

Le Villazh Maachi Kashkihtow

The Village of Learning



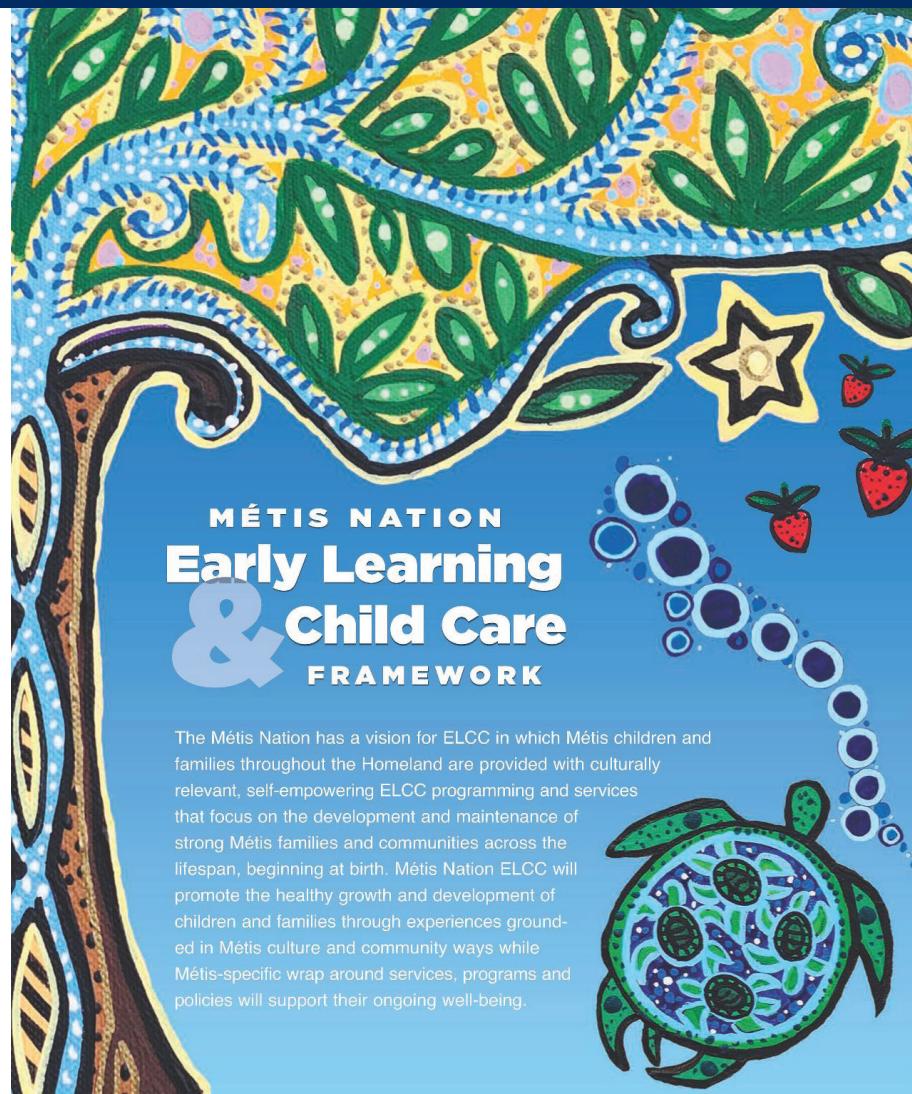
Welcome to the Spring
2024 edition of *Le Villazh*
Maachi Kashkihtow,
The Village of Learning





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Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Framework

Goal # 2- Supporting improved access to existing programs for Métis Nation children and families.

Highlighting the Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program. The Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program (Southern/Heritage Michif, translated by Norman Fleury), is available to children from birth to eight, who are enrolled in the Métis Family Connections Program. Through the Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program, families can apply for financial support to assist with the cost of a wide range of services, programs, and products, including but not limited to, respite care, speech therapy, assessments, specialized equipment, and mental health supports. The Wellbeing program can contribute to a child's successful participation in Early learning and Child Care programs as well as school. To contact email wellbeing@mnbc.ca or visit the website for more information. (cont'd on p.3)

