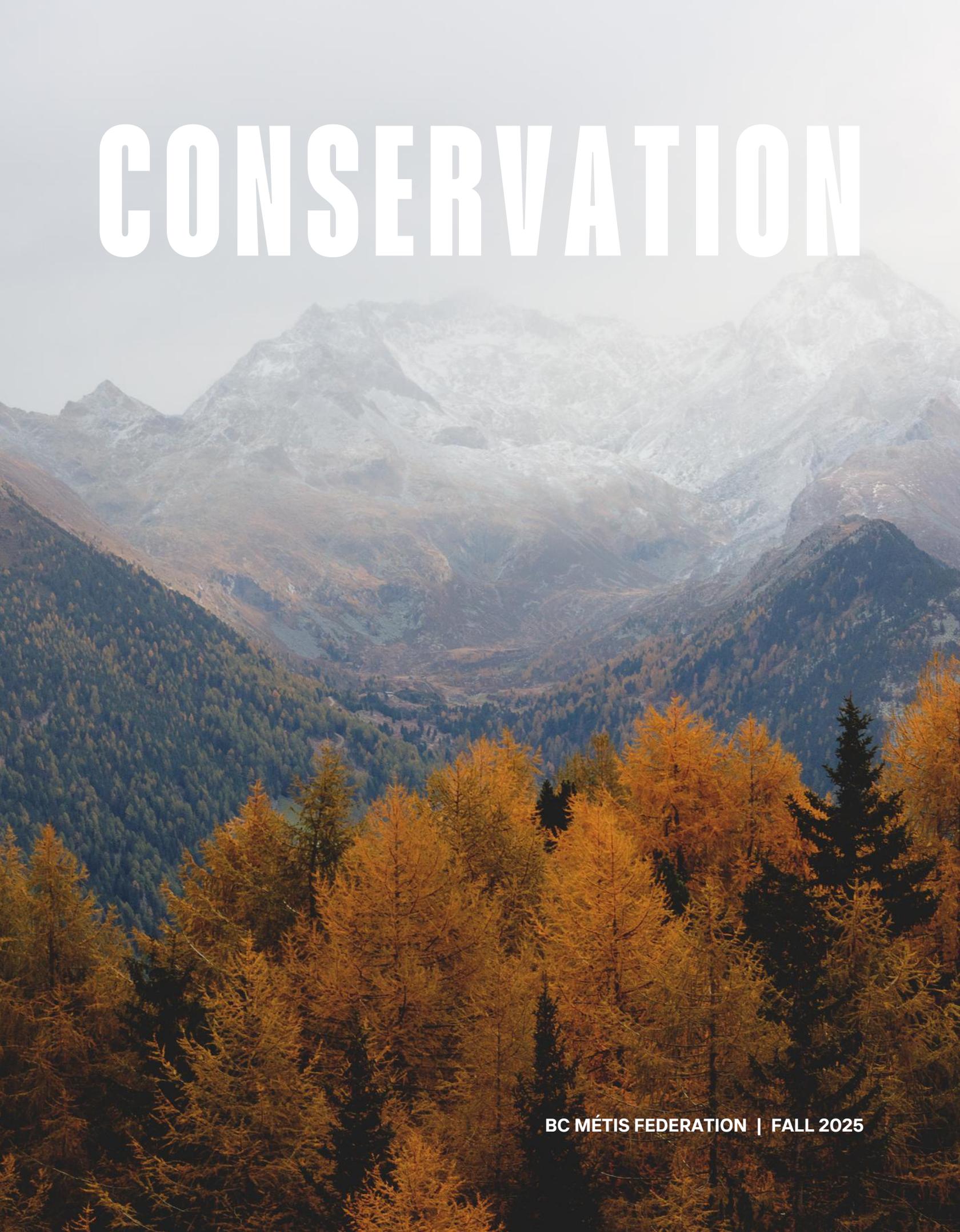


CONSERVATION

A scenic view of a mountain valley. In the foreground, there is a dense forest of tall, thin trees with golden-brown foliage. The middle ground shows a valley floor with a mix of green and brown vegetation, leading up to steep, rocky slopes. In the background, majestic mountain peaks are visible, some with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

