

VICTORIA PRUDEN, CANDIDATE PROVINCIAL CHAIRPERSON MÉTIS WOMEN BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Victoria is currently the President of the Métis Nation Greater Victoria, has been a member of the MNGA representing MNGV for several years, and Executive Director of Bridges for Women Society in Victoria.

EXPERIENCE, SKILLS AND STRENGTHS:

- **First Director of Women for MNBC, Senior Staff in Ministries of Veterans, Children and Families, ASETS (Aboriginal Skills and Employment Training Strategy), and Elders (2006-2012).**
- **Executive Director of a Women's Services Agency** on Vancouver Island, Bridges for Women Society; our Agency is committed to anti-oppressive practice, nonviolent communication, and consensus based decision making. (Current)
- **As both a former staff member, and a current community president** she has valuable experience and perspective on MNBC that she will bring to MWBC as well as the Board of Directors.
- Many years of experience **volunteering for and working in** Métis Nation communities, organizations, and currently President of Métis Nation Greater Victoria, and a member of the MNGA representing MNGV.
- **Obtained funding for and coordinated** many Métis Women's and Métis Elders Conferences, projects and programs. Skilled in proposal writing, budgeting and securing funding.
- Former Instructor in Indigenous Studies Programs, Camosun College, Victoria, BC



Métis Background:

Daughter of George and Myrtle Pruden, Victoria comes from a Métis Lineage that is deeply rooted in Red River, and in recent generations, central Saskatchewan. Victoria was born and raised in Alberta and Saskatchewan (respectively) and she has a depth of understanding about Métis identity, Métis History, as well as challenges and social issues facing Métis Women and families. Victoria and Rod Ladret have a nine-year-old son, Kwennis Pruden Ladret who has been active in Métis Nation activities since birth.



Victoria is committed to building on the successes of past Chairpersons, increasing capacity of MWBC, and involving more grassroots women in programs and advocacy that add Métis Women's voices to both internal and external discussions and issues. As an anti-violence worker, she is committed to the work addressing violence against Métis and all Aboriginal women; she has had former clients among the population of Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, and is very passionate about activism and advocacy that MWBC was created to do.

She believes that Provincial and Federal funding strategies should have a Métis-specific component that empowers and builds capacity for women at the regional and community level. She has experienced MNBC programming from a variety of perspectives, and believes she can work hard to be effective and inclusive, as well as prioritizing outreach to Métis women who need social and cultural supports.

She brings both grassroots and professional experience to the role at MWBC.



Victoria is currently the Executive Director of a Trauma-informed Women's Services agency that provides Women's trauma counseling, groups, training programs and career services for Women impacted by violence, trauma, and abuse. Victoria manages 21 staff, and an annual budget of 1.47M. Victoria prides herself on managing growth and change, and increasing community partnerships, including with First Nations and other Indigenous agencies.

Victoria was Métis Nation British Columbia's first Provincial Director of Women, hired in 2006. Victoria worked on the establishment of the first Métis Women's Act, the establishment of the Métis Women of British Columbia, and assisted several Provincial Women's Chairpersons, as well as supported Women of the Métis Nation / Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak.

Victoria is a skilled proposal writer who negotiated several funding streams for Métis Women over the years, and worked with both the Province of BC, as well as Status of Women Canada on projects to build capacity for Métis Women's Governance and Projects. Victoria will bring this experience to work to support Métis Women of British Columbia, increase participation and community opportunities for participation, and to increase the profile of Métis Women in the Province of British Columbia.

Métis Nation British Columbia Professional Experience:

Victoria has researched, written, and published numerous policy documents and resources, as well as consulted with independent research bodies to accomplish relevant social research to the scope of her work with Métis Women, Elders, and families.

- **“Métis Women Strong and Beautiful”** – partnership with NAHO Métis Centre on Métis Women’s Sexual Exploitation
- **“Sihtoskatowin: Community Based research on Métis experiences of violence and trauma”**
- **“Métis Children and Families Provincial Framework:** the role of Métis Nation British Columbia in child and family service delivery”
- **“Métis Traditional Languages Early Childhood Education Project”**
- **“Urban Aboriginal Strategy Métis Elders Engagement”**
- **“Métis Elders Traditional Storytelling and documentation project”**

MNBC Staff Project Lead or Contributor:

- **“Métis Women’s Act:** a path for governance and representation in the Métis Nation British Columbia”
- **“Métis Women of British Columbia Policies and Procedures”**
- **“Métis Veterans Act:** a path for governance, recognition, and representation in the Métis Nation British Columbia”
- **Métis Adoptions Ad Hoc Committee**
- **Memorandum of Understanding with Ministry of Children and Family Development, Métis Commission and MNBC**

As a Provincial Director (Senior Staff) for MNBC, Victoria gained experience in both operations and governance. Victoria negotiated funding, contribution agreements, managed budgets, contractors, staff, financial

Has professionally supported many Métis, First Nations, and nonprofit groups:

- **Métis Nation British Columbia**
- **Métis Women of British Columbia**
- **Women of the Métis Nation/Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak**
- **Métis Nation British Columbia Provincial Board of Directors**
- **Métis Veterans of British Columbia**
- **Métis Youth of British Columbia**
- **Métis Nation Greater Victoria**
- **Little Drum Consulting**
- **Blueberry River First Nation**
- **BC Aboriginal Child Care Society**
- **Burns Lake First Nation**
- **United Way of the Lower Mainland**
- **Success by 6**
- **Vancouver Aboriginal Child and Family Services Society**
- **North Peace Early Childhood Collective**
- **Prince George Friendship Centre, MNBC Provincial Health Coordinators**
- **Provincial Employment and Training Coordinators (ASETS agreement)**
- **Métis National Council at the “Nobody’s Children: Métis Experiences of Residential School” with co-chair, Jimmy Durocher, in 2011**
- **Indigenous Perspectives Society “Métis Experience: Residential Schools.”**

reporting, activity and outcomes reporting, activity tracking, final reports, and relationships with diverse funders.

Negotiation/Presentations: Victoria has made presentations that have spanned a range of participants from Government Directors and employees to Federal and Provincial Ministers. Some of Victoria’s ongoing duties include presentations, negotiations, and establishment of partnerships with Provincial and Federal Government funders, post-secondary Institutions and non-governmental organizations.

Victoria has provided support and technical advice to a variety of boards, including the Métis Women of British Columbia, Women of the Métis Nation/Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak, Métis Nation British Columbia Provincial Board of Directors, Métis Veterans of British Columbia, and Métis Youth of British Columbia, and various community groups affiliated with grassroots projects and research. Victoria’s technical support has included minute-taking, records of decision, drafting policy and governance documents, supporting consensus-based decision making, conflict resolution, and coordinating partnership focused project participation.

Facilitation of training, strategic planning, and workshops for a variety of groups and stakeholders. Victoria has facilitated Strategic Planning, Culture and Language workshops, community-based education workshops, cultural sensitivity workshops and proposal writing courses for a number of groups.