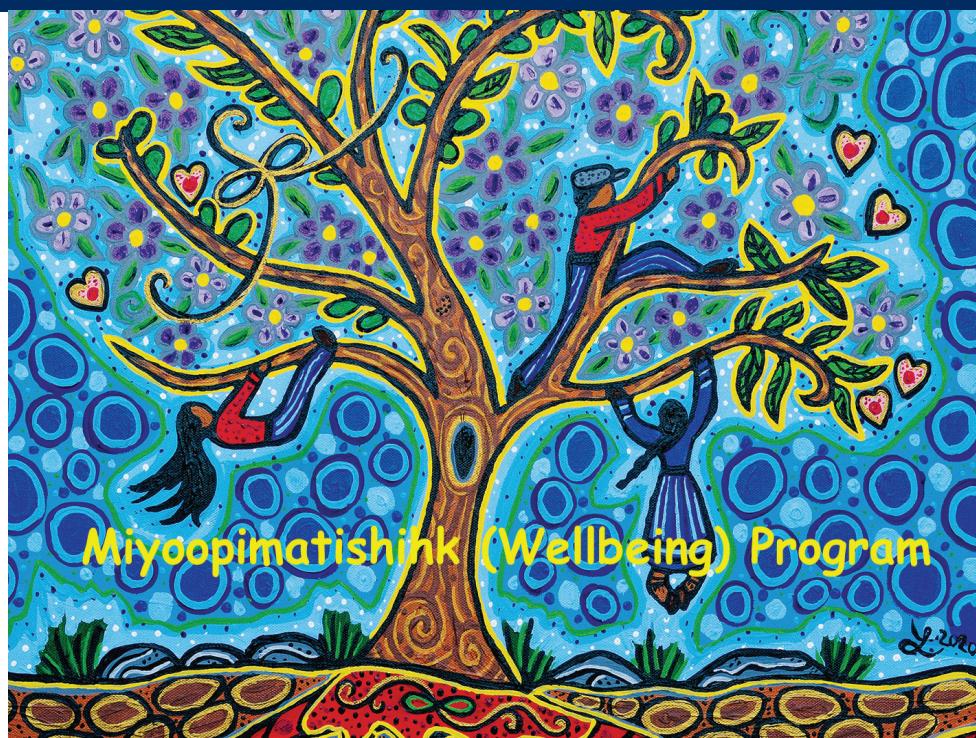


(cont'd from page 2)

Miyoopimaatishihk (Wellbeing) Program | MNBC Testimonials from Participants

"I had an excellent experience utilizing the Wellbeing Program. I feel extremely grateful for this wonderful opportunity and support. Thank you so much to everyone that helped to make this happen."

"I'm a mom of two children who are both receiving supports through the Miyoopimatishihk (Wellbeing program). My children are neurodiverse, each with their own challenges. I know that my children are working harder than other children to learn and process information in the world around them, especially in the classroom, and that this can cause frustration and discouragement for them. However, because of the support my children are receiving through the Wellbeing program, they love learning, and they love school - they are thriving!"

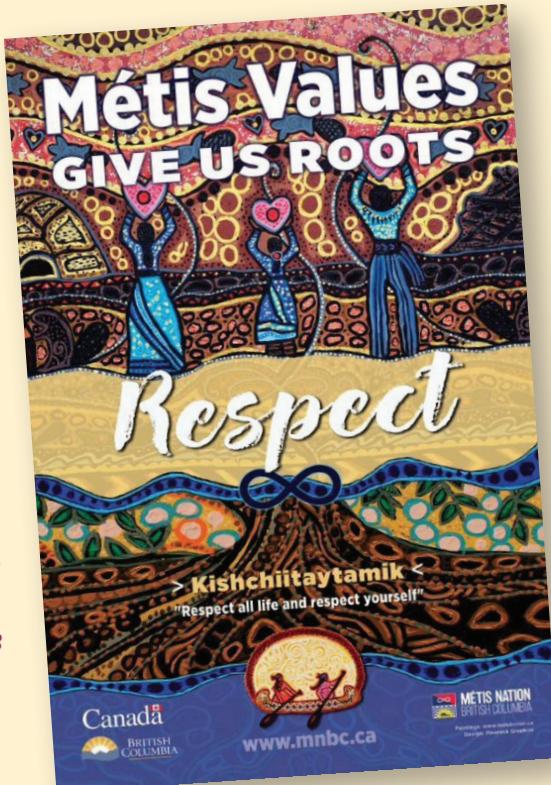


Métis Core Values

RESPECT (Kischiitaymihk)

"I talk to my grandchildren like they are normal people. I don't use baby talk because that was never done to a Métis kid when I was growing up. You were spoken to as a child but with respect."

