and can achieve this alongside the support of our Métis Capital Corporations and Federal and corporate partners.



Let's also note the significance of supporting our local Métis businesses and artists, as this translates into a larger economic impact. On a personal level, buying locally and supporting Métis businesses is within our inherent values of respect and trade. We also uphold the staple entrepreneurial spirit of our Métis ancestors when we support our local Métis owners. I hope that everyone has a chance throughout the two days of this forum to check out the Artist Market which showcases the incredible work of Métis artists across the Homeland.

Both economic development and economic reconciliation are important goals of the Métis Nation. Development, to ensure that Métis economic growth is sustainable to support our future sons and daughters, and reconciliation, to restore working relationships between the Métis Nation and our non-Métis business partners. As we work to strengthen our economic development, we are also Nation-building.

Thank you for all coming today as we work toward achieving economic self-determination for the Métis Nation. As always, we reflect on the hard work of our Governing Members, Métis business owners and other Partners thus far and look ahead with eagerness and enthusiasm to continue breaking down economic barriers so that we can thrive as a Nation.





# Métis National Dialogue: Economic Reconciliation

February 28-29, 2024 | Versante Hotel, Richmond, BC

## DAY ONE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Networking Breakfast
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Opening Prayer & Welcome by Grandmother Stella
9:15 – 9:30 a.m.	Welcome by <b>Minister Louis De Jaeger</b> , Métis Nation British Columbia
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	Opening Remarks by <b>Assistant Deputy Director Keith Conn</b> , Indigenous Services Canada
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Welcome by Event Lead – <b>Victoria LaBillois</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitator to share run of show, venue information etc</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break – Opportunity to visit Tradeshow
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	<b>Governing Members</b> Panel Discussion Facilitated discussion with MNBC, MN-S, MNA and MNO technical committee members on Economic Reconciliation – priorities, hurdles, and successes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart Dixon, Director of Economic Development, Métis Nation of British Columbia</li> <li>• Tyler Fetch, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, Otipemisiwak Métis Government</li> <li>• Graham Mailhot, Economic Development Officer, Métis Nation of Ontario</li> <li>• Reagan Harding, Business Development Officer, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan</li> </ul>
11:15 – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Panel on Demystifying and Leveraging Technology in Business Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Saunders, Manager, Innovation Science and Economic Development</li> <li>• Cameron Bishop, MNA Youth and Masters student in Computer Engineering and AI at Queen’s University</li> <li>• David Morrish, Chief Executive Officer, MBS TechServices Inc.</li> <li>• Joshua Nilson, Founder, East Side Games</li> </ul>
12:00 – 12:15 p.m.	Meal Blessing with <b>Grandmother Stella Johnson</b>
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	Luncheon – Opportunity to visit Tradeshow



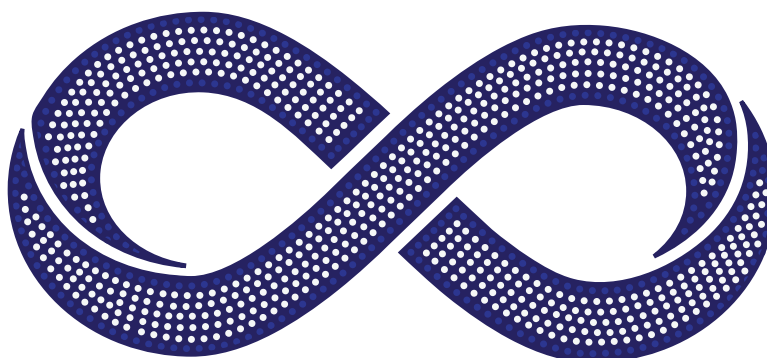
1:15 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Canada Revenue Agency</b> Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cindy Odell, Assistant Director, Indigenous Affairs Section (IAS)</li> <li>• Aliou Diarra, Director, Federal, Indigenous and Quebec Affairs Division (FIQAD)</li> <li>• Kathryn Lake, interim Director, Indigenous Services Division (ISD)</li> </ul>
2:30 – 3:00 p.m.	Networking Break
3:00 – 3:30 p.m.	<b>kisih̄toskâtonaw: Métis Nation Arts Collective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Krista Leddy, Métis Artist Collective</li> <li>• Dawn Marie Marchand, Métis Artist Collective</li> </ul>
3:30 – 4:15p.m.	<b>Métis Capital Corporations Panel</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steven Morse, Chief Executive Officer, Métis Voyageur Development Fund</li> <li>• Austen Houle, General Manager, Métis Financial Corporation of British Columbia</li> <li>• Mike Ivy, General Manager, Apeetogosan Métis Development Inc.</li> <li>• Dean Fetch, Senior Loans Officer, Saskatchewan Métis Economic Development Corporation</li> </ul>
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks by <b>Facilitator Victoria LaBillois</b> Closing Prayer <b>Grandmother Stella Johnson</b>
4:30 – 6:00 p.m.	Reception with Métis Catering – <b>Tawnshi Catering</b>

