

# THE MONTHLY UPDATE

Coastal Conservation

## LOWER MAINLAND ENGAGEMENT

BC Metis Federation's Coastal Water Protectors hosted four Lower Mainland summer engagement beach clean up sessions. Three of them took place at bustling English Bay beach, a popular location for locals and tourists. The last one for summer was held at Kitsilano beach.

The first of four sessions gained media coverage with CBC news covering a piece on the volunteer work being done by the Coastal Water Protectors and Metis members.

The main take-away from the sessions was that the oceans need us and they need us now more than ever!

“ —  
I was shocked about the amount of cigarette butts that were left on the beach. I was saddened to learn of the negative impact cigarette butts have on marine life. |

— ”  
- Tanya Mellish



# COASTAL CONSERVATION

Caring For Our Coastline

## VANCOUVER ISLAND ENGAGEMENT

BC Metis Federation's Coastal Water Protectors held two Vancouver Island summer engagement beach clean up sessions. The first of the two was held at beautiful Pipers Lagoon Park in Nanaimo. The second took place at Rotary Beach in Campbell River.



“Ocean preservation is important for our future generations and generations to come. If we don't work on it now, there will be no oceans to enjoy. We all need to help the earth!”

- Val Byrnes



# COASTAL WATER PROTECTORS

**The Coastal Water Protectors (formally known as the West Coast Water Protectors) was formed in early 2021 and consisted of the following team members; Claire Desjarlais from North Vancouver, Earl Belcourt from Cobble Hill, Tania Carriere from Richmond, Vanessa Prescott from Vancouver, Angel Fisher from Surrey, Kassandra Sison from Burnaby, Debbie Harris from Richmond, and Earl Storey from Abbotsford. The team has recently doubled in its size and welcomed eight new team members this year; Zia Yazdani from Burnaby, Tracy Ragazzi from North Vancouver, Brad Giroux from Nanaimo, Tanya Mellish from Surrey, Constance Louie from Duncan, Catherine Sine and Gary Besse from Black Creek and Kimberly Campbell from Nanoose Bay.**

When the Coastal Water Protectors aren't hitting the beach for a clean up session they're preparing for their future environmental monitoring and marine response courses. The team is all set for a group wide gathering later this month for discussions, brainstorming and planning for the next upcoming 18 months.



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When you love something, you protect it - that's why I am participating in the Coastal Water Protectors, in collaboration with the Canadian Coast Guard. I enjoy tactile and measurable solutions!

- Vanessa Prescott

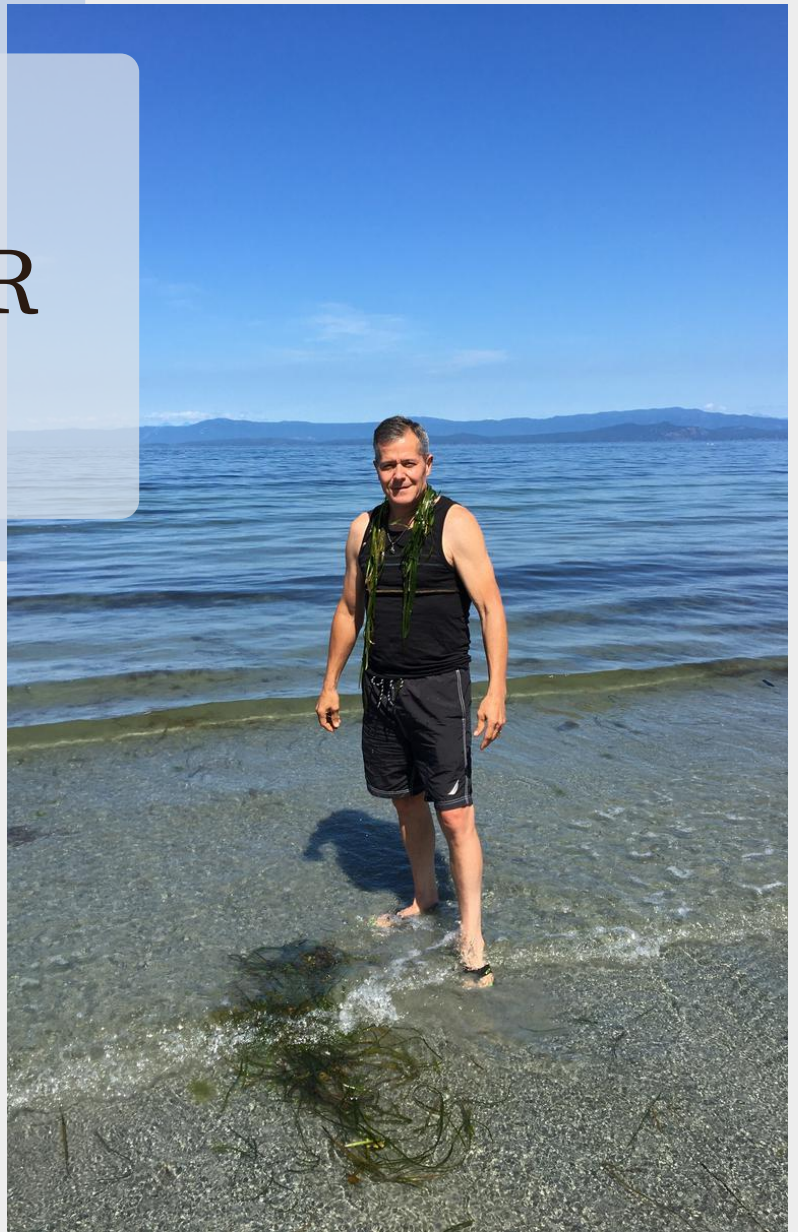
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# MEET YOUR COASTAL WATER PROTECTOR

