

Betty Ann McDonnell is a strong but humble Metis woman. She has belonged to the Friendship Center for many years, she has been a member of the Elder group for the past 4 years and enjoys every moment of her time with this wonderful group. Several years ago, she was honored to be on the Conayt Board, during that time she was able to prove her ability to be a team player, working with Pete Hourie, Elijah Mack, Wayne Kaboni, to name a few, as well as several current staff members. In the time she was on the Board she never missed a meeting and as signing officer she attended to sign cheques within in 2 hours of being called, as well she volunteered at many of the functions.



Betty Ann works hard at all she does. She has been President of Nicola Valley & District Metis Society for 2 years as well as President and Vice President in the past. As such she has worked very hard for her Community with Covid support, driving Elders to appointments out of town, applying for funding, attending continual zoom meetings, sits on the Aboriginal Education Committee with school District 58, attends Metis grads with an Elder to sash graduates, sits on the Local Justice advisory Committee, has been able to (with the support of MNBC) more than triple funding the Community receives and much more.

In 2020/2021 Betty Ann was awarded the volunteer of the year award for the Nicola Valley as well as Volunteer of the Year by MNBC for Metis activism. Both of these awards were voted on by Community members.

Betty Ann has been on or worked at: Coldwater Transition House

Outreach Worker

Insurance Agent

Youth Worker

Ran the Teen Center

Advocate for Families and Children

Advocate for Teens leaving care

Advocate for Elders

Metis Women's Rep

Fundraiser

Mobile support team member for Provincial Emergency Program

Betty Ann has is a current elder representative for Conayt Friendship Society New Head Start Childcare Centre at NVIT. She is also the leader of NV and District Metis Society and raised \$42,000 with MNBC to have a playground designed and created by young Metis artist Pat Calihou.

During the Lytton fires Betty Ann talked to a fellow Metis woman from Lillooet and realized at there needs to be support for animals and opened a response centre for animals. With donations from several organizations they kept operating for three months and helped large and small animals with food,

crates, shelter, and more. During the flooding in Merritt her husband stayed home and looked after the animals as well.

Betty Ann is a strong advocate for all Indigenous people, and believes Urban Indigenous need strong representation on the Conayt Board to ensure language, Cultural beliefs and practices, Elder support, youth support, family support, capacity building, infrastructure, support for the Conayt ED as well as staff, are being met to the best of the Boards ability. She is also always more than willing to continue listening and learning every day.