## DAY TWO: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Registration & Networking Breakfast
8:30 – 8:45 a.m.	Opening Prayer by <b>Grandmother Stella Johnson</b>
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome by <b>President Cassidy Caron</b> , Métis National Council
9:00 – 9:15 a.m.	Recap of Day One by Event Lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitator – <b>Victoria LaBillois</b></li> </ul>
9:15 – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Panel on Youth and Mentoring the Entrepreneurial Spirit</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Lagace, Virtual Assistant and Coach, Métis National Council</li> <li>• Colby Delorme, Chairperson, Influence Mentoring Society</li> <li>• Todd Ross, Indigenous Advisor University of New Brunswick</li> <li>• Keenan Beavis, Founder, Longhouse Media</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break – Opportunity to visit Tradeshow
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Jiggers/Cultural Break - <b>V'ni Dansi</b>



11:00 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Panel – Access to Capital on Major Projects &amp; Resource Development</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Richard Piche, CEO, Alberta Métis Investment Corporation</li><li>• Stephen Scott, Director of Investments, Canada Infrastructure Bank</li><li>• Reagan Harding, Business Development Officer, Métis Nation – Saskatchewan</li><li>• Tim Low, Senior Policy Advisor, Procurement Assistance Canada</li></ul>
11:45 – 12:00 p.m.	Meal Blessing with <b>Grandmother Stella Johnson</b>
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon
1:00 – 1:30 p.m.	<b>TELUS – Economic Reconciliation &amp; Procurement Presentation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Meghan McNamara, Manager for Technology Strategy/Indigenous Procurement</li><li>• Marissa Nobauer, Director of Business Strategy Development</li></ul>
1:30 – 2:15 p.m.	<b>Keynote Speaker: Dr. Shalene Jobin</b> – Author of <i>Upholding Indigenous Economic Relationships</i>
2:15 – 2:45 p.m.	Networking Break
2:45 – 3:45 p.m.	<b>Panel on Advancing Métis Procurement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Max Skudra, Partner, Mokwateh</li><li>• Danielle Aubin, Senior Director, Indigenous Services Canada</li><li>• Hannes Edinger, Managing Director, Big River Analytics</li><li>• Danny Chase, Founder &amp; President, Chase Office Interiors</li><li>• Minister Lisa San Filippo, Economic Development &amp; Tourism, Otipemisiwak Métis Government</li></ul>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Closing remarks – <b>President Cassidy Caron</b> , Métis National Council
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	Recap of Forum both days – <b>Victoria LaBillois</b>
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Closing prayer – <b>Grandmother Stella Johnson</b>







# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



## Danielle Aubin

Danielle has led the Transformative Indigenous Procurement Strategy Directorate at Indigenous Services Canada since 2021. For 9 years prior to that, she was responsible for the development, consultation, negotiation and implementation of new procurement policies for the Government of Canada as the Director of Procurement and Materiel Policies at Treasury Board Secretariat in the Office of the Comptroller General. Danielle holds a Masters of Arts in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Canadian Studies from Queen's University.



## Keenan Beavis

Keenan Beavis is the award winning Métis founder of Longhouse Media, one of Canada's fastest growing marketing companies. Longhouse specializes in growing businesses and brands from \$500k to \$5 million in sales using digital marketing and media. He has been featured in publications such as Forbes, BC Business, TechRepublic and New York Magazine. In his spare time, Keenan is obsessed with Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and MMA, practicing regularly. His biggest advice to business leaders is to 'take action'. Don't wait for all the pieces to align or for 'more time to free up' (it rarely does). Hire for the things you don't know or don't have time for and your business will grow.