BC MÉTIS FEDERATION | FALL 2025





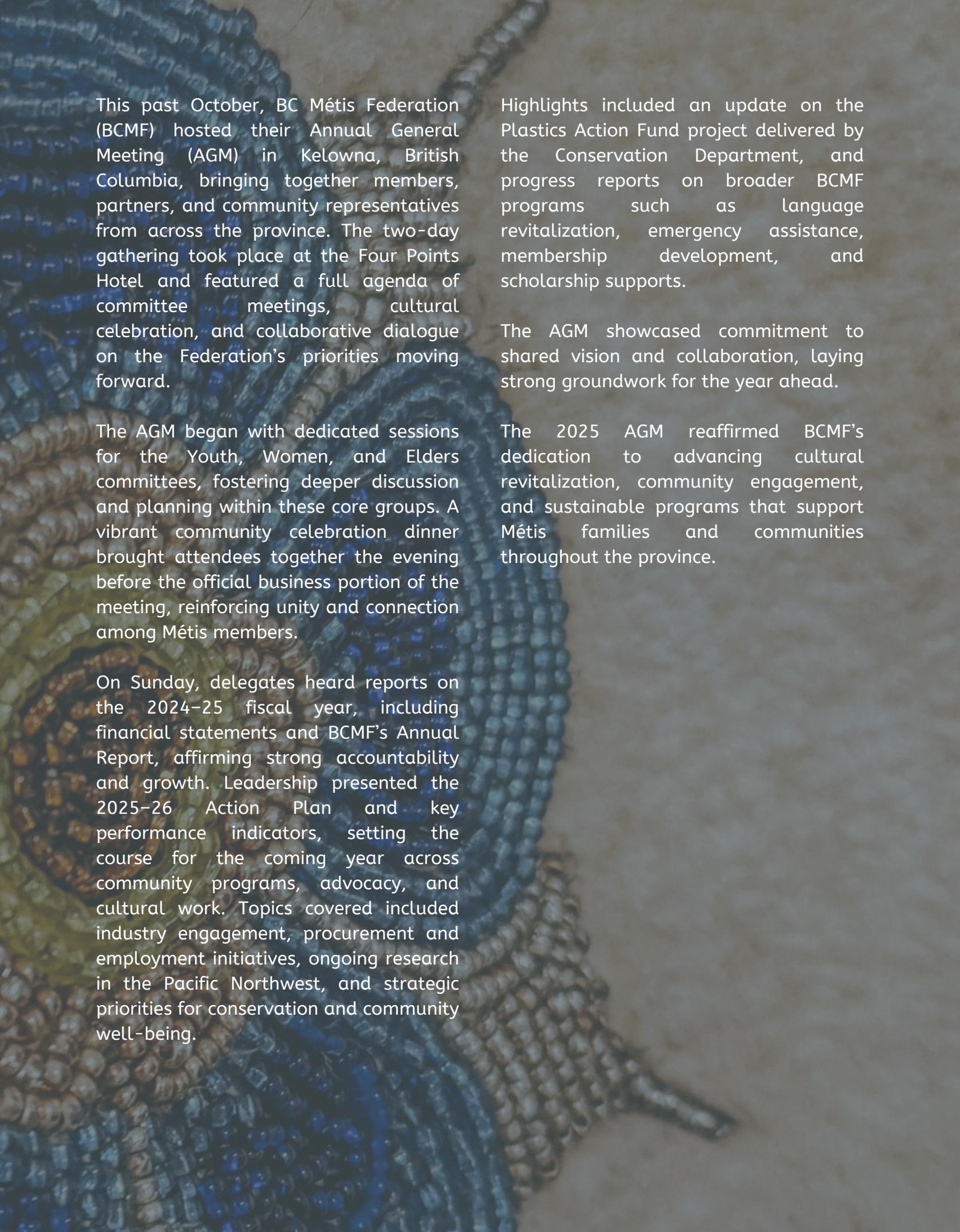
As we wrap up another **busy (bizii)** and meaningful **fall (lootonn) season (sayzoon)**, the Conservation Department would **like (koom)** to extend our sincere thanks to our members, volunteers, partners, and community supporters who have contributed their **time (taan)**, energy, and care over the past few months. Fall (lootonn) brought opportunities for reflection, connection, and continued **work (oovraazh)** on the **land (tayraen)** and waters we all share, and we are grateful for everyone who participated in and supported conservation efforts across the province.

