


Le Villazh Maachi Kashkihtow

The Village of Learning



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

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



Métis Early Learning and Child Care Framework

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 Nation Early Learning Framework please visit <https://bit.ly/3H5GQEt>

The Métis Nation Early Learning Framework identifies a vision for early learning and child care in which Métis children and families throughout the Homeland are provided with culturally relevant, self-empowering early learning and child care programming and services. Principle #8 within the framework focuses on how ELCC programs and services will be informed by evidence and knowledge that includes traditional and community-based knowledge, best practice information, and data gathered from research and evaluation.

Surveys have been conducted to share information by both early learning service providers and families from across the province to guide programming and creation of Métis-specific child care spaces.

The purpose of the work is to enable MNBC to complete engagement with Métis Nation communities on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Child Care ("the Ministry") related to distinctions-based culturally safe early learning and child care. Bringing forward the voices of the 39 Chartered Communities, Early Childhood Educators and Métis service providers.

In 2022, MNBC's Early Learning & Child Care Survey was distributed to Early Learning and Child Care programs.

The initial findings from that survey confirm the following:

- Recruitment and retention of staff and staffing for children and youth with extra support needs are identified as the top challenges for providing childcare in BC.
- Wages and benefits were the most prevalent response when ELCC programs were asked how BC can recruit and retain Early Childhood Educators.
- When asked what ELCC programs need to be more inclusive and culturally safe for Métis children and families, the top five needs identified were:
 - o Métis cultural resources
 - o professional development
 - o access to Elders/ Knowledge Keepers
 - o cultural outreach services
 - o enhanced funding and supports for children with extra support needs.



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One of the goals of our Métis Early Learning Framework is to create Métis-specific programming and services to support the early learning and developmental needs of Métis children and families, developed and delivered by the Métis Nation, through its governing members.

MNBC's Ministry of Education is striving to achieve this goal by providing programming and services such as Good Beginnings – Growing Our Children.

Good Beginnings provides training to participants to provide family child care in their home, as a Registered License Not Required child care provider.

This course is designed for students interested in opening their own family child care business. This course meets the current provincial training requirements and incorporates new and up-to-date information regarding Child Care Licensing Regulations and Standards of Practice. Level 1 and Level 2 together provide comprehensive training, ensuring quality child care and the successful management of a Registered License Not Required, family child care business. Through interactive sessions that encompasses Métis learning, highlights Métis culture and introduces participants to community connections both through MNBC ministries and community networks, as well as a focus on child development, guidance, health and safety, nutrition as well as managing a child care business.

For further information and to apply to this course please contact: metisearlyyears@mnbc.ca

This opportunity supports Métis citizens (or those with active applications with the MNBC registry) to explore a valuable career in caring for young children. Additionally, it supports Métis families who need access to child care. The latest graduates shared their reflections on their recent learning.

Good Beginnings – Testimonials from our winter participants!

"Good Beginnings' is a wonderful program. We enjoyed every session, gaining a wide range of experience from our new friends who were taking the course also. We learned a great deal about Métis culture from the elders and other guests. All our teachers were kind and understanding. We will recommend the program to others." — Nancy and Franklin Murphy

"This course was such a good reminder of best practices of "what to do" rather than "what not to do" to raise healthy, happy children. My children are in their mid-late 30's so it has been many years since I raised young children. Many things have transpired such as electronic devices and impacts of screen time, so there was a lot of new learning. I want to give special "kudos" to the great facilitators who were extremely knowledgeable, helpful and understanding. The guest speakers were outstanding and I was very moved to hear their stories and particularly about how passionate they are about the Metis heritage. It makes me proud to be a Métis citizen. Well done!" — Diana Southey

"I was nervous to take the course not having had schooling in decades. I thoroughly enjoyed learning more about child care and the native culture. The instructors were kind, patient and covered the material well. I highly recommend the Good Beginnings course and know it will benefit me and the children in my care!" — Dawn Bucsu

"I would say it's never too late to learn. This course is easy to navigate you learn lots and meet new friends. I thank everyone at Good Beginnings for the opportunity." — Val Byrnes



Métis Core Values

PATIENCE

Spring is a time of patience as we wait for regrowth. Winter months are long, and waiting can be hard. Patience is a skill that is learned and needs to be fostered. Are there areas local to you, where signs of spring are becoming visible? Perhaps during time outside, there are signs of new growth and spring renewal that you can share with the children in your care. What looks different? What can you hear? Do you smell new smells? 🌸