## Cameron Bishop

Passionate about AI and the ethical development of this technology, Cameron Bishop is a dedicated researcher pushing innovation in natural language processing. They have been sharing insights on ethical considerations and cultural perspectives on AI throughout various talks at the Vector Institute in Toronto, AISES gatherings in both the US and Canada, and most recently at the Indigenomics Bay Street conference. In their research, Cameron is applying large-language models to low-resource Canadian Indigenous Languages, emphasizing the importance of inclusivity in technology. Within their work, Cameron is fiercely committed to responsible AI practices, which is reflected in his talks and research, and they hope to foster discussions on the intersection of technology, ethics, and cultural sensitivity.



## Cassidy Caron

Cassidy Caron is a Métis woman with roots in the historic Métis communities of Batoche and St. Louis, Saskatchewan. She grew up closely connected to her Métis traditions, heritage and culture and is driven by her family and community values of respect, honesty, collaboration and responsibility. Cassidy is the first elected woman to hold the office of President of the Métis National Council.

Cassidy is a Nation-builder. Utilizing the knowledge, skills and perspectives acquired through her formal education, professional and political experiences, as well as through her deep community involvement, Cassidy's goal is to





explore and utilize innovative approaches to community development and Nation-building, which promote effective collaboration and deeper understanding between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

As an entrepreneur, Cassidy has advised and evaluated both provincially and nationally administered programs that aim to serve and support Indigenous peoples and communities across Canada. She has also supported the implementation of initiatives in, by and for Indigenous communities throughout Canada in a variety of sectors—all of which sought to achieve an overarching goal of restoring balance and wellness to Indigenous communities.



### **Danny Chase**

Danny Chase is the president and founder of Chase Office Interiors, which has offices in Vancouver, Chilliwack, and Victoria. Danny is from the Kwanlin Dun First Nation in Whitehorse, Yukon, and started his business in 2003 after tripping into the office furniture industry and seeing an opportunity to bring a fresh approach to a mature industry. Initially, Chase Office Interiors did 100% of its business with the federal government through its Procurement Strategy for Indigenous Business Program. Now, his company is on the hunt to earn the #2 top supplier position in the office furniture industry in the province of BC.



### **Louis De Jaeger**

Minister of Health, Minister of Economic Development & Tourism for Metis Nation BC and Region 2 Director for Metis Nation BC, the Government representing Metis people in British Columbia. Louis is a business entrepreneur, social activist, and community advocate. Louis is the past-president of the Chilliwack Metis Association, sessional instructor of Indigenous Studies at the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) in Chilliwack, and an award-winning entrepreneur as owner of Bravo Restaurant & Lounge in Chilliwack. Louis serves on several boards including UFV Senate Committee on Indigenization, Indigenous Advisory Board for UFV School of Business, Metis Financial Corporation of BC, the Chilliwack Social Research and Planning Council and member of the Indigenous Health Cooperative Council at Fraser Health.

Past boards include: Stó:lō Community Futures (9 years), Chilliwack Business Improvement Association and co-founder/past-President of the Stó:lō Business Association. With a hospitality career that spans 35 years, Louis was the 2015 Federal Liberal Party of Canada candidate for Chilliwack-Hope, and in 2018 candidate for Chilliwack city council. Louis completed his Executive master's in business (EMBA) at Simon Fraser University with a certification in Aboriginal Governance from the University of Arizona. Louis is a recipient of the Al McCracken Memorial Award for Provincial Volunteer of the Year in BC, and a recipient of the RBC Entrepreneur Scholarship Award for business. Louis has a certification in Indigenous Historical Impact from the Stó:lō Service Agency and a certification in Expanding Skills in Economic Development from the BC Economic Development Association.

Louis' ancestral families are Sinclair, Norquay and Monkman with many other Metis family ties to the Hudson's Bay Fur Trade. His great-great-great Uncle was John Norquay, Manitoba's first elected Metis Premier.

Accolades include: 2015 Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce Aboriginal Business of the Year, 2012 Outstanding Achievement for Aboriginal Business in BC, and 3-time winner Dining Excellence Award ~ Chilliwack Chamber of Commerce.



Louis speaks about creating economic eco-systems that drive community partnerships, supports entrepreneurial growth, and incorporates economic, social, and governance (ESG) policies that promote Indigenous prosperity in a changing business world. Louis speaks about creating economic eco-systems that drive community partnerships, supports entrepreneurial growth, and incorporates economic, social, and governance (ESG) policies that promote Indigenous prosperity in a changing business world.

