



JULY/AUGUST 2010

MÉTIS CONNECTION

NEWS AND MORE FROM THE METIS COMMISSION

A PICTURE IS SOMETIMES WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS:



~At the Métis Commission, we wish everyone a happy summer season, shared with family, friends, and community~

(photo by Christopher Duffell (Flickr))

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-CCMA PICNIC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

- We will be sending a newsletter and posting it on our website every two months.
- Please feel free to print and distribute if you wish.
- We welcome feedback! What would you like to see...what would be helpful to you?

MÉTIS COMMISSION OR MÉTIS SERVICE PROVIDER: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?



“What is the difference between the Métis Commission for Children and Families and various Métis Service Providers in British Columbia?”

This is a question we are asked frequently at the Métis Commission, especially pertaining to Court Notifications and Cultural Planning.

The Métis Commission is named in legislation as the *Aboriginal Community for BC's Métis children*, and as such, must be served with court documents that require notification of a Métis child's aboriginal

community.

The Commission works closely with various Métis Service Providers across the province, as well as other aboriginal partners. When we receive Court Documents, we forward them to the Service Providers for further communications and planning with social workers and families. It is these Métis Service Providers and aboriginal partners who provide the essential, direct service to our Métis children and families.

If Court Documents require our consent, we will discuss our position with the Service Provider before making a decision.

Métis Service Providers also assist with Cultural Planning for Métis children, although the Commission should be included in the plan and should also be a signatory. The Métis Commission will work more directly with cultural planning when there is no Métis Service Provider available.

BC's Métis Service Providers are: Interior Métis Child and Family Services, Métis Community Services Society of BC, Métis Family Services, Island Métis Community Services and Kikino Métis Children & Family Services Society.



STORYTELLING AND SHARING ARE BOTH MÉTIS TRADITIONS

Storytelling has always been a part of the Métis way of life. This summer, share a story with a Métis child.

The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story explores the values of the Métis culture. Author Leah Dorion retells the story of the giving tree, a resting spot along a family's travels where they can experience both the generosity of others and of themselves. People take that



which is needed from the cache at the tree and leave something else in its place for another traveler.

Both young and older children will enjoy the story's narrative and its vivid illustrations. It is written in both English and Michif, and includes a narrative CD in both languages.

This book, and many others, can be ordered through the Gabriel Dumont Institute. (www.gdins.org)

NEWS AND IDEAS FROM BC'S MÉTIS SERVICE PROVIDERS

WITH THE ISLAND MÉTIS COMMUNITY SERVICES, A WEALTH OF INFORMATION IS JUST A CLICK AWAY

Many of BC's Métis Service Providers host informative, useful websites in addition to providing friendly, in-person services. While websites do not replace connections with people; they certainly can help connect us when used well.

Island Métis Community Services' website is one such informative site, and can be found at www.metis.ca.

Métis Community Services offers a wealth of informative material, including, but not limited to

- Newsletters
- Métis identity information
- Cultural Information
- Métis statistics

One item of particular note available on the website is the downloadable, "I'm Métis!" Colouring Book.



<http://metis.ca/index.php/colouring-book>

This colouring book is an excellent cultural link for Métis children anywhere in BC, as well as their foster or adoptive parents

The "I'm Métis!" Colouring Book packs both Métis culture and history into its 40 pages. With its outline drawings and captions, this colouring book engages Métis children in learning about the Métis people.

A simple narrative runs through the book, and makes this resource suitable for both young and older children.

So, whether you're looking for this excellent Colouring Book, Métis information, or a connection to the friendly staff who provide Métis services on Vancouver Island, take a minute to visit the Island Métis Community Services' website.

www.metis.ca



...serving the
Métis
Community of
Vancouver
Island

MEET THE COMMISSIONERS: LARRY RAILTON - REGION 2 COMMISSIONER

Last issue, we introduced Marlene Swears, our Commission President. This issue, we are pleased to introduce Larry Railton...

With over 25 years in the field of education, Larry has become a leader in education and training with a passion for development and self-empowerment. Larry has a strong belief in the power of teams and the ability to effect change, particularly over the long haul. He is a leader that leads from behind and is always reflecting on the impact of lifelong learning. Larry

has a proven track record in labour, business and academics.

Larry was the first Director of Education for the Métis Nation of British Columbia as well, he was the Academic Dean of the Native Education College in Vancouver. He has developed Aboriginal early years learning programs in his community and designed Métis specific early years curriculum for the Métis National Council in Ottawa. Larry is a past board member of two national organizations, the Canadian Association for Young Children and The Ab-

original Children's Circle of Early Learning.

Larry volunteers as a Commissioner for the Métis Commission for Children and Families in British Columbia. As well, he coordinates an International Project "Preserving Indigenous Cultures" with the World Forum Foundation.

Larry is currently the Manager of Services for Aboriginal Students at Langara College in Vancouver.

"...a passion for development and self-empowerment..."

RECIPE - BANNOCK

Bannock, galette de Michif, is a traditional Métis bread. Generally round (hence the French term galette, meaning cookie), bannock was taken from Indian Fry Bread, combined with baking powder that the Métis were able to receive from the Hudson's Bay Company.

Baked Bannock

- 3 cups flour
- 3 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp sugar (optional)
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 cup melted fat/lard
- 1/2 tsp salt

Never overwork

Bake at 350 for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.

Information and Recipe from Métis Community Services Society of BC website (www.mcsbc.org)



HAVE YOU READ IT? - JEAN BARMAN AND MIKE EVANS

In each issue, this column will feature an article or book that pertains to Métis child welfare.

In "Reflections on Being, and Becoming, Métis in British Columbia", Jean Barman and Mike Evans explore the complex identity of British Columbia's Métis people. This

worthwhile article has a historical focus, from past to present day. How better to understand present Métis identity than to discover the roots of the Métis in British Columbia?

Using the experience of historical families and more recent legislation and court proceedings, the authors

explore questions of Métis identity in BC. Having such knowledge can only increase understanding of the diversity of present day Métis families.

Article can be found in: *BC studies*, no 61, Spring 2009 (Although *BC Studies* website requires subscription for back issues, most public libraries carry this journal as well.)



Visit us at: www.metiscommission.com
 (currently under renovation)

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The purpose of this newsletter is to share news on a regular basis amongst those who serve BC's Métis families in child welfare. If you have events or other newsworthy items you'd like to include, please email or call Michele at The Métis Commission (contact information at left). We look forward to hearing from you.



Metis Commission for Children and Families BC

JULY AND AUGUST CALENDAR

July 1

Canada Day

The picnic will be held at the Felker Lake Legion Campground and there will be many fun family activities. At the picnic:

For more info call, CCMA
 250-398-5327

August 3-5

BC Day long weekend

- concession
- arts and crafts
- Métis BOING
- Loonie auctions
- 50/50 draws
- horseshoes
- swimming
- camping
- concession
- \$5 breakfasts
- and more...

August 13, 14, 15

Cariboo Chilcotin Métis Association's three day Annual Métis Picnic. This is a camp out, so bring your own accommodations.