Invitation to Play: Changing Seasons

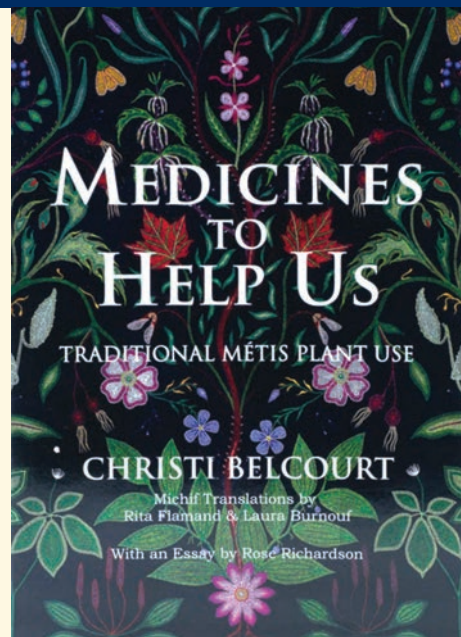


In traditional Indigenous ways, healing is approached holistically and includes the treatment of the whole person including one's emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Within all aspects of traditional healing, plants, in one form or another, are incorporated into the healing process.

– *Medicines to Help Us. Traditional Métis Plant Use* by Christi Belcourt.

With the seasons changing and new life and growth upon us, this time lends itself to the magic of wonder especially, when it comes to plant life. By providing children with materials, they can freely explore how they are connected to plant life. We can expand on Mother Earth's bounty by providing dirt, willow, birch, local floral and berries.

Where could this take place in your environment? Can you expand this learning opportunity through neighbourhood walks, forest adventures, community gardens or local elder teachings? Take the opportunity to be outside to watch and look for things related to season change.



Métis Foraging Practice – Medicine on the Land

To order the book: *Medicines to Help Us* – visit Métis Trading Post metistradingpost.shop

Dandelions can be used to make tea from the roots and salves from the blossoms.

First, find an area that you are sure is free of sprays and environmental contaminants and remember that dandelions are a crucial food source for the bees so only harvest what you need! The roots can be harvested in early spring and the flowers can also be collected once they have fully blossomed.

Recipe found here: [Homemade Dandelion Tea – How To Make Dandelion Tea \(gardeningknowhow.com\)](#) 🌸

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 visit <https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif-dictionary.php> or <https://www.learnmichif.com/> to learn more.



TRANSLATIONS BY “HERITAGE MICHIF TO GO” APP

ENGLISH	MICHIF
Patience	pa iksitii
Grow	ahkikiw
Progress	ayshkum atimyeupayinn
Seed	lii grenn
Dandelion	li pisaanlii
Flower	enn fleur
Come on now, spring	pee-pihtikwee
Spring	praentaan
Bee	amoo
Garden	zhaardayn



Meet the Educators Sharing Métis Culture

HIGHLIGHTING MÉTIS CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM



Meet Julie

Julie is an Early Childhood Educator holding a diploma in Early Childhood Education for almost 30 years. She grew up in Montreal, moving to BC almost 7 years ago to pursue her passion of supporting children and families. Currently, Julie runs a Licensed Family Childcare Center located on the traditional and unceded territory of the L'htako Dene, home to the North Cariboo Métis Association, otherwise known as Quesnel. As an adult, Julie discovered her Métis ancestry. She is in the process of connecting with and learning more about her culture. Julie finds ways to integrate culture into her daily practice in simple, practical ways. You can see her core values shine through so naturally and authentically.

Mother Earth is at the center of Julie's curriculum, offering opportunities to interact with Mother Earth in a variety of ways. Julie has an outdoor space any child would love to explore. In the winter a sliding hill is the main attraction with a lovely meandering track surrounding it, that provides easy trekking for little legs. In the summer, the children maintain a greenhouse house with strawberry plants. When enough fruit is harvested the children assist in preserving jam. Teaching Métis core values of patience, sharing, balance, kindness, and the list goes on, is at the center of the care Julie provides.

When discussing her program, she is wanting to learn more about Métis culture so it can be reflected. I asked about parent involvement, and she laughed as she told me, "I tell potential families, if they don't want me as an extension of their family, then I am not the center for them. I text on weekends, and we have barbeques. I even take children to events after hours. It is important to me that the child sees me as a part of their family. It just helps them to feel secure."

Thank you, Julie, for sharing your time, culture, and centre! 🌸



Meet Laranna Scott

Laranna works with the Ministry of Education leading work in Early Learning & Child Care Engagement. She is gaining the voices of community to contribute to the work the province is doing around early learning and child care.



Meet Cherie

Cherie is a proud Métis woman from Prince George, BC who has been an Early Years Educator with the Niwîkôwin Métis Family Services since 2020.