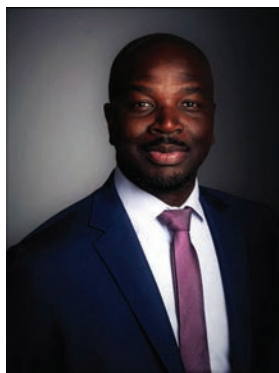


### **Colby Delorme**

Mr. Delorme has built multiple businesses and is currently president of Imagination Group of Companies. Mr. Delorme's experience has spanned the construction industry, brand development and marketing, a certification practice, franchise development, tobacco manufacturing, and business consulting.

Mr. Delorme is also a celebrated industry leader; in 2010, he was inducted into the Calgary Top 40 Under 40 and won the Big Idea 2. In 2014, Mr. Delorme received the Dr. Douglas Cardinal Award from the University of Calgary. He has a long and varied career in not-for-profit and corporate governance, sitting on many boards over the past 15 years.

His latest venture has been co-founding Influence Mentoring Society, a non-profit focused on creating mentoring relationships for post-secondary Indigenous students. Mr. Delorme holds an Institute of Corporate Directors Designation from the Rotman School of Management and was recently awarded the Queen's Platinum Jubilee award in Alberta. He remains passionate about creating new and sustainable opportunities in business and for Indigenous peoples.



### **Aliou Diarra**

Aliou began his career at the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) in the Jonquière Tax Centre, as a team leader in the Benefit Program in 2009. He occupied various managerial positions in all the divisions of the Tax Centre. In 2014, as a participant of the CRA's leadership development program, He worked in the Quebec Regional Office as a regional program advisor and in the Results and Delivery Center of Expertise at Headquarters in the Audit, Evaluation, and Risk Branch (AERB). In 2016, he joined the Service, Innovation and Integration Branch (SIIB) where he led the assessment of the World-Class Tax and Benefit Administration project and the launch of CRA's Performance Measurement Centre of Expertise. Since 2019, Aliou had occupied various executive position

in SIIB. He is currently the Director of the Federal, Indigenous and Quebec Affairs Division. Aliou has a Master Of Science from HEC Montréal in Marketing and Business intelligence and an Executive, MBA, CPA CMA. His passion is contributing to international development projects.



### **Stuart Dixon**

Stuart Dixon, MBA is the Director of Economic Development, Partnerships and Tourism for MNBC. Stuart is also proud Métis citizen based in the traditional territory of the Snuneymuxw and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations; and a member of his Chartered Community: Mid-Island Métis Nation.

Since joining In August 2023, Stuart has been uniquely tasked with leading MNBC's business profile, synthesizing MNBC's newfound strategy for advancing Economic Reconciliation, leading the aggressive expansion of

the ministry from 1 FTE to up to 10 FTE by the end of March and also managing MNBC's emerging Tourism Profile.

Stuart is very proud every day to be making a difference for Métis Entrepreneurs and Citizens by improving their overall economic welfare by leading positive change for all Métis in BC.



### **Hannes Edinger**

Hannes Edinger is an award-winning economist, a member of the Métis Nation, and the Managing Director of Big River Analytics. Hannes founded Big River Analytics Ltd. in 2011 with the mission of providing statistical and analytical capacity to benefit Indigenous governments across Canada. In addition to his work at Big River, he serves on the Board of the Pacific Institute of Mathematical Sciences and as a member of the National Stakeholder Advisory Panel for the Labour Market Information Council. When he's out of the office, Hannes is off chasing steelhead and salmon somewhere in the Pacific Northwest.



### **Tyler Fetch**

Tyler is a graduate of Native Studies from the University of Saskatchewan and has worked with Metis governments for over 12 years. Tyler is a citizen of the Metis Nation and has been an employee of the Otipemisiwak Metis Government for almost 10 years. Throughout his career with Metis governments, Tyler always worked to advance Metis rights and ensure a strong voice for the Metis across a wide range of fields, including consultation, environment, health, governance, and economic development. Through his work, Tyler has built strong and lasting relationships with Metis, Provincial and Federal government representatives and other key partners and stakeholders and has represented the OMG/MNA on numerous boards and committees. Throughout his time with Metis governments, Tyler has always ensured that the voice of those that are represented by the government are brought to the forefront and has consistently supported the advancement of Metis rights in Canada.