– Métis Elder Earl Henderson,



RESPECT | Encourage respect by:

- Treating children with dignity. Get down to their level when speaking to them so they feel respected and seen.
- Taking time to listen when someone is sharing. If time does not allow, acknowledge that you do not have the time, but look forward to hearing about it later. Follow through on that promise.
- Walking through your neighborhood and commenting on nature seeds and animals that may cross your path. Show respect by picking up garbage, providing bird seed, or planting flowers for the bees.

Respect is modeled in our daily interactions with children, families, and those in the community. Remember to respect all life and respect yourself. As early learning and child care professionals, taking the opportunity to respect your limits, boundaries, and needs is key to modeling this for children. 



Invitation to Play

BIRD FEEDER

We can honour and respect Mother Earth by providing natural resources for children to explore in their learning environment.

Spring is full of wonder and learning for children especially as the snow melts and greenery springs back to life. Children are sure to see the birds. Observing birds is fascinating for young children. Build off this interest by setting up and engaging bird provocations this spring. Offer a collections of materials and take the opportunity to have conversations about why we feed the birds, what birds like to eat, how we can feed the birds and respect them

Provide multiple items to encourage the children to make bird feeders. Bird feeders can be made from everyday items such as a water bottle, a can, or a milk carton. You could even use natural resources to make a bird feeder out of pinecones!

Some ideas for filler could be basic bird seed from the pet store, or you could make your own bird seed with seeds, oats, banana, cheerios and peanut butter.

If you are creating a bird feeder out of a pinecone you will want to use something to bond the bird seed onto the pinecone such as peanut butter or lard. You will also need string or ribbon to tie up your new bird feeder included in the station. 



Métis Foraging

BLUEBERRY | *lii blooay* (Southern Michif)

Medicinal Uses: Antioxidant, antiseptic, antiviral, astringent, and depurative.

Range: Blueberries can be found all over Canada from the far north to the south and east to west.

"Commonly known throughout North America, the blueberry hardly needs an introduction. The delicious fruit is a nutritionally rich food providing countless benefits to both animals and humans. Wild blueberries are known to have the highest number of antioxidants of any fruit, and they contain both Vitamins A and C and anthocyanosides."

"Aboriginal peoples have used blueberries as food and medicine for thousands of years. Blueberries were traditionally dried for year-round use and were pounded into a powder that was mixed with other foods."

"A blueberry leaf decoction is said to be a powerful blood purifier. It is also used for treating urinary tract infections when combined with cranberry. Dried blueberries and blueberry root tea can be used to treat diarrhea. The tea is also gargled for sore throats. A tea made from its leaves can also relieve colic and childbirth pains. Blueberry extracts have also been found to kill or

inhibit fungal, yeast, and bacterial growth. Also, blueberries have been reportedly successful at stabilizing, or reducing blood sugar levels in those suffering from hypoglycemia, and diabetes."

"Externally, blueberry leaves and roots are used to treat rheumatism and are said to be effective in reducing acne inflammation."

"In some areas, controlled burns were practiced by Aboriginal people to encourage blueberry bushes and other medicinal plants to stimulate growth and production of berries, while preventing an invasion by other shrub species and conifers."



From [Medicine to Help Us – Traditional Métis Plant Use](#) By Christi Belcourt (Pg 19/20)

Traditional Bannock & Berries

prep time: 15 minutes

cook time: 10 minutes

total time: 25 minutes

<https://wanderingwagars.com/indigenous-inspired-recipes/>

Ingredients

BANNOCK

3 cups flour
1 1/2 cups water
3 tbsp baking powder
1/2 cup sugar
1 tsp salt
Vegetable oil for frying

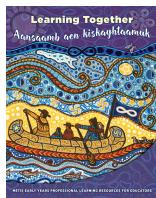
RASPBERRY/BLUEBERRY COMPOTE

2 cups Raspberries/Blueberries
1/2 cup white sugar/1/2 lemon.
Juiced and rind
1 pinch salt

Instructions

1. Preheat vegetable oil in a deep-frying pan to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. (It's also possible to bake or cook the Bannock over an open flame).
2. Mix flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt together in a medium-sized bowl.
3. Add water and mix until dough becomes thick and sticky. Do not over mix or the dough will become tough.
4. Roll the dough into a large ball and slice into 12 equal pieces.
5. Flatten each ball of dough with your hands.
6. Drop dough into the oil and fry until it is golden brown on both sides and soft but cooked inside.
7. For the raspberry/blueberry compote cook the berries in a saucepan over medium heat until soft.
8. Add sugar, lemon juice, rind, and salt.
9. Continue cooking until the sugar is dissolved.
10. Serve Bannock drizzled with compote.