Cherie sat on the committee that organized the development of a Métis childcare program in Prince George, BC, called Kiki Awâsis Learning Center, which opened in June 2022. The Métis core values are posted throughout the center to remind everyone about their roots, values, and connections to Mother Earth. The center's programming is Métis specific, where children can learn about their Métis roots, culture, and values while being supported in a culturally safe environment. Through her work, Cherie has been in the field supporting families and children, learning about their Métis heritage through crafts, activities, and language.

Cherie grew up always knowing that she was Métis and her own culture assisted her along the journey of finding out who she is. Cherie feels lucky to have this knowledge and share it with her own family as well as the families she cares for. 🌸



You could be highlighted in a future newsletter! Tell us about yourself — email MCCB@mnbc.ca

MNBC Services and Programs for Métis Families and Educators

Summer Supplement: The Métis Child Care Benefit Program identified a need for alternative child care during winter, spring and summer school breaks for school-aged children. In response, the Ministry of Education has extended funding for children ages 5 to 12 allowing Métis families to access the MNBC summer supplement of \$500.00 per child, per summer month (July and August). Applications will be open May 2023. This is inclusive of summer programs as an alternative to child care. Some exemptions may apply. For more information contact mccb@mnbc.ca 🌸



MNBC's Ministry of Education: Early Learning Programs for Families and Educators



MÉTIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS – EARLY YEARS

Métis Family Connections – Early Years is for families with Métis children birth to 8 years. Métis Family Connections – Early Years is focused on helping families build a network of support that provides children with opportunities for early learning and childhood development.



**Métis Family
Connections
Early Years**

MIYOOPIMATISHIH (WELLBEING) PROGRAM

The Miyoopimatishihk (Wellbeing) Program was developed by Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) for families with Métis children birth to 8 years. Métis families can apply for and access services funded directly by MNBC.



**Miyoopimatishihk
(Wellbeing) Program**



MÉTIS FAMILY CONNECTIONS – MIDDLE YEARS

Métis Family Connections – Middle Years is for families with Métis children aged 9 to 12 years. Métis Family Connections – Middle Years is focused on connecting families with culture and providing opportunities to access the Métis Child Care Benefit program.



**Métis Family
Connections
Middle Years**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATORS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA (ECEBC) PAID MEMBERSHIP

In partnership with Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC), MNBC is pleased to offer Métis Early Childhood Educators, and Métis ECE students, paid ECEBC membership. Early Childhood Educators of British Columbia (ECEBC) supports to educate and advance the rights and needs of early childhood educators, children, and families in BC.



**Ministry of Education:
Early Learning K-12**

MÉTIS CHILD CARE BENEFIT

The Métis Child Care Benefit (MCCB) Program is a service offered by the Métis Child Care Navigation and Support Program, for families with Métis children birth to 12 years. Through the Métis Child Care Benefit Program, eligible families may be able to access additional funding from what is provided by the Provincial Affordable Child Care Benefit to support with the cost of child care.

The Métis Winter and Spring Break Supplement helps Métis families with the cost of child care during school breaks – exclusively Winter and Spring Break.



**Métis Child
Care Benefit**

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR SUPPLEMENT

To show our appreciation and to acknowledge the value in caring for our children, MNBC has created a Métis ECE Supplement. This is designed to support our licensed Métis ECEs and ECEAs who are working in licensed child care programs across the province with an financial supplement.



**Ministry of Education:
Early Learning K-12**

IMAGINATION LIBRARY

The Imagination Library is a literacy program for children birth to 4 years. Métis children that are registered in the program receive a free, age-appropriate book each month.



Imagination Library

Introducing the Métis Early Years Cultural Resource Development Project

The Métis Early Years Cultural Resource Development project was created to develop Métis cultural resources for the early years and implement them in early learning and child care environments throughout British Columbia.



This professional learning guide and related resource kit will support educators, families, and communities in exploring Métis culture and identity with children from birth

to eight years old. The activities in "Aansaambaenkiskayhtaamuk" (Learning Together) align with Métis values, the

Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework, B.C.'s Early Learning Framework, the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework and B.C.'s K-12 curriculum.

By introducing various resources and providing ideas on how to incorporate them into the learning environment, it is intended to support early learning and child care professionals to integrate Métis content and pedagogy into their work with young children. Promoting learning environments in which Métis culture is recognized and celebrated will ultimately lead to increased awareness of Métis identity and culture.

