

Le Villazh Maachi Kashkihtow

The Village of Learning



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



Highlights *in this issue*

- 2 | **Métis Early Learning and Child Care Framework**
 - Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk - Learning Together
- 3 | **Métis Core Values**
- 4 | **Winter Scavenger Hunt - Invitation to Play**
- 4 | **Animal Tracks - Métis Foraging Practices**
- 4 | **Michif Language**
- 5 | **Meet the Educators Sharing Métis Culture**
- 5-7 | **MNBC Programs and Services**
- 7 | **Métis Nation Early Learning & Child Care**
 - Métis Early Years Conference – Victoria, BC
 - Provincial Updates on Registered License Not Required Child Care
 - National Child Day
- 7 | **ChildCare BC Bulletin Updates**
- 8 | **Métis Early Years:**
 - A Pedagogical Narration by Yolanda Mooijer and Cara Koebel
- 8 | **Resources**
- 8 | **Contact Information**



Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework

Goal #5 – Integrating Métis culture, languages and values into the design and delivery of ELCC programs for Métis Nation Children and Families. By offering high quality, Métis focused professional development to early years educators across the province, our Métis children and families will experience cultural support in their early year's environments. Our Métis culture, language and values are imbedded into both our workshop offerings along with the cultural resource materials that we have created.

Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk – Learning Together Series

“Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamuk – Learning Together” (Heritage Michif, translated by Norman Fleury) and related resources were created to support educators, families, and communities to explore Métis culture and identity with children from birth to eight years. Métis Nation British Columbia (MNBC) developed these resources and workshops to promote learning environments in which Métis culture is recognized and celebrated. Learning about Métis culture and identity is vital to the well-being and belonging of Métis children and their families. *(cont'd on p.3)*



(cont'd from page 2)

Each session is approximately two hours in length. Sessions One and Two can be offered both virtually and in-person. Additionally, all three sessions are available in a six hour, in-person workshop.

For more information, please contact Métisearlyyears@mnbc.ca 🌸

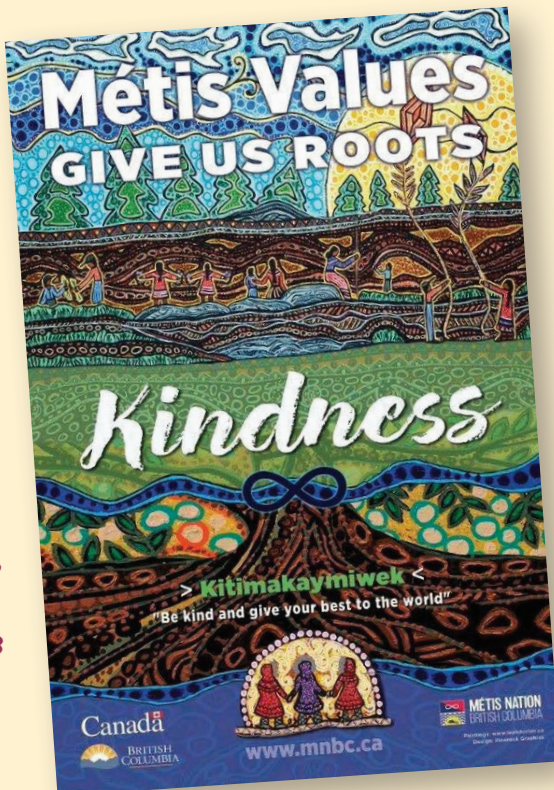


Métis Core Values

KINDNESS

"Kindness is so important because there are people who are vulnerable. Some people can't take care of themselves. And you've got to be humble and modest- you do that through kindness."

– Métis Elder Norman Fleury, Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk "Learning Together" Guide



Kindness: Encourage kindness by:

- Creating opportunities for children to gift to others, share stories, help peers, and welcome Elders and babies for example: bake cookies and share them with others.
- Acknowledging when you observe children engaged in acts of kindness: Waving and smiling and saying "Taanshi" (Hello) to others.
- Creating a giving tree- a space where children can leave items others can use, for example, food for a food bank, warm mittens for children, used books/toys. Reading Leah Dorions *The Giving Tree* will help the children understand the concept and give them a base to expand their ideas.
- Be kind to animals. Make an area out of moss, sticks, and yarn bits for the birds to take to keep warm in their nests.

