



# ISLAND MÉTIS K-12 RESOURCES PROJECT

A Living Document of Métis Resources and History for  
Students and Teachers

Cover Artist: Lauren McLean

## Acknowledgments

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria (MNGV) has been established in the Capital Regional District for over 25 years. Our community is one of 39 Chartered Communities within British Columbia that are recognized by the Métis Nation of British Columbia. Our purpose is to build community connection, represent the voice of Métis people in the Capital Regional District, and provide cultural learning opportunities. We work collaboratively with a variety of School Districts and public post-secondary institutions to improve the educational experiences and outcomes for Métis students. This resource was developed to support the Greater Victoria School District #61 to bring authentic Métis resources into the classroom, however the information is relevant for education systems across B.C.

We want to acknowledge the financial contributions of both the Greater Victoria School District's Indigenous Education Department, the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) which provided the support for this resource to be developed.

## Report Authors & Project Team

Lauren McLean, Research Assistant, Indigenous Studies, University of Victoria.

*Taanshi! Lauren d-ishinihkaashon! Hello! My name is Lauren! I am an undergraduate student at the University of Victoria working on completing my bachelor's degree in Indigenous Studies. I am Métis on my mother's side and our family has historic connections to the Red River Settlement as well as communities in Saskatchewan such as Batoche and Duck Lake. I never had the chance growing up to learn about Métis history and culture and so this project is especially important to me because it means that younger generations can not only learn about a wonderful people, but also have the chance to reconnect with their culture at a younger age and begin their journeys of reclamation. My hope is that this document continues to live and grow with all of us as more beautiful resources become available. Maarsii! Thank you!*

We want to acknowledge the project committee that provided guidance throughout the development of this resource:

Renée Monchalín, Assistant Professor, School of Public Health and Social Policy, University of Victoria;

Caitlin Bird, President, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria; and

Kristy McLeod, Education Committee Chair, Métis Nation of Greater Victoria & Ph.D. Student, Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Victoria.



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## **Primary Grades (Kindergarten – Grade 3)**

### **Illustrated Books**

**Boreham, B., Dorion, L. M., & Mach, T. (2017). *We are all connected: Métis, wetlands and mallards.* (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Strong Nations Publishing.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key Themes: Stories, wildlife, science and technology, environment, ecosystems, life cycles

Key areas: Science, Social Studies

Synopsis: “We Are All Connected” is a series that explores how we all live together in a shared balance upon Mother Earth. Each book explores a specific ecosystem with a focus on one animal and its adaptations for survival within that ecosystem. Indigenous interviewees, each living within the same area, have responded to strategic questions as to how their community interacts with the land, their traditional territory. Explore each text with a sense of inquiry in mind.

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2007). *Fiddle dancer.* (S. F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritage, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging, Elders, role models

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Fiddle Dancer tells the tale of a young Métis boy, Nolin, and his growing awareness of his Métis heritage and identity while his “Mooshoom” or grandfather, teaches him to dance.

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2008). *Dancing in my bones.* (S.F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritages, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging, hunting, relationships, fiddling

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Dancing in My Bones will take you on a journey to discover Moushoom’s first moose hunt, red lipstick kisses, Uncle Bunny’s fiddling, and the return of the “Bannock Jig.” But most importantly, by the end of the story, you might feel like you have dancing in your bones!

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2011). *Call of the fiddle.* (S. F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritage, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Join Nolin one last time as he hears the rollicking rhythm of the “Red River Jig,” learns of tearful memories, and experiences the excitement of jigging at Batoche!

**Burton, W. (2015). *Road allowance kitten.* (C. Johns, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 8-11

Key Themes: Pets, children, family, historical events, travel

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: They say, “Home is where the heart is.” For Rosie and Madeline, home also included their pet kitten. Imagine being told you have to leave your home ... without your pet. Based on a true story, Road Allowance Kitten gives readers a glimpse into the history of the Road Allowance Métis and their forced removal from their humble, but beloved, homes on the road allowance. Award-winning children’s author Wilfred Burton skillfully shares this story through the eyes of the children involved. The vibrant illustrations by Christina Johns are the perfect accompaniment to this authentic vignette of a little-known part of Prairie history.

**Burton, W. 2019. *The big tease: A story of Eliza Delorme and her cousin, Édouard Beaupré, the willow bunch giant.* (G. Gingras, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key themes: healing and wellness, family and community, culture/identity

Key areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: The Big Tease is a timeless story because we've all been involved in teasing to some degree, and often it has involved family. Time with family has always been important to Métis families. Like most families, there is usually at least one person who likes to tease others. In this story, it is Eliza, grandmother to author Wilfred Burton, and cousin to Édouard Beaupré. The Big Tease provides a lovely human touch to Édouard Beaupré's life before his fame as the "Willow Bunch Giant" and his early tragic death took him from his beloved family.

**Burton, W. (2021). *Ride, Gabe, Ride.* (L. Scott, Illus.). Your Nickel's Worth Publishing.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3 or Ages 3-12

Key themes: Gabriel Dumont, buffalo hunt, Métis culture

Key areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Ride across the plains with Gabriel Dumont! Based on historic events, Ride, Gabe, Ride! tells the tale of a dangerous, exhilarating hunt led by the famed Métis buffalo hunter.

**Burton, W. (2021). *Road allowance kitten: Broken promises.* (C. Johns, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 8-11

Key themes: forcible removal, force migrations, relocation

Key Areas: English language arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: *Road Allowance Kitten: Broken Promises* shares more of the adventures of the main characters, Rosie and Madeline, and their pet kitten. Their adventure began in *Road Allowance Kitten*, which has become a very popular and widely acclaimed book within the canon of Métis children's literature. Readers urged author Wilfred Burton to share what happens next.

**Caron, A., & Caron, K. (2014). *Manny's memories.* (D. L. Dumont, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 7-9

Key Themes: History, Saskatchewan, family, community, childhood

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: *Manny's Memories*, by Author Ken Caron with his daughter Angela Caron, introduces us to the Métis community of Round Prairie, Saskatchewan through the eyes of a young boy growing up in the 1940s. Manny shares his boyhood memories of the once vibrant community not too far from Saskatoon's city limits. Though rural life at the time called for hard work, self-sufficiency, and generosity, there was always time to have fun and to enjoy being a young Métis boy. Artist Donna Lee Dumont's visual expression of *Manny's Memories* