

# Le Villazh Maachi Kashkihtow

## *The Village of Learning*

### Taanishi (Hello)

Welcome to the first edition of  
*Le Villazh Maachi Kashkihtow,*  
*The Village of Learning.*

Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) aims to bring culturally relevant information and highlights from the Ministry of Education, to inform your practice of cultural inclusion, emphasizing the Métis Way in each edition.



# Highlights

## *in this issue*

- 3 | Métis Early Learning Framework
- 3 | Métis Core Values
- 4 | The Giving Tree – Invitation to Play
- 4–5 | Métis Pedagogists – Introductions
- 5 | Meet the Educators Sharing Métis Culture
- 6 | Highlights in Métis Early Learning and Child Care
- 6 | Michif Language
- 7 | MNBC Services and Programs for Métis Families and Educators
- 8 | Resources
- 8 | Contact Information





## MÉTIS NATION EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE FRAMEWORK

# Métis Early Learning and Child Care Framework

**THE MÉTIS NATION HAS A VISION FOR ELCC** in which Métis children and families throughout the Homeland are provided with culturally-relevant, self-empowering ELCC programming and services that focus on the development and maintenance of strong Métis families and communities across the lifespan, beginning at birth. Métis Nation ELCC will promote the

healthy growth and development of children and families through experiences grounded in Métis culture and community ways while Métis-specific wrap around services, programs and policies will support their ongoing well-being.

To read more about the Métis Early Learning Framework go to:  
<https://bit.ly/MetisELCCFramework> ✿

## Seeds of Sharing – Growing our Children and their Values

IDEAS FOR EXPLORING THE MÉTIS CORE VALUE OF **SHARING**, IN THE CLASSROOM.

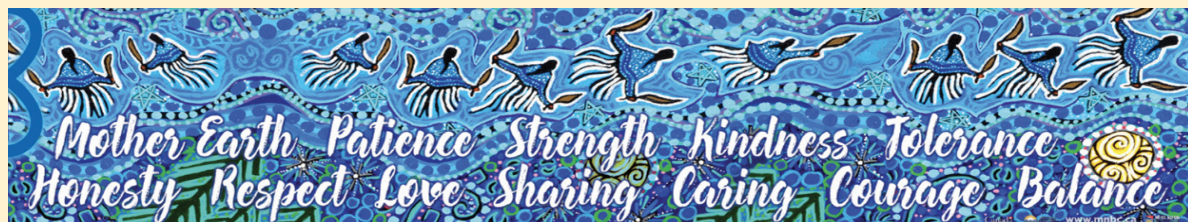
- Sharing stories, teachings, and ideas.
- Collaborating through art, building projects, or verbal story-telling.
- Encouraging and modeling sharing
- Upholding inclusivity of all cultures and abilities.
- Sharing songs, rhymes, chants, and movement.
- Sharing the outdoors, respecting the land/environment.
- Teaching that Mother Earth provides us with resources. We share her with all creatures and Relations.
- Welcoming feelings and experiences.
- Practicing sharing and valuing children's gifts and little wins.
- Showing appreciation for sharing in a good way.

## Métis Core Values

- Mother Earth
- Patience
- Strength
- Kindness
- Tolerance
- Honesty
- Respect
- Love
- Sharing
- Caring
- Courage
- Balance

**THESE 12 CORE VALUES ARE THE MÉTIS WAY OF KNOWING AND LEARNING.** As outlined in the children's book "The Giving Tree" by Leah Dorion, the Core Values build a foundation for young Métis children, guiding them on how to relate to each other and their surroundings, centering around the importance of cultural ways.

**THE MÉTIS CORE VALUE OF SHARING IS HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.** Sharing can expand playtime; showcasing talents and gifts and giving the opportunity to share stories with others in a good way. We also learn to share the land and all that Mother Earth offers. It reinforces generosity in children, family, community and beyond to all our Relations.





# The Giving Tree – Invitation to Play

## THE GIVING TREE: A MÉTIS TRADITIONAL STORY

Share the story, "The Giving Tree" by Leah Dorion, then recreate your own Giving Tree. It can be made from a cardboard box (as pictured), paper, or a variety of materials you have on hand! Have children decorate the tree and let the creativity flow! You can make items from the book out of felt or use real items. Expand learning about The Giving Tree, both indoors and outdoors, with a variety of materials; collect or

create trees, leaves, sticks or naturally created hiding spaces in your playground or neighbourhood. There are so many possibilities for exploration! Provide invitations to play where children can create and share with friends and family. This is the perfect opportunity to talk about the gifts of Mother Nature, one of the 12 Métis Core Values.



As we know, having culture visible in your environment creates a feeling of cultural safety, acceptance and belonging. As educators, we have the opportunity to create space for families to see themselves and their culture reflected in our environments. This activity is just one way to reflect Métis culture and Core Values. 🌸

# Métis Pedagogists INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS PEDAGOGY?

A method and practice of teaching by exploring ideas and issues, creating an environment where learning and thinking flourish.