Talk about kindness as we know, having culture visible in your environment creates a feeling of cultural safety, acceptance and belonging. As early learning and child care professionals, 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 Métis Core Values. 🌸

Invitation to Play

There are so many possibilities for exploration! Provide invitations to play where children can create and share with friends and family.

Sharing traditions and songs

The black and white photo shown here is from our Métis Early Years Family Camp 2019 Kelowna.

Winter Scavenger Hunt

Even though the weather has changed, and it could be very cold where you live, being outside and connected to Mother Nature is important. Try this Winter Scavenger Hunt in your early learning environment!



Can you find it?

- Icicles
- Twig
- Feather
- Nest
- Bird
- Squirrel
- Chimney Smoke
- Berries
- Pinecone
- Snowman
- Insect
- Puddle
- Snowflake

Métis Foraging Practices



The Métis were an integral part of the fur traders of Canada.

The Métis sold furs to three fur trade companies: Hudson Bay Company, Northwest Company, and American Fur Company. The Métis were skilled in tracking, hunting, trapping, and guiding. To be skilled in these trades, you need to understand animal tracks. Things that can help identify which animal the tracks belong to:

- **Size:** How big are the tracks? Could they belong to a tiny bird or a big moose?
- **Depth:** How deep are the tracks? Could they belong to an animal as light as a mouse or as heavy as a bear?
- **Location:** Where are the tracks found, does the animal live near water?
- **Patterns:** What is the tracks' pattern? Does the animal have four legs like a wolf or two like a crow?

Michif Language On The Go!

The Michif languages are historically linked to Métis communities across the Métis homeland. The three Michif languages, commonly referred to as Southern Michif, Northern Michif, and French Michif, and are made up of elements from both First Nations languages and European languages – predominantly Cree and French. Southern Michif uses mostly Plains-Cree verbs and French nouns, but also borrows nouns from English, Saulteaux, and Cree [1]. Southern Michif is most associated with communities in southern Saskatchewan and North Dakota [2]. Southern Michif may also be referred to as Heritage Michif, Mixed Michif, or Turtle Mountain Chippewa Cree. [Language \(ameliadouglassinstitute.ca\)](https://ameliadouglassinstitute.ca)

Winter is an ideal time to track animals

The freshly fallen snow allows for clear tracks to determine what animal may be nearby. Always be safe while tracking. Animals can often be unpredictable, and you should always be animal aware. For instance, tracking a wolf would not be a good idea unless you are experienced. Tracking small animals with children can be a fun family activity. If you do not have snow, mud can also leave amazing animal tracks; look for tracks such as deer, fox, rabbit, and squirrel. If you are in an urban area, look for dogs, cats, or people tracks. To compare tracks, look at the size, and number of toes, or if you're tracking people, compare the tread of the shoe.



Fun activities to do while tracking:

- Keep a journal of tracks, draw, or take pictures for reference.
- Make white playdough and use animal figurines to make your own tracks at home.
- Create a plaster to pour into mud animal tracks and allow to dry to create a casting.
- Have a track scavenger hunt as listed above. Seek and find different tracks on family hikes.

RESOURCES ON TRACKS

Winter Playdough Play {Footprints in The Snow} <http://bit.ly/3poMFSH>

How to Make a Plaster Cast of an Animal Track: 4 Steps (with pictures) <http://bit.ly/3sZgnj4>

Sources from *Learn with Louis Winter 2021 Edition*

Identifying tracks in the snow – What do you see in the snow?

Here are some examples of animal tracks you may see in the snow.