With shorter days and cooler weather now settling in, this seasonal shift reminds us to slow down, look back on what we've accomplished together, and prepare for the quieter months ahead. **Fall (lootonn)** is often a time of transition, between the energy of **the summer (l'itii)** and the stillness of **winter (l'ivayr)**, and it offers space to appreciate the importance of rest, planning, and community.

As we move toward the **holiday (vakaans) season (sayzoon)**, we wish all our members and their families a warm **(fay shoo)** joyful **time (taan)** filled with connection, reflection, and celebration. Whether you are gathering with loved ones, spending time outdoors, or enjoying the comforts of home, we hope this **season (sayzoon)** brings peace and renewal. From all of us in the Conservation Department, **thank you (maarsii)** for your continued support, and we wish you **happy (koontaant) holidays (vakaans)** and a safe, healthy, and restful **winter (l'ivayr)**.



ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING



This past October, BC Métis Federation (BCMF) hosted their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Kelowna, British Columbia, bringing together members, partners, and community representatives from across the province. The two-day gathering took place at the Four Points Hotel and featured a full agenda of committee meetings, cultural celebration, and collaborative dialogue on the Federation's priorities moving forward.

The AGM began with dedicated sessions for the Youth, Women, and Elders committees, fostering deeper discussion and planning within these core groups. A vibrant community celebration dinner brought attendees together the evening before the official business portion of the meeting, reinforcing unity and connection among Métis members.

On Sunday, delegates heard reports on the 2024-25 fiscal year, including financial statements and BCMF's Annual Report, affirming strong accountability and growth. Leadership presented the 2025-26 Action Plan and key performance indicators, setting the course for the coming year across community programs, advocacy, and cultural work. Topics covered included industry engagement, procurement and employment initiatives, ongoing research in the Pacific Northwest, and strategic priorities for conservation and community well-being.

Highlights included an update on the Plastics Action Fund project delivered by the Conservation Department, and progress reports on broader BCMF programs such as language revitalization, emergency assistance, membership development, and scholarship supports.

The AGM showcased commitment to shared vision and collaboration, laying strong groundwork for the year ahead.

The 2025 AGM reaffirmed BCMF's dedication to advancing cultural revitalization, community engagement, and sustainable programs that support Métis families and communities throughout the province.

LIVING WITH FIRE:

THE MÉTIS WILDFIRE COMMUNITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE



What is the most important thing you've learned about traditional Métis approaches to wildfire management?

"Gaining knowledge of the benefits of traditional Indigenous forestry practices that were discouraged or banned by colonial governments."

- Karen Prouse

What is the most important thing you've learned about traditional Métis approaches to wildfire management?

"Many people don't know that controlled burns used to be common. They rid the forest of fallen timber and other debris that were then unavailable to be fuel for larger fires."

- Rosanne Forget



The BC Métis Federation Research Department is leading the Métis Wildfire Community Research Initiative - an Indigenous-led, community-based project supported by Natural Resources Canada.

The core research team includes Director of Research Joe Desjarlais, Dr. Bruce Shelvey, and Tanner Timothy, alongside community researchers Cindy Wilgosh (Clearwater), Rosanne Forget (Terrace), and Karen Prouse (Fort Nelson).

Local researchers are the heart of this work. They live where the stories are, and they carry out research for their own communities, recovering history, memory, and knowledge that has often been overlooked. Building on earlier projects, the initiative brings together archival research and mapping technologies to understand how Métis communities have lived with and adapted to wildfire across British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest.

This work connects past and present, ensuring Métis knowledge of fire, land, and resilience is carried forward. The project spans the Pacific Northwest because Métis kinship networks, trade routes, and ecological knowledge have always crossed modern borders.

More than uncovering documents, this research reshapes how Métis communities are understood, revealing

dynamic, mobile kinship networks with deep knowledge of forests, rivers, and terrain.

At the BC Métis Federation, we believe wildfire resilience is not just about technology. It is about people, relationships, and wellbeing. By learning from Métis fire histories, we can support approaches today that are adaptive, grounded in kinship, and led by community.

For more on the department and our work, go to MetisInBC.ca, where visitors can explore interactive story maps, read articles, and learn about Métis families, places, and histories.

