

The Métis Family Connections team is excited to share the Learn with Louis Fall 2022 Issue. Each issue includes family-friendly educational content on Métis culture, including Métis traditions, language, and activities. If you would like your family's story highlighted in our "What's your name, where you from" segment please email: metisearlyyears@mnbc.ca

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FALL 2022



Learn with Louis

INSIDE

- 1 Métis Cultural Connections
- 2 Buffalo Bulletin
- 2 Child Care Survey
- 2 Louis Kid's Club
- 3 Sharing the Message of Truth and Reconciliation with Your Children
- 3 How did Louis the Buffalo get his Name?
- 4 Louis' Journey to Trethewey House Heritage Site
- 4 Michif with Maddy the Magpie

Métis Cultural Connections

OUR DISTINCT MÉTIS CULTURE DEFINES US AS ONE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA. MAKE CONNECTIONS TO YOUR MÉTIS CULTURE, AND LEARN WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE.

TRADITIONAL MÉTIS CLOTHING

"Today, we wear ribbon skirts to demonstrate our pride in our culture and to honour the women who came before us. We make our skirts in the colours that are pleasing to us, and we wear them when we feel the need to be connected and grounded in our culture" (Dorion, 2021)



Loverdure girls in ribbon skirts their mother made for them.

The Red River area in the 1800s brought us the distinct Métis clothing we know today. The clothing entailed a combination of fur traders' dress along with First Nations style. One of the most attributed features of this clothing was the copious decoration that included beadwork, quillwork, shells, buttons, feathers, ribbons, embroidery, and painting.

The traditional style for men's clothing included a long jacket tied around the waist with a sash. Numerous types of jackets were worn depending on the time of year, one being a capote. The capote is a long jacket with a hood and would

commonly be worn from Fall to Spring. Different colours of capotes would be worn depending on the region. The Métis tended to wear blue capotes, which was a significant colour of the North West Company. The North West Company was a fur trade company organized in the 1770s and was considered a rival of the Hudson's Bay Company.

Other everyday dress for men included the Red River coat and buckskin jacket. Women typically wore practical

clothing, such as shawls and dresses.

Traditionally, women and men wore moccasins made of animal hide, which helped keep feet warm and dry in all types of weather. Fur traders recognized moccasins as the best footwear for travelling through the backcountry.

Although contemporary materials can be utilized quite frequently today, moccasins, hide or velvet vests, shawls, buckskin

jackets, and ribbon skirts and shirts – which are commonly decorated with beadwork and ribbons that are sewn onto them – are commonplace at Métis cultural gatherings.

Sources:

Kaa-wilichihitoyaahk (We take care of each other) – Métis Perspectives on Cultural Wellness

Author: Métis Nation British Columbia

Publisher: Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia (2021)

<https://bit.ly/KaaWii>

sinapân kiskasâkâs: A Guide to Making Contemporary-Style Métis Ribbon Skirts

Authors: Bonny Johnson and Leah Marie Dorion

Publisher: Gabriel Dumont Institute Press (Jan. 1, 2021)

<https://bit.ly/sinapan>



Ivor and Thor Byrnes in ribbon skirts their mother made for them.