Note: Please be mindful that in Métis Culture, when we take from the land, we are to give thanks and provide an offering to Mother Earth. 



Incorporating Métis Content in a Respectful Way within your Early Learning and Child Care Setting

MÉTIS EARLY YEARS PROFESSIONAL LEARNING GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS, Page 31

Learning about Métis culture in Early Learning and Child Care environments is important for both Métis and non-Métis children.

Understanding culture of peers creates an awareness of cultural diversity and children begin to see themselves reflected. Incorporating Métis culture and identity within the learning environment promotes awareness, empowerment, and inclusion for both Métis and non-Métis children. While many Canadian educators have been making efforts to include Indigenous culture and history in the curriculum, much of the content focuses on First Nations and is not inclusive of the Métis.

The following recommendations provide some things to consider when incorporating Métis-related content within your early years setting

1. Include Métis content and approaches throughout the year (not just in only one lesson or unit).
2. Include Métis content and pedagogy even if you don't yet feel confident doing so. As you practice, you will gain confidence. Along the way, seek out help and additional knowledge. It is okay to admit that you are still a learner in these subjects. If you do make a mistake, acknowledge it, and move forward.
3. Take a holistic approach to learning that includes physical movement and social

development. Incorporate games and play into your teaching.

4. Use child-led approaches with the Métis Early Years Resources. There is no right or wrong way to use these resources.
5. Include parents in the learning process, both Métis and non-Métis. This can be a great opportunity for parents to learn and for children to share their learning with their parents. If any parents have knowledge of Métis culture, this will provide an opportunity for them to share.
6. Acknowledge and celebrate the distinct identity of Métis people.
7. Admit that your knowledge about the Métis is limited and be honest when you don't know something.
8. Share your knowledge on the Métis. Educate your families, colleagues, employees, and community members.
9. Do your own learning about who the Métis are. This may involve independent research and un-learning some of the mistruths you've been told about Métis people. Don't assume all Métis people are happy to always answer questions about their identity. If you want to ask a Métis person about their culture, establish consent before asking, and ask them gently and with genuine curiosity. For example: "Would it be okay if I ask you some questions about being Métis? I'm interested to learn more if you feel comfortable sharing."
10. Treat Métis people with respect. Act in anti-racist ways by stopping racism and other forms of oppression towards Métis people.
11. Make sure to include Métis people in Indigenous events and practices (for example "National Indigenous People's Day" or consultation sessions with Indigenous peoples). Métis people want to be included and recognized for their distinct Métis identity.
12. Ensure your learning environment has representations of Métis identity.
13. Connect with your local Métis Chartered Community and see if there are areas in which you can collaborate, contribute, and build mutually beneficial relationships. Invite members of the Métis Community to come into the learning environment and share about Métis identity.

"I really believe that kids need to learn about their culture, because learning about your culture is a gentle way of disciplining. But also, it gives you a sense of pride in learning and in being good. Our culture teaches us that we're never alone. Our ancestors are always with us."

~Métis Elder Earl Henderson ☺

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.ameliadouglasinstitute.ca

Michif is upheld as the national Métis language. It is a unique language that developed in the Red River valley in the early 1800s. Michif is a mixed language that contains Plains Cree verbs and French nouns and noun structure,

as well as some vocabulary and structures from Saulteaux and English.