[Environmental Protection, Agriculture, and Food Sovereignty | MNBC](#)

ENGLISH	MICHIF
Ice	La Glaas
Fire	Li Feu
Snow	La Niizh
Cold	Tahkayow
Tracks	Lii Pist
Hibernation	Toot L'hivayr niipow



TRANSLATIONS
BY "HERITAGE
MICHIF
TO GO" APP



Meet the Educators Sharing Métis Culture

HIGHLIGHTING MÉTIS CULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM

"Good Beginnings" Participant Highlight: Nicole Wood

"I took the *Good Beginnings Course* this fall. I have been in child care for the past decade of my life, ranging from being a full-time nanny to working in childminding at a gym to working at a group Child Care. When I had my daughter, Lily, I decided I would love to be able to spend my days with her, while also supporting families in my community by providing child care. I saw the need

for child care in my city, and I thought if I could even help a handful of families, that would be great. I started out by operating License-Not-Required (child care) while going through the process of re-zoning our home and doing small renovations in the basement to prepare it for an eventual family child care facility."

The *Good Beginnings Course* came at the perfect time to help set me up for success in this endeavor. I looked forward to the evening classes and to seeing my instructors and classmates. The learning was very informative but also quite fun and had a personal aspect to where I

felt like we were all friends by the end of it. The course left me feeling prepared and inspired in many ways. I found the modules about writing our policies to be especially helpful.

Overall, my experience in the *Good Beginnings Course* was very positive, and I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to complete this course and would recommend it to anyone who thinks they may want to run their own child care facility." 🌸

You could be highlighted in a future newsletter! Tell us about yourself Métisearlyyears@mNBC.ca

MNBC Programs and MNBC Ministry of Education

2024 Métis Early Childhood Educators Community of Practice

Are you interested in being part of our next Community of Practice? If you are an early learning and child care professional working with Métis children and families and have a passion for learning and connecting with others, please take a few moments to fill out this [survey](#).

This Community of Practice is a welcoming and safe space for ELCC professionals working with Métis children and families across British Columbia. It will be a place to support one another, collaborate, connect, ask questions, and share knowledge and resources that will serve our communities in a good way.

The Community of Practice will be delivered virtually once a month starting February 2024. Learning Métis ways of knowing and being is an important part of this group. A Métis Elder will be present at each learning circle discussion to witness the conversation and contribute their knowledge.

Cost: Free

Métis Child Care Benefit Program

Through the Métis Child Care Benefit Program, eligible families with children birth to 12 years may be able to access additional funding from what is provided by the

Provincial Affordable Child Care Benefit to support the cost of child care.

Learn more: [Métis Child Care Benefit Program | MNBC](#)

Early Childhood Education Recruitment and Retention

In partnership with STEPS (Skills Training | Employment | Post-Secondary), MNBC's Ministry of Education understands that a qualified workforce is a critical foundation to the success of all components of the ChildCare BC Plan. Early childhood educators and other early care and learning professionals are the heart of the child care sector. Our existing workforce must expand in order to ensure programs are operating within legislated requirements, and that there is a sufficient supply of qualified professionals to work in all programs, whether existing or new. Qualified early childhood professionals are key to creating a quality child care system, by increasing the number of students entering, re-establishing and graduating from recognized ECE post-secondary programs. These programs provide students with the competencies and knowledge required to work with children,

from birth to age five, in licensed preschools and child care centres.

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.

For more information, please contact MNBC Early Childhood Education Recruitment and Retention Specialists at ecesupports@mNBC.ca <https://www.mNBC.ca/STEPS>

Métis Early Years Conference – Victoria, BC

November 3-4, 2023 at Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria BC

Early learning and child care professionals from across BC gathered on the traditional territories of the Lekwungen, Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples known as Victoria, BC for the 2023 Métis Early Years Conference on November 3 and 4, 2023.

This annual event hosted by MNBC's Ministry of Education: Early Learning brings professionals together to celebrate Métis culture and language. This year's focus was on self-compassion (reducing burnout) and bringing culture home. *(continued on page 6)*

MNBC Programs and MNBC Ministry of Education CONTINUED

Attendees participated in self-compassion workshops facilitated by Kate Toye and took time to rest and reset in a sharing circle with Elder Norman Fleury, sound bath with Lyn Sakari and paint night with Métis artist, Leah Dorian.