### **Dean Fetch**

Dean Fetch has been working in the economic development field with SaskMétis Economic Development Corporation, known as SMEDCO, in Saskatoon for the past 25 years. He has been involved in all facets of the business development process including business planning, grant administration and lending. He currently is a Senior Loan Officer, and enjoys working with clients, many of whom he has known for a good portion of his time at SMEDCO. Dean has also been a business owner himself, which gives him the perspective to anticipate and understand the needs of his clients. Outside of work he spent many years as a hockey and lacrosse coach, for which he had the opportunity to coach box lacrosse at a provincial and elite junior level. He is also active in the community having served as a director on a few Boards, most recently as Chair of a large Metis housing corporation. He and his wife Nancy have 3 kids, and are very close to being 'empty nesters', which now gives them the flexibility to do more travelling when the opportunity presents itself.





### Reagan Harding

Reagan Harding, a proud Métis citizen, serves as the Manager of Business Development at Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S), focusing on the development of the Ministry of Economic Development. He plays a crucial role in supporting entrepreneurs, collaborating with economic development corporations on major projects, and developing significant equity partnerships. Harding holds a Master of Science (MSc) in Business Management from Durham, UK, and a Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree from Lake Erie College, US. Throughout his career, he has acquired extensive expertise in strategic planning, business planning, risk management, policy administration, privacy, and project management.

### Austen Houle

Austen is a young Metis man and a descendant of the Papaschase from Alberta and has roots that lead back to the Manitoba Metis. He is from Edmonton Alberta and graduated from MacEwan university with a Bachelor of Commerce. He first got introduced to working with the Metis during university as a summer student working for Apeetogosan. Since then, he has been very involved in the Metis community in Alberta and enjoys supporting Metis entrepreneurs. Austen is currently the General Manager at the Metis Financial Corporation of BC. He brings his education and experience from Alberta to help Metis entrepreneurs in BC get the support and funding they need. He is passionate about economic reconciliation, economic development within the nation and the urgency to work towards economic sustainability.



### Mike Ivy

Since 1996, Michael Ivy has been involved with Indigenous business development in Canada with the understanding that enhancing the economic prosperity of Indigenous people necessarily implies actionable, meaningful, sustainable, and durable approaches to Indigenous participation in the economy. In various capacities in government and the private sector he has aimed this perspective in helping to permanently shape economic development frameworks that enable Indigenous execution and ownership of economic opportunity and purpose. Observing the significant impact that Indigenous Capital Corporations and Economic Development arms across Canada have had in generating durable economic prosperity for Indigenous

people in Canada, Michael returned to the Métis community in 2008 to manage the commercial financing arm of the Métis Nation of Alberta - Apeetogosan, with the sole aim of assisting Métis entrepreneurs in crystalizing and capitalizing their business initiatives.



### Shalene Jobin

Dr. Shalene Wuttunee Jobin is Cree from her mother (Wuttunee family) and Métis from her father (Jobin family). She is an Associate Professor and currently holds a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Governance at the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta (U of A). Dr. Jobin was founder of the Indigenous Governance and Partnership Program at the U of A and in 2023 held the VP-Academic position at First Nations University of Canada. Her first book, Upholding Indigenous Economic Relationships: nehiyawak narratives, was published by UBC Press in February of 2023. Jobin has published in various journals, edited collections and is involved in numerous community-centred research initiatives.



### **Victoria Labillois**

Mi'gmaq entrepreneur from Listuguj, Quebec. Victoria owns Wejipeg Excavation Inc. and co-owns Wejuseg Construction Inc. Victoria has served both the First Nation and federal public service, working at the Band, regional and national levels. Victoria is currently serving as Vice-Chair of the National Indigenous Economic Development Board. Victoria holds a BA in political science and an MBA both from the University of New Brunswick. She holds a contractor's license from Régie du bâtiment du Québec. In 2020 – 2022, Victoria represented the NIEDB in the development of Canada's first National Indigenous Economic Strategy. She also served as co-chair for a national Steering Committee with the Canadian Construction Association. Victoria serves as mentor to Indigenous women at the Coady

Institute in Nova Scotia. She serves as a coach and role model in several leadership and capacity development programs. Helping to build skills around managing money, Victoria teaches financial literacy to Indigenous youth.