## MÉTIS PEDAGOGY

The Métis Pedagogists' positions were created out of a collaboration between MNBC Ministry of Education and the Early Childhood Pedagogy Network (ECPN). Their goal is to work with Métis Elders, educators, children, and families on pedagogical projects with a Métis lens, while integrating the BC Early Learning Framework and the Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework. Métis Pedagogists empower educators to weave Métis core values, culture and language throughout curriculum using collaborative dialogue, critical thinking, and a reflection process.



*Nina shares cultural knowledge with children and practices pedagogy. A "trace" from a pedagogical narration created by Amanda...*



Welcome to the mud kitchen! The children explored the outdoor kitchen with mud after having the opportunity to cook Bannock earlier in the classroom with their child care providers. Amanda supported exploration and expanded learning to the outside play area where children created new "recipes" with mud.





# Métis Pedagogists: Who are they?



**NINA TYPUSIAK**

Nina self-identifies as Métis, speaks English and French, and is working to learn Michif. Nina holds a certificate in Early Childhood Education with a current certificate to practice, as well as the Waldorf Kindergarten Teaching Certificate. She has worked for 30 years in a variety of child care settings.

Nina welcomes any questions. Feel free to contact her at [ntypusiak@mnbc.ca](mailto:ntypusiak@mnbc.ca)

(Métis Pedagogist, Serving the Thompson Okanagan & Northern Communities)



**AMANDA ROSSITER**

Amanda Self-identifies as Métis and is currently learning Michif while immersing in the Métis culture. She holds a diploma in Early Childhood Education with a current certificate to practice. Amanda has over 18 years' experience in a variety of settings including Aboriginal Head Start programs to in-home, multi age care.

Amanda welcomes any questions, feel free to contact her at [arossiter@mnbc.ca](mailto:arossiter@mnbc.ca)

(Métis Pedagogist, Serving Vancouver Island, The Fraser Valley, and Coastal BC Communities)

## Meet the Educators Sharing Métis Culture



### HIGHLIGHTING MÉTIS CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

**Tanshi! My name is Cara, and I am an Early Childhood Educator.** I have been in various roles in the ECE field for 17 years,

and for the past 8 years I have been the StrongStart BC Facilitator in Tumbler Ridge. During my career, I have valued relationships with families of all different beliefs and cultures. It is important to me to incorporate these wonderful diverse features into my curriculum and interactions with children and families. The most natural way to bring a culture into a classroom is to invite a family to share individual cultural aspects with the program. It is wonderful to have that personal connection to a culture and have a glimpse of a different way of life. Children enjoy hearing and learning different languages and songs, seeing

traditional clothing and items, and sampling ethnic foods. In my home, my husband and our three children have Métis Citizenship. It has been a pleasure to display the Métis flag and sash and read some Métis storybooks at circle time. We are proud to share part of our home with the children at StrongStart. Recently we had some visitors, Alisha and Nicky, from MNBC, join us to share puppets and books including Michif language. Combining resources, community, and families gives educators a wonderful opportunity to bring culture from each child and family together into a rich diverse experience for all! ✨



**You could be highlighted in a future newsletter!** Tell us about yourself — email [MCCB@mnbc.ca](mailto:MCCB@mnbc.ca)



# Highlights in Métis Early Learning and Child Care

## STEPS FORWARD IN MÉTIS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

On March 20, 2022, the Province of British Columbia released the first-ever action plan under the Declaration Act. Developed in consultation and co-operation with Indigenous Peoples, it outlines 89 specific actions every ministry in government will take to creating a better province for Indigenous Peoples in BC. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) is pleased to see the Province of BC release the long-awaited action plan dedicated to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration).

"MNBC is pleased to see Métis recognized as a distinct People in the action plan, in recognition of our Nation's Indigenous status under the Constitution Act, 1982," said Lissa Smith, President.

There are several positive actions in the plan. MNBC President Lissa Smith comments on the implementation of a

distinctions-based approach to move forward jurisdiction over child care for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people; "Providing culturally relevant, Métis-led childcare that considers the operational realities of Métis child care operators and the unique needs of our Métis children, families and communities is a critical goal of MNBC. We appreciate the province's dedication to building a universal child care system that takes a distinctions-based approach and allows MNBC to have jurisdiction over child care for our children. We value this approach that respects Métis self-determination and the commitment of the province's child care division to work in collaboration and partnership with MNBC." Lissa Dawn Smith, President, Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC)

For more information, see: <https://bit.ly/UNDRIP89>

## Do you provide early learning or child care services to Métis children birth to 12 years?

**IF YOU ANSWERED YES, LIVE IN BC AND DID NOT COMPLETE OUR 10-MINUTE SURVEY THIS PAST JULY, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

- The survey is voluntary and can be anonymous; or
- You can enter your name into a draw for a chance to win a Métis cultural gift!

You can access the survey at <https://bit.ly/ELCCsurvey> or by scanning this QR code.



YOUR INPUT will assist Métis Nation BC and the Ministry of Education and Child Care in determining future policy directives and actions for Métis children and families in BC.