There are three types of Michif:

- Métis French (also called Michif-French)
- Métis Cree (also called Northern Michif or Île-à-la-Crosse Michif)
- Southern Michif (also called Turtle Mountain Michif, Chippewa-Cree, or Heritage Michif)

Métis people have a long tradition of multilingualism, which stems from their connections to multiple cultures and their resourcefulness and adaptability. Diverse expressions of Métis culture and different kinship networks have resulted in communities and individuals speaking a variety of other languages, such as Cree, Saulteaux, French, and English. ☺

ENGLISH	MICHIF
Bird	aen nwayzoo
Forest	il graan bwaa
Flower	enn fleur
Seed	lii grenn
Green	ver
Rain	kimoowu
Garden	zhaardayn

Heritage Michif To Go **TRANSLATIONS BY "HERITAGE MICHIF TO GO" APP**

MichifToGo.metismuseum.ca

From the Hearts and Minds of the Pedagogists

Rooted in Nature: Reconnection to Land and Place by Cara Lee K. and Yolanda M.

One of the living inquiries in the BC Early Learning Framework is engagement with others, materials, and the world and its joining pathway is reconnection to land and place. This inquiry asks educators to find ways for children to be in relationship with the land. It asks educators to learn and share stories that are Indigenous, stories that have long been silenced, and to critically think about how stories have been idealized or romanticized in Western thought. Most importantly, it asks educators to consider children's stories of the land (BC Early Learning Framework, 2019, p.78). This spring the pedagogists have been exploring this inquiry and inventing new pedagogies about connecting with the land. Through listening to the children's voices, their questions, and their curiosities, we began talking about the notion that Canadian land is on the back of a turtle and therefore referred to as Turtle Island. The need for this island to be respected and cared for has been at the center of our discussions.

Equipped with journals and tools to



Nature sit spot drawing, nature journal, and collections on nature walk

the importance of Earth's, or Turtle Island's, preservation. With their journals in hand, they ventured on a nature walk through Bear Creek Gardens. While pausing to admire the vibrant flowers, leaves, and insects, the children sketched their discoveries. Some felt deeply connected to nature, expressing their affection through gestures like hugging trees or quietly observing the gentle ripples dancing across nearby waters. In response to a question about their connection to nature, a child expressed, "I play music for Mother Earth to hear," unveiling their

deep bond with the natural world. A sweet reminder that children see nature as more than just something to be observed but also something to be interacted with and respected.

"Métis values and worldviews are closely connected to nature and being on the land "(Kaa-wiichihitoyaahk, 2021, p.91). Being outside and allowing children to have their own special

"sit spot" in nature invites children to deeply think about what is happening around them. Children have been developing a

deeper meaning and understanding as to why we plant seeds, recycle, and forage plants. Our exploration of this inquiry has allowed the time and space to explore what it means to honor Mother Earth and the creator; a concept that is at the forefront of the Métis ways of knowing and being.

References

Columbia, M. N. B. (2021). Kaa-wiichihitoyaahk - we take care of each other.

Early learning framework - gov.bc.ca. (2019). https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/early-learning/teach_earlylearning/early_learning_framework.pdf

Lindstrom, C., & Goade, M. (2023). We are water protectors. Findaway World, LLC.

For any questions or inquiries for our Pedagogist please contact pedagogy@mnbca.ca



Children foraged dandelions (Michif: li pisaanlii) and are using them to make tea

document their journey, children embarked on a memorable exploration. As a group, they delved into Carole Lindstrom's book, "We Are Water Protectors" understanding



Métis Nation B.C. Programs and Services

MÉTIS CHILD CARE BENEFIT

The Métis Child Care Benefit Program is a service offered by the Métis Child Care and Navigation and Support Program, for families with Métis children birth to 12 years. Through the Métis Child Care Benefit Program, families can access additional funding, bridging the connection to the Affordable Child Care Benefit.

For more information [Métis Child Care Benefit Program | MNBC](#)

Summer Supplement

MNBC's Ministry of Education is excited to offer the Métis Summer Break Supplement. This supplement is offered through the Métis Child Care Navigation and Support program for families with Métis Children, kindergarten to 12 years of age.

This is not in addition to MCCB funding but is a supplement when MCCB funding is not claimed due to limited licensed or registered

license not required child care spaces over Summer Break. The updated Summer Break supplement is designed to support families who are unable to access more formal child care arrangements during Summer Break, to support parents and caregivers who work, attend school, or have documented medical needs that require child care support.

[Métis Summer Break Supplement | MNBC](#)

Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care

CHILD CARE BC BULLETIN UPDATES

New \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres

More families in B.C will save thousands of dollars each year as more than 700 child care spaces have moved into the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program so far this year. These spaces will help reduce costs for families and further increase access to high-quality, affordable child care.