Starting this spring the kits will initially be provided to your local Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) and other

programs and organizations across B.C. and later be available for purchase on the MNBC (Métis Nation BC) Trading Post www.metistradingpost.shop



From the Hearts and Minds of our Métis Pedagogists

"Educators work with curiosity and allow inquiry questions to guide the focus of noticing and recording to make a moment visible. Noticing and interpreting what children do and why they do it probes the connection between thinking and questioning and shows or makes visible the way children are making meaning of their learning and interactions to the world." – From British Columbia's Early Learning Framework.

Make an Art Studio with Amanda the Métis Pedagogist at Nanaimo Innovation Academy

Amanda's pedagogy reflection.

Amanda led the children in slowly while drumming to the stones outside of the child care centre's fence. A brief performance in a circle involving the children took place before each child made their own art studio. Children were given the opportunity to move around freely in order to engage with

any materials close by, living, non-living and spiritual. Some children chose to move to the planter boxes where conversations around what was growing and what was formed underneath occurred. Others engaged with non-living materials such as metal bowls, cups, and sticks. A feather was passed around to those who wanted to hold it and tell their story to others. This activity was open-ended where stones were the focus for creative opportunity to create an art studio outside with the materials at hand.

Artist Amanda Rossiter



Taanishi Trena Hebert

Trena self-identifies as Métis and is excited to be learning Métis culture. She holds an Early Childhood Studies Degree and a

current certificate to practice. Trena has over 24 years of experience in a variety of settings including owning and operating a group child care center in Fort St. John B.C. and working with Aboriginal Head Start programs. Trena has worked closely with Northern Lights College, mentoring practicum students for several years. Trena has a vast interest in Métis core values and naturally incorporates these into her relationships with children, families, and peers. She welcomes any questions, please contact her at thebert@mnb.ca (Métis Pedagogist, serving the Okanagan and northern communities).

Métis Early Childhood Education Appreciation Evening

MAY IS CHILD CARE MONTH

Each year the province of British Columbia proclaims May as 'Child Care Month.' Child care is an integral part of family and community, and it is during the month of May that the province recognizes the important role that quality child care makes to the community. Métis Nation British Columbia Ministry of Education recognizes the contribution that Early Childhood Education professionals provide for the Métis families throughout the province. In recognition of their continued dedication, MNBC hosts a virtual appreciation evening annually to highlight their work providing ongoing Métis culturally inclusive programming within their community. Monique Gray Smith's quote highlights that sharing this cultural knowledge and learning opportunities is medicine for Métis children and families.

"Share Wisdom, Knowledge, Hope and the important teaching that Love is Medicine." – MG Smith

MNBC EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE APPRECIATION EVENING

Métis Nation B.C., Ministry of Education is hosting an evening to celebrate, honour and recognize Early Learning and Child Care professionals for their hard work and commitment to providing children and their families with cultural learning opportunities.

Do you know a Métis Early Learning and Child Care professional who provides Métis cultural early years programming for children in your community? Nominate them today! All nominees will confirm their nomination and will be invited to join MNBC for a virtual event on May 31, 2023. To show our appreciation each nominee will be gifted for their dedication to Métis culturally inclusive programming, in addition, two of the nominees will be selected to receive an award for their contributions and dedication. For more information contact metisearlyyears@mnb.ca.

Nomination forms are available through this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/bcbHSD0Rrr>

The nomination deadline is May 7, 2023.



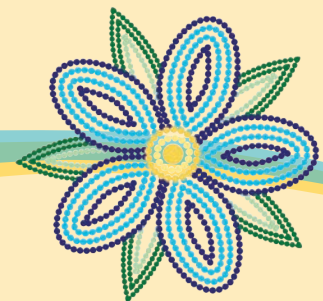
COURSES AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT EDUCATOR WELL-BEING IN THE CLASSROOM

The Province of BC's Ministry of Education and Child Care has partnered with MindUP, a not-for-profit organization founded to support whole-child, whole-school, and whole-community positive transformation, to offer courses that support adult well-being. These courses are open to adults working in child care facilities and the K-12 education sector.

Participants will learn about the practice of self-care and mindful teaching through the lens of MindUP's four pillars – neuroscience, mindful awareness, positive psychology, and social and emotional learning. These courses are self-paced and free to take. Find more information about this program and register at [BC Educators MindUP for Life](https://bc.edu/mindup).

More information on Child Care in B.C. Check out the Child Care BC Bulletin.

[ChildCareBC Bulletin - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://childcarebc.ca) 🌸



Resources

- Métis Nation BC Ministry of Education
<https://www.mnbc.ca/education>
- Heritage Michif To Go app
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/michif-app/>
- Monique Gray Smith Videos
[Watch & Listen — Monique Gray Smith](#)



Contact Information

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.

For more information, contact us at metisearlyyears@mnb.ca.