### **Melissa Lagace**

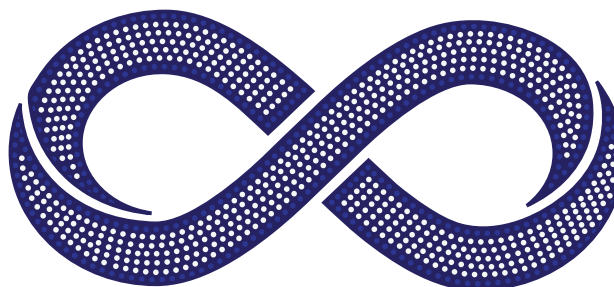
Melissa Lagacé, a Métis entrepreneur from Manitoba and mother of two girls, finds joy in outdoor adventures with loved ones. Her entrepreneurial and leadership journey began in 2015 with a direct sales company, igniting her passion for business. Transitioning in 2021, Melissa established a successful virtual assistant business, offering services including website management, design and marketing. In 2022, she expanded her horizons by launching Hustle From Home, a virtual assistant coaching business, where her TikTok presence helped over 500 individuals navigate entrepreneurship amidst the pandemic. Today, Melissa thrives as the Community and Events Coordinator at the Métis National Council,

balancing her roles while continuing to inspire and support entrepreneurs through coaching and leadership with Melaleuca. She thrives on mentoring people to earn an income from home and find something they genuinely enjoy doing everyday so work doesn't feel like work.



### **Kathryn Lake**

Kathryn Lake is the current interim Director for the Indigenous Services Division. Kathryn has worked for the CRA for over 21 years in many different programs at both the Regional operations and National Headquarters level. She thrives on challenges and opportunities to improve service delivery by working with multiple stakeholders and partners.





### **Krista Leddy**

Krista Leddy is a proud Métis woman whose family comes from the historical Métis communities of St. Albert and Lac St. Anne. She currently calls amiskwaciywâskahikan (Edmonton) home. Her beadwork is influenced by the beautiful teachings, stories, and patterns of her Métis ancestors and brings the spirit of her grandmothers into all of her pieces. Krista is passionate around her culture, sharing the depth and wealth of Métis identity through art and story.



### **Meghan McNamara**

Meghan is a Manager of Procurement at TELUS, leading the advancement of their Indigenous Procurement strategy since 2021. With a proven track record in the Oil & Gas industry, Meghan revolutionized Indigenous Procurement and drove a remarkable 900% increase in on-site capacity for Indigenous-owned companies. Recognizing the imperative for far-reaching impact, Meghan embarked on an entrepreneurial journey, assuming a pivotal role in diversifying the portfolio of a prominent Indigenous-owned company beyond the confines of the Oilsands region. As a valued member of the TELUS team and the

Indigenous Procurement Prime, Meghan continues to represent TELUS at industry conferences and events, advocating for inclusion and reconciliation in Indigenous Procurement across Canada.



### **Graham Mailhot**

Hello! My name is Graham Mailhot, and I'm excited to be participating as the Economic Development Officer for The Metis Nation of Ontario. As a finance and economic development professional, I'm working to create entrepreneurial ecosystem that uplifts individuals and communities. My educational background includes an Honours Bachelor of Science and my Masters in Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology. I have three years of direct experience in community economic development working as a Business Advisor for The Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre. In this role I collaborated with many private sector, provincial, federal and Indigenous organizations to start small business, grow existing businesses and develop public private partnerships that contributed to community economic prosperity.

I also have three years of experience in commercial business lending for a major financial institution and eight years of experience as a finance and operations manager for an industrial company where I was able to initiate and execute several successful partnerships with Indigenous Communities in Ontario. It's this breadth and depth of experience that I am using to provide value-added business development support services to Métis owned businesses who are interested in starting or expanding a business and assisting with projects that will build potential for regional economic development.





### **Dawn Marie Marchand**

Dawn Marie Marchand - cîpêhcakwawêw-iskwêw (Blue Horse Spirit Woman) is a Cree and Metis artist and a member of Cold Lake First Nations. She is an educator, advocate, author, writer, speaker, and mother. She has organized and facilitated numerous Indigenous pop-up exhibits including; the Walrus Talks-Aboriginal City art components in 2015, the first National Gathering of Elders in 2018, the facilitation of the Indigenous Artist Market Collective engagement and launch in 2018. She received an Aboriginal Role Model Award for Art in 2017, during her term as the inaugural Indigenous Artist In Residence for the

City of Edmonton. She has since gained International attention with work projected in Expo Dubai in 2021 and installed permanent public art in the Stanley Milnar Library. In 2022, she started working with Metis Nation of Alberta to create spaces that support Metis Artists in Edmonton. She is also Designer in Residence with Punctuate Theatre where she supports the Indigenous authenticity for the Indigenous Playwrite co-hort Pemmican Collective. In 2023 she had her work projected during the 2023 Junos, had work permanently placed in Edmonton City Hall and installed artwork in Banff National Park as part of their “Art in Nature” exhibit.