"The most enjoyable pieces of the conference were the stories and teachings of the Elders. Just as we traditionally learned from Elders, we as early childhood educators can learn so much from the valuable teachings our Elders have to offer!" - Conference Participant

"It's brought up some amazing conversations and experiences to continue to share, grow, and connect." - Conference Participant

"I am now more aware of the Métis culture and about my positionality and my responsibility and commitment towards my reconciliation journey. Thank you for this opportunity!" - Conference Participant



Elder Norman Fleury from Saskatchewan and Patrick Harriot –Regional Director Region 1 Vancouver Island and Powell River, joined this conference to share their knowledge on Métis language and culture.



Métis Artist Leah Dorian guided a painting experience where Elder Jo-Ina Young participated.



Métis musicians blessed participants with sounds of the fiddle during this MEY conference.



Shared experiences in Métis culture were guided by Elders panel of Stella Erasmus Johnson, Jo-Ina Young, Norman Fleury and Bruce Dumont.

Provincial Updates on Registered License Not Required Child Care

There have been recent changes to Registered License Not Required Care in the province of British Columbia.

Effective **April 1, 2024**, the Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) Program will no longer recruit and register new Registered Licensed Not Required (RLNR).

Only those RLNRs currently active, or on an approved leave of absence on March 31, 2024, will continue to be registered, and eligible for re-registration with the CCRR Program.

As a result, the registration process for any new RLNRs must be **complete** no later than March 15, 2024.

If you have any questions about this, please contact the CCRR inbox at CCRR@gov.bc.ca

Specialized Certification Grant now available

As of January 1, 2024, ECEs with Infant Toddler Educator or Special Needs Educator certificates, also known as "specialized" or "post-basic" certificates, are eligible to receive the annual ECE Specialized Certification Grant.

ECEs holding both specialized certificates are eligible for a \$3,000 payment, while those holding one specialized certificate are eligible for \$2,000. These grants will be available to eligible ECEs for the next three years and will be administered by Early [Childhood Educators of BC](https://www.childhoodeducatorsbc.ca).

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

National Child Day - November 20, 2023



November 20, 2023, marked the 30th anniversary of National Child Day in Canada, known globally as World Children's Day. On this day, we honour Canada's commitment to upholding the rights of children and two historic events, the 1959 signing of the UN Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the adoption of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989.

This year's theme was #EveryChildEveryRight. Métis children have unique rights that deserve to be protected and honoured. They deserve to grow up grounded in Métis culture and community, feeling recognized and respected.

BC Aboriginal Child Care Society, Early Childhood Educators of BC, MNBC and the Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC joined together to release a joint statement for the Canada-Wide Day of Action for Child Care.

"Today our organizations join with allies across Canada to highlight the need for all families to have equitable and barrier-free access to quality, culturally responsive child care."

For further reading about this important statement visit <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/joint-statement-canada-wide-day-action-child-care>

Joint statement on safe, caring and inclusive schools

MNBC is proud to stand in solidarity with our partners in K-12 Education, including BC's Minister for Education Rachna Singh and MLA for Cowichan Valley Sonia Furstenau, calling for safer, more inclusive schools. All students deserve to attend schools where they feel welcomed, included and respected in a safe learning environment, while being fully and completely themselves.

There is no room for any type of discrimination in BC schools. The B.C. Human Rights Code protects BC students from discrimination based on Indigenous identity, race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or age. Every school in BC should be a place where everyone is welcome, and no student should feel unsafe or excluded.

MNBC recognizes that to achieve educational success, Métis learners need to see themselves reflected in the education system. This begins in early learning and continues in secondary school and later in post-secondary education. Experiences of discrimination, racism and historical trauma are critical social determinants of health for Métis learners and employees within the education system. Their Métis culture and heritage need to be recognized and respected.