## BRAD GIROUX

My name is Brad Giroux, and I am a proud member of the BCMF and also an employee as the Industry Engagement Coordinator.

As a long time resident of Vancouver Island, the beauty of our oceans and marine life is of utmost importance to preserve for our younger generations so they can be immersed in all that our ocean has to offer, such as spirituality, food source, and how it maintains livelihood for indigenous peoples.



**I HAVE A STRONG CONNECTION TO THE OCEAN,** as my father and mother (who sadly passed away in 2019) have operated a wilderness resort up Narrows Inlet on the Sunshine Coast for the last 30 plus years. The camp is situated by a running creek, cooking is done over an open fire, and local food is gathered such as shellfish, berries, mushrooms, etc. for those who really want to take what the land and ocean has to offer.

Gathering off the land or waters is deeply embedded in my childhood. Growing up in northern Alberta and the NWT, our family relied on hunting and fishing on the land as part of the remote lifestyle, being a young Metis. My late mother is plains Cree Metis, and her father was a trapper who trapped a line in Northern Alberta for many years.

Today, as I look back on my life, I am proud of my 86 year old father who still operates the wilderness camp, with the spirit of my Metis mother given him guidance and strength to maintain the serenity of the ocean as well as keeping the sensitive and fragile waters and shores as pristine as possible.

My story will continue ....

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 / SEPTEMBER 2022

# CELEBRATING TEN YEARS!

This year BC Metis Federation celebrated 10 years! Some of the Coastal Water Protectors were able to attend this special event in person. The group met in the afternoon for introduction of new members and spent the evening celebrating a decade of service to Metis in British Columbia.



Coastal Water Protectors in attendance; Earl Storey from Abbotsford, Zia Yazdani from Burnaby, Constance Louie from Duncan, Angel Fisher from Surrey, Vanessa Prescott from Vancouver, Earl Belcourt from Cobble Hill, Brad Giroux from Nanaimo and Tracy Ragazzi from North Vancouver.

“

The achievements of an organization are the results of the combined efforts of every individual. I am glad that I am part of this positive forwarding mission. The ten year anniversary was such a great opportunity to meet and connect with some of the amazing and lovely members of my community; moreover, the entertainment with some talented people was phenomenal and made some great memories for everyone. I am seeing a bright future for the federation, and I as a small part of it will do all my best for the Coastal Water Protectors.

- Zia Yazdani

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# WHAT TO DO IN SEPTEMBER



Esquimalt Lagoon clean-up, Victoria BC  
September 19 - 4:30 p.m.

Come join some of the Coastal Water Protectors for an information session and beach clean up. Receive a tote bag and gift card for participation. Register with Angel at [a.fisher@bcmetis.com](mailto:a.fisher@bcmetis.com)

Ella Beach clean-up, Sooke BC  
September 20 - 4:30 p.m.

Come join some of the Coastal Water Protectors for an information session and beach clean up. Receive a tote bag and gift card for participation. Register with Angel at [a.fisher@bcmetis.com](mailto:a.fisher@bcmetis.com)



## Register for ICS - 100

ICS - 100 is the introduction to 'Incident Command System' and provides a basic understanding and foundation for higher level ICS training. Learn the history, features, principles and the organizational structure of the Incident Command System. Contact Angel at [a.fisher@bcmetis.com](mailto:a.fisher@bcmetis.com)