### **David Morrish**

David Morrish, a Metis veteran, is the owner and CEO of MBS Techservices Inc. (MBS). MBS provides advisory services in cyber security, defense procurement, and data storage. Cyber security consultancy offers a full set of first-class security solutions and services to ensure the clients are completely safe in cyberspace and physical environment. Solutions range from data protection to network monitoring and firewall management. The top quality of these solutions is ensured by MBS partners who are the highly reputable solutions manufacturers, such as IBM, Tufin and Zscaler. Cyber services include cyber compliance audits, penetration tests, OSINT investigations, and security architecture strategy development. MBS

clients are from Government, Financial, and Industrial sectors. MBS team is comprised of tenured experts from different paths of cyber security, business consultancy, intelligence, and defense. David Morrish is an avid supporter of various community and social programs.



### **Steven Morse**

Steven Morse is the Chief Executive Officer of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund (MVDF). Steven has managed four Aboriginal Financial Institutions, overseeing the start-up of two, and also served as the CEO of NACCA, the national association of the Indigenous Financial Institutions. Steven first entered the field of Economic Development as an Area Economic Development Officer in Nunavut before joining Kakivak Association, an Indigenous Financial Institution and a Designated Inuit Organisation under the Nunavut Agreement. Steven then set up and managed Dogrib Area Community Futures, which, on

the signing of the TliChô Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement, was structured as part of the new TliChô government. The NWT Métis-Dene Development Fund (MDDF) was the third Indigenous Financial Institution that Steven managed prior to joining MVDF and was the largest Indigenous Financial Institution in the Northern Territories. Steven’s last position before joining



MVDF was Chief Executive Officer for the National Aboriginal Capital Corporations Association (NACCA), the national association of Indigenous Financial Institutions, where he led the negotiation of a new suite of programming for the AFIs and the consequent transfer to NACCA of over \$ 35 million yearly in programming. Steven studied Economics and Philosophy at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Western Ontario. He is the father of Bleys, whose Métis heritage goes back to Buffalo Lake Métis Settlement.



### **Joshua Nilson**

Josh Nilson, is Metis and from Willow River, BC. He is a founder of East Side Games (ESG), making mobile games like Trailer Park Boys, The Office, Ru Paul Drag Race Superstar and more. Josh has been working in tech since 2002 and was recognized as one of the most influential business leaders in the province as part of the BC500 in 2021, 2022, 2023. Just recently, Josh was named Person of the Year 2022 at the BC Tech Technology Impact Awards. He currently works in the technology and interactive media spaces and will always stop for pugs.



### **Marissa Nobauer**

Marissa Nobauer is Director, Reconciliation, Community Engagement and External Relations at TELUS working with a team of passionate professionals across the business responsible for partnering with, advocating for and advancing access to broadband connectivity to Indigenous and rural communities in our serving area and the implementation of TELUS' first ever Indigenous Reconciliation Action Plan. Marissa is also responsible for governance of TELUS' relationship with our utility partners on TELUS' strategic infrastructure assets. Marissa holds a MSSc in International Development and Management (Lund University) and BA in Political Science (SFU). Marissa is of settler heritage, the descendant of Ukrainian Jewish refugees and post World War II German/Dutch migrants. When not working Marissa can be found exploring the world and her backyard with her husband and 6 year old.



### **Cindy Odell**

Cindy Odell is an active Algonquin First Nations member of the Wolf Lake Band in Kipawa, Quebec. Through her life, Cindy has worked amongst the community and after helping many families and children, her growth and education led her to a managerial role where she gained valuable skills and experience. Her career with the CRA started through the Aboriginal Tax Office Apprenticeship Program in 2010, a program which she successfully completed. Throughout the years, she occupied various positions within Collections, Audit, Appeals and the Liaison Officer Service. Cindy Odell is the new Assistant Director of Indigenous Affairs Section of Service, Innovation and Integration Branch.



### **Richard Piche**

Richard is a seasoned professional Metis with global experience in the energy industry. I have led operations, business development and corporate initiatives, with an emphasis on best Operations practices, Indigenous community engagement and impact. His experience includes over 5 billion dollars' worth of energy asset builds and operations. As Director of Major Projects group I lead Canadian energy corporations and



their contractors to achieve project and economic success through Indigenous Economic Inclusion and Participation in NE British Columbia and NW Alberta. Project development is a core service of AMIC, and at the request of a Metis District our Project development services team will deliver to Metis District(s), a project based on the markey principles of maximizing value and minimizing risk while ensuring that decisions to be made by the District are made on the basis of free volunteer, prior and informed consent. Through AMIC are to assist Metis Districts our goals and group And to develop, construct and operate large scale projects in western Canada.