"I want to take a moment to recognize the extraordinary work being done by our partners in education and the thousands of dedicated, highly skilled education staff and leaders across BC to ensure that all students and staff are protected from discrimination at school," says MNBC's Minister of Education and Children & Families, Debra Fisher. "We are honoured to walk alongside you and stand firm in our commitment to this important work. Our Nation has dreamed for generations of a dynamic, inclusive education system that is welcoming for all students, staff and families – one that keeps our children at the heart of it all and focuses on their overall success and well-being. We accomplish this by standing together and saying no to discrimination of any form."

Learn More Access Erase online resources: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

The joint statement: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023ECC0094-001835>

KPU Surrey Child Care Operator RFPQ is now posted

Kwantlen Polytechnic University, in partnership with the MNBC, is seeking a Non -Profit Child Care Operator to develop and deliver a range of licensed child care services, as well as provide input into the detailed design and furnishing, fixtures, and equipment required to operate this newly constructed Child Care Facility on the KPU campus located at 12666 72 Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3W 2M8.

This Request for Pre-Qualification is an invitation by Kwantlen Polytechnic University (KPU) to prospective proponents to submit proposals for the opportunity to enter into a partnership agreement for the services of Child Care Operator as further described in the RFPQ Particulars

The RFPQ is accessible here: <https://kpu.bonfirehub.ca/opportunities/73769> ✨



Métis Early Years: A Pedagogical Narration

BY YOLANDA MOOIJER AND CARA KOEBEL



Beaded poppy by local Métis artist, Lana Donaldson (Region 3, West Kelowna)

Just before we engage in all the excitement that the winter season brings, many of us took the time to remember the Canadian soldiers who fought for the freedom we have today. It was wonderful to see, when visiting child care Centres, that early childhood educators were encouraging children to learn more about this topic through storytelling, sensory bins, and art.

Indigenous Veteran's Day (November 8) and Remembrance Day (November 11) are celebrated in Canada each year. These days honour both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous soldiers for the sacrifices they made and for their contributions made in military services.

Children at these Centres gained knowledge about Canadian culture and learned new vocabulary while doing so. This vocabulary enhanced their communication skills as they

learned how to explain why their family, teachers, and other members of the community wear a poppy. Children also learned that Indigenous people fought for the peace we have today, something that has often been overlooked and underappreciated for many years.

Yolanda and Cara wondered what kind of questions the beaded poppy would bring when visiting a child care Centre in Prince George. Immediately Yolanda was approached by children who asked: "Teacher, why do you have that red flower on your jacket?" Yolanda replied by saying, "This is a poppy flower beaded by a Métis artist. The flower shows everyone how thankful I am for the soldiers who fought for the peace and freedom we have in Canada today."

Additionally, the children asked where the poppy was purchased, who made the poppy and why it was beaded. They also asked to touch the poppy and to wear the poppy. The beaded poppy highlights the Métis Early Learning Framework; "Integrating Métis culture, languages, and values into the design and delivery of Early Learning and Child Care programs for Métis Nation children and families." By wearing this poppy, we were able to inform children and parents about beadwork, an ancestral tradition amongst indigenous communities – particularly Métis, the 'flower beadwork people'.



Remembrance Day sensory bin using rice, laminated doves and poppies, and plastic toy soldiers—Kiki Awasis, Prince George, BC



*Poppy artwork using toilet paper rolls
Awasisak Achakos Head Start, Kelowna, BC*



Resources

Links to careers page for ECE: [Métis Early Childhood Educator & ECE Assistant Supplement | MNBC](#)

Shop MNBC's Trading Post for cultural resources: [Métis Trading Post \(Métistradingpost.shop\)](#)

[Taanishi Song - YouTube](#) see photo.

Ameila Douglas Institute AMI Institute: <https://ameliadouglasinstitute.ca/>

Rosie Video: [The Métis People: Kid's Version - Rosie Darling - A "Métis Younger":](#)

<https://youtu.be/QtOLa1qNnmU>

Creator - Gabriel Dumont Local #11 Channel



Contact Information

For more information about Métis programs and services, contact us at métisearlyyears@mnhc.ca.

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 Learning and Child Care Professionals.