For more information, or to complete the survey in PDF format or by phone, please contact:

**Laranna Scott**  
lscott@mnbc.ca  
778-559-2198

## Michif Language On The Go!

Michif is the official language of the Métis People. It is a fusion of Cree and French. Like many other Indigenous languages, the loss of the Michif language is a reality. As a Nation, we are working to revitalize the language in different ways. One helpful tool is the **Michif to Go App**. This App provides accessible learning. The App translates

words and phrases into Michif, allowing you to hear the words and phrases. What better way to learn the language than having it on the go? This makes it easy to incorporate language into your daily practice with children, making cultural inclusion accessible.

For more information: [https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif\\_tools.php](https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif_tools.php)



### TRANSLATIONS BY "HERITAGE MICHIF TO GO" APP

| ENGLISH      | MICHIF          | PRONUNCIATION        |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Hello        | Taanishi        | Tawn-shi             |
| My name is   | Dishnihkaashoon | Dish-in-ee-Kaw-shoon |
| Good morning | Boon Matayn     | Boon Maatayn         |
| Thank you    | Maarsii         | Mar-See              |
| Share        | Taanshkinikay   | Taansh-Kin-ee-Kay    |



# MNBC Services and Programs for Métis Families and Educators

MNBC MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SERVICES AND PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES.



## MÉTIS CHILD CARE BENEFIT

### THE MCCB PROGRAM IS EXPANDING ITS FUNDING!

FAMILIES ENROLLED IN THE MÉTIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM ARE NOW ABLE TO APPLY FOR FUNDING TO SUPPORT WITH THE COSTS OF LICENSED PRESCHOOL!



### Do you have Métis children in your care? Did you know they could be eligible for the Métis Child Care Benefit?

The Métis Child Care Benefit is available to children birth-12 years, who are already enrolled in the Métis Family Connections Program. The Métis Child Care Benefit (MCCB) is a monthly benefit to help Métis families with the cost of child care. Families can access up to \$500/month per child. Contact [mccb@mnbc.ca](mailto:mccb@mnbc.ca) for more information.

## Growing Our Children – Good Beginnings

Do you know someone who is interested in caring for young children? In partnership with the BC Family Child Care Association, the Ministry of Education at MNBC offers a 30-hour family child care course to support Métis Citizens in gaining access to improved education.

The Good Beginnings Course is beneficial to our Métis community with retention and recruitment of Métis Early Learning and Child Care professionals, and helps in supporting our Métis families with the creation of culturally inclusive child care programming.

For more information on Growing Our Children – Good Beginnings, and for information on training sessions, you can visit our website below.

<https://bit.ly/goodbegin>

## Funding for Métis Early Childhood Education

In partnership with STEPS (Skills Training | Employment | Post-Secondary), MNBC's Ministry of Education provides training opportunities for those interested in becoming Métis Early Childhood Educators. These programs provide students with the competencies and knowledge required to work with children under the age of five in licensed preschools and child care centres. To work as an ECE or ECE Assistant in a licensed child care facility in BC, you must be certified by the ECE Registry. Connect with Colleen Jacyna at [cjacyna@mnbc.ca](mailto:cjacyna@mnbc.ca) or Heather Kelm at [hkelm@mnbc.ca](mailto:hkelm@mnbc.ca) for more information.

<https://steps.mnbc.ca/training-opportunities/>

**Métis  
Early Childhood  
Education Funding**

*Takaki Awasisiwin*

“A good childhood for the future of our people”

Are you a Citizen of Métis Nation British Columbia and interested in exploring a career in Early Childhood Education? There are many opportunities, and you are in demand!

The MNBC's Ministry of Education and STEPS have partnered together to provide this opportunity.

As a Métis Citizen, you may be eligible to access funding for early childhood education and the wrap-around supports needed to succeed in your education.



**MÉTIS NATION  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
CONTACT ►

- Colleen Jacyna at [cjacyna@mnbc.ca](mailto:cjacyna@mnbc.ca)
- Heather Kelm at [hkelm@mnbc.ca](mailto:hkelm@mnbc.ca)





## Contact Information

### Resources

- Educational Downloadable Resources <https://www.mnbc.ca/mnbc-ministries/education/>
- Heritage Michif To Go app <https://www.Métismuseum.ca/michif-app/>
- The Giving Tree by Leah Dorion <https://bit.ly/buygivingtree>

### OUR MÉTIS CHILD CARE NAVIGATION AND SUPPORT COORDINATORS

The Métis Child Care Navigation and Support Team supports early learning and child care programs, Early Childhood Educators, families and communities throughout BC. Through the Métis Child Care Benefit Program, families can access additional funding to bridge the connection to the Affordable Child Care Benefit. The Child Care Coordinator Team also provides cultural learning and connections to Early Childhood Educators and Early Years Providers. Want more information? Contact your regional coordinator today!

#### Region 1 - Vancouver Island & Powell River

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#### Region 5 & 7 - North Central & Northeast

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