As a proud member of the Métis community, I give back to the Indigenous community and participate in several capacities including: serving as the current Chair for Apeetogosan Metis Development Inc.; an Aboriginal Financial Institution that provides financial services and support to Indigenous entrepreneurs.



**Todd Ross**

Todd Ross is 2 spirited, a veteran and a citizen of the Métis Nation of Ontario. He is a public affairs consultant with experience in health care, Indigenous services, energy, environment, finance, and education in both the private and public sector. He lives on the east coast and is the Indigenous Advisor at the University of New Brunswick, Saint John campus, where he is also pursuing post graduate studies.



**Lisa San Filippo**

Lisa San Filippo is a natural connector and relationship builder. Her favourite topics are trust, meaningful conversations, and authenticity. She is an elected official with the Otipemisiwak Métis Government (OMG) as Citizens Representative of Rocky View Métis District 4 and appointed as the Secretary of Tourism and Economic Development. Presently she is pursuing her Masters of Education, specializing in Reconciliation Education.

Born and raised in the Red River territory, she has lived in Okotoks, Alberta for the last 19 years. She is the proud mother to five children, one son-in-law and two angel babies.



**Mark Saunders**

Mark Saunders has been working in the spectrum management program at Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada for 15 years, mainly in the development of consultations and decisions on licensing frameworks for different spectrum bands. Currently, Mark is leading a newly formed team within the spectrum policy branch, dedicated to improving access to spectrum for Indigenous businesses, communities, and service providers. This work represents an intersection of Mark's professional career and personal interests,

being both a public servant and First Nations. He is a member of M'Chigeeng First Nation, which is located on Manitoulin Island in Ontario.





### **Stephen Scott**

As Director, Investments at the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB), Stephen leads infrastructure project finance transactions in partnership with and for the benefit of Métis, First Nations and Inuit communities. He is proud and honoured to have closed a number of financings for meaningful and critical Indigenous community infrastructure projects, including land development transactions as well as deals across asset classes of clean power, wastewater, broadband, roads, railway, and airports. Stephen contributed to the development and launch of the CIB's Indigenous Equity Initiative and led the closing of the CIB's first Indigenous equity investment in the clean power

sector. As a proud member of the Métis Nation of Ontario, Stephen's lineage traces back, most immediately, to Lac St. Anne, Alberta and beyond across the Métis Homeland. Stephen lives in Toronto. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Métis Voyageur Development Fund and Anishnawbe Health Foundation. He holds an MBA from the Schulich School of Business.



### **Max Skudra**

Max Skudra brings extensive experience working with Indigenous people, communities, and businesses to Mokwateh. He formerly led the research department for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business, his work has been used to create the Federal government's 5% procurement target for Indigenous businesses, to justify the province of Ontario's \$100 million Indigenous Economic Development Fund (IEDF), and to set corporate strategy for companies like VIA Rail, Canada Post, Enbridge, and OPG. Max has worked with hundreds of First

Nations, Metis, and Inuit communities, spending his time building relationships with a hands-on understanding of what it takes to create economic reconciliation. Max served on the Working Committee developing the Indigenous chapter for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) alongside Global Affairs Canada and a small team of key stakeholders including the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, and the Métis National Council. He was also a member of the Canadian Project Consultative Committee for The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), an international initiative for Indigenous economic development. Max currently sits on the diversity and inclusion committee for the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC). With his professional experience and aptitude, Max is well qualified to successfully plan, conduct and present practical knowledge and research for the proposed project. More recently, Max has led national survey work to understand Indigenous perspectives on energy and conducted interviews with thought leaders to gain perspectives on the future of ESG and has reviewed the procurement processes for major mining firms. His most current endeavor involves working with the Treaty Six First Nations to support their economic development initiatives.



## **V'ni Dansi**

V'ni Dansi is a Vancouver-based traditional Métis and contemporary dance company dedicated to sharing the dances, stories and culture of the Métis. Led by Artistic Director Yvonne Chartrand, the company is dedicated to preservation and innovation. V'ni Dansi holds the distinction of being the only company in Canada to teach and perform both Métis and contemporary dance. Meaning "Come and Dance" in Michif, V'ni Dansi is thrilled to share the Métis people's joyful culture with audiences of all nations.





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