

# BC MÉTIS FEDERATION CONSERVATION

DECEMBER 2024



Coastal  
Water Protectors



**BC Métis**  
FEDERATION

# KELOWNA

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



In December, the BC Métis Federation's Conservation Department focused on meaningful community engagement in the Kelowna area. This engagement included multiple initiatives that emphasized collaboration, education, and addressing local conservation concerns.

Our efforts began with a significant contribution to the Kelowna Yacht Club as part of the First Responder Initiative. This program is designed to provide spill kits to BC Métis Federation members, partner communities, and organizations that can benefit from having tools to respond effectively to potential fuel or oil spills. These spill kits are Canadian-made and specifically tailored for small pleasure craft vessels, capable of containing up to 20 gallons of fuel. Each kit includes personal protective equipment, clear instructions, and all necessary materials for a safe and efficient response. The donation of seven spill kits to the Kelowna Yacht Club represents our commitment to equipping local organizations with the resources needed to protect aquatic ecosystems and ensure safe boating practices.

Later that evening, the Conservation Department met with a small group of Métis community members in Kelowna to discuss their specific concerns regarding conservation in the Thompson Okanagan area.

This intimate gathering provided an opportunity for open dialogue, enabling our team to better understand the unique environmental challenges the region faces. Topics of discussion included the impacts of wildfires, the threat of invasive species, and the importance of preserving local water systems. This conversation underscored the importance of listening to community voices and incorporating their perspectives into our conservation initiatives.

The following day, the Conservation Department hosted a larger community session titled "Growing Roots: A Conservation Connection." This session began with a presentation from our team highlighting the successes and initiatives of 2024, including the First Responder Initiative and other conservation projects. After the presentation, attendees participated in a roundtable group discussion where they voiced their thoughts on key environmental concerns in the Okanagan. A significant portion of the discussion centered on the increasing frequency and severity of wildfires in the region, as well as the threat of invasive species in Okanagan lakes. These issues are clearly top of mind for the community and will help guide the focus of future conservation efforts.

The feedback and engagement we received in Kelowna were invaluable. These sessions not only provided an opportunity to share information about our conservation programs but also allowed us to build stronger connections with the community and better understand their priorities. The concerns raised, particularly regarding wildfires and invasive species, will inform our strategic planning and reinforce our commitment to supporting conservation efforts in the Thompson Okanagan area.

The Conservation Department is grateful for the participation and insight of the Kelowna community and looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively to protect and preserve the natural beauty of British Columbia. Together, we are growing roots for a sustainable future.





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