

THE MONTHLY UPDATE

Coastal Conservation

COASTAL ENGAGEMENT

BC Metis Federation's Coastal Water Protectors hosted three end of the summer community engagement beach clean up sessions.

The first of the three sessions was held at Kitsilano beach in Vancouver, a popular location for the Coastal Water Protectors and community members to meet at.

This particular community session was a special one as it was in honor of Debbie Harris. Debbie was one of the original Coastal Water Protectors whom recently passed away in September of this year. Debbie loved the idea of the beach clean up sessions so we couldn't think of a better way to honor her.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

“ —
The greatest enemy to our planet is the delusional belief that someone else will save it. By just sitting and crossing our fingers, hoping for a change, it won't happen. Mother nature relies on each ordinary person, like you and me, on our choices, and on our will. We can help our home and save our future together if we get united now!

— ”
- Zia Yazdani



Some of the Coastal Water Protectors travelled down to Vancouver Island to host the remaining two summer sessions. The team first met with community members of the Victoria area at Esquimalt Lagoon before heading further down the coast to Sooke to meet with community members at Ella beach. Both sessions were a great end to a successful summer of community engagement!

COASTAL CONSERVATION

BC Metis Federation's Coastal Water Protectors met in early September for a team gathering to go over the next years goals and plans. The afternoon was spent on a tour of the Western Canadian Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) warehouse in Burnaby where the team was able to gain in person knowledge.

Some of the Coastal Water Protectors travelled to Sooke in late September to attend a Juan Du Fuca workshop with the Canadian Coast Guard and First Nations representatives.



COASTAL WATER PROTECTORS

The Coastal Water Protectors welcomed a new member to the team, Nick Desjarlais of North Vancouver.



September 21st marked National Tree Day and some of the Coastal Water Protectors made it down to Larson Park in North Vancouver to restore part of the park with native trees. The team planted a special tree in memory of Debbie Harris.



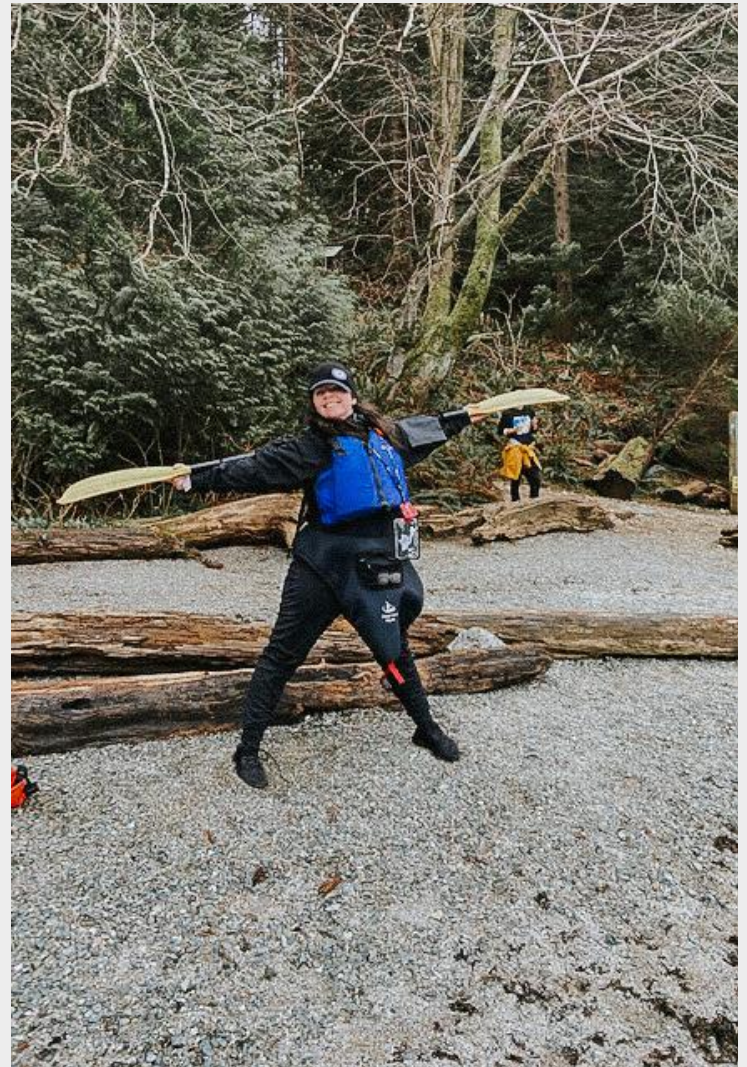
The autumn months is all about expanding the teams knowledge as we head into winter months where the team will be focused primarily on surveying and researching for 2023/2024 fiscal plans. October's scheduled training includes; WHMIS, Pleasure Craft Operator Card course, Introduction to Emergency Management and ICS - 100 for some of the newer team members

MEET YOUR COASTAL WATER PROTECTOR

KASSANDRA SISON

Taanshi. Hello. My name is Cassandra and I am a Coastal Water Protector here in the Lower Mainland, living on the traditional, unceded territories of the Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh and Musqueam peoples.

I moved to the coast from Winnipeg as a young girl with my family, and have lived close to the Ocean ever since. We moved to downtown Vancouver and I spent many days at English Bay, and walking the Seawall searching for Seals, letting out an excited squeal any time I happened to spot a head poking above the water. I'm still guilty of this, it happens every time.





MEET YOUR COASTAL WATER PROTECTOR

KASSANDRA SISON

It wasn't until I had children of my own that I really began to look at conservation, and understand our collective responsibility to protect our environment for future generations. As an avid paddleboarder and beach goer, I have seen the changes to our coastline and the impacts of industry on our fragile marine ecosystems first hand. Rather than feel helpless, I am thrilled to participate in the Coastal Conservation program at BCMF, and learn how to deserve the title of Coastal Water Protector.

I have learned so much already through the program and I am so excited for our next phase of learning. This community of water protectors is an amazing group of people, and I feel very fortunate to work alongside them for the betterment of our coastal communities.

“THE CURE FOR ANYTHING IS SALT WATER: SWEAT, TEARS OR THE SEA.” — ISAK DINESEN

I've always loved this quote, “The cure for anything is salt water: sweat, tears or the sea.” — Isak Dinesen. Whenever I am troubled, I know I can give my troubles to the water. Water is healing, essential for life and it is our responsibility to protect our resources, support our aquatic mammals and marine species that make this province such a beautiful place to live.

HONOURING COASTAL WATER PROTECTOR

DEBBIE HARRIS

In September of this year our team lost one of our original Coastal Water Protectors, Debbie Harris.

Debbie was one of the first BC Metis Federation members to sign up for the Coastal Water Protector program in early 2021 and was a dedicated team member to the federations conservation efforts.

Debbie grew up in Delta before settling down in Richmond with her husband and two children. Debbie worked as a travel agent and at a plumbing firm in Vancouver. She had a big heart and was empathetic and that shined through with her passions. Before joining the Coastal Water Protector's and becoming involved with coastal conservation, Debbie assisted inmates in the United States who were wrongly convicted of crimes.

Debbie had a long five year battle with brain cancer and leaves behind many family and friends who will miss her dearly.



WHAT TO DO IN OCTOBER

CELEBRATING OUR COAST

Wednesday October 26th

6 - 7 & 7:30 - 8:30

BC Metis Federation

Suite 350 - 3665 Kingsway, Vancouver

Come down to the BC Metis Federation head office and have a tour of the new Coastal Conservation office and spend the evening learning about the project and create your very own coastal driftwood art piece. Sign up with Angel at a.fisher@bcmetis.com

Refreshments and all supplies provided.

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