The newly approved \$10 a Day spaces are being offered at 25 child care centres throughout the province, including Houston, Squamish, Surrey, and Vancouver.

For this intake, government's focus was to prioritize new \$10 a Day centres in communities that do not yet have access to the \$10 a Day ChildCareBC program or have a low number of \$10 a Day spaces compared to the region's population density.

More spaces will be converted to the program over the next few weeks bringing B.C. closer to the goal of 15,000 \$10 a Day ChildCareBC spaces by spring 2024. ☺

2024-25 Child Care Operating Funding and Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative renewals launch

Child care providers can now apply to renew their Child Care Operating Funding agreements for 2024-25 and can also opt-in to the Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative and Early Childhood Educator Wage Enhancement.

We encourage all child care providers to thoroughly review and familiarize themselves with the funding guidelines before applying, as there are changes to the program that will come into effect on April 1, 2024.

Before submitting a renewal application, review your service details in Schedule A of the current 2023-24 Funding Agreement and advise the program of any changes to avoid application delays.

The Contact Centre is now offering extended service hours every Thursday until 7:00pm. New hours of operation are Monday – Wednesday, Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm. Thursday 8:30am – 7:00pm. For further information, please visit the [Child Care Operating Funding](#) webpage. ☺

MNBC Ministry of Education at 53rd Annual ECEBC Conference



MNBC Ministry of Education Child Care Coordinators recently presented **Aansaamb aen kiskayhtaamaahk Learning Together** workshop session #3 at ECEBC 53rd Annual conference. Child Care Coordinators can provide this series of workshops with your staff or community, please reach out to metisearlyyears@mnbc.ca if you are interested.





Métis Early Learning & Child Care Appreciation Evening

ON MAY 2, 2024, WE CELEBRATED AND HONOURED EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE PROFESSIONALS

A sense of purpose is a common sentiment many ECE professionals embody and are why many people find a sense of purpose as an Early Childhood Educator. Early Childhood Educators are the foundation in providing high quality child care. It is even more evident that our Métis Educators need to see themselves represented in our early learning and child care programs that our Métis children and families attend.

MNBC's Ministry of Education held a virtual gathering to celebrate the achievements of remarkable individuals like Brittany Tucci and Jennine Adams, who have been recognized for their outstanding contributions to early learning and child care. Brittany's innovative approach of integrating Métis culture into the learning environment and Jennine's dedication to providing high-quality early learning experiences for Métis children exemplify the profound impact that culturally responsive care can have on a child's sense of identity and belonging.

"Investing in early learning and childhood educators is investing in the future of our children. Their dedication shapes young minds, nurturing a foundation for lifelong success. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all who joined our virtual gathering last night, acknowledging the tireless efforts of these unsung heroes. Congratulations to Brittany Tucci and Jennine Adams for their exceptional contributions to early learning and childcare. Your passion and commitment inspire us all." – Debra Fisher, Minister of Education

The Métis Nation BC's commitment to building child care spaces across the province underscores the pressing need for qualified ECE professionals. These spaces not only provide essential support for families but also serve as platforms for promoting cultural diversity and inclusion. As we look to the future, it is imperative that we continue to champion the importance of early childhood education and the pivotal role of ECEs in supporting the holistic development of Métis children and beyond.



Métis Early Years Conference Kelowna, BC

More information to come this summer, registration will open in August 2024. For any questions, please contact metisearlyyears@mnbc.ca.

Resources

Ameila Doulgas Institute

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

Traditional Bannock and Berries Recipe

[5 Indigenous-Inspired Recipes To Make At Home - Adventure Family Travel - Wandering Wagars](https://www.adventurefamilytravel.com/travel-wandering-wagars/5-indigenous-inspired-recipes-to-make-at-home/)

Shop MNBC's Trading Post for cultural resources

[Metis Trading Post \(metistradingpost.shop\)](https://metistradingpost.shop/)

Michif To Go App

[Michif To Go \(metismuseum.ca\)](https://metismuseum.ca)

Métis Nation BC YouTube Link to subscribe

<https://www.youtube.com/@metisnationbritishcolumbia>



Contact Information

For more information about Métis programs and services, contact us at metisearlyyears@mnbc.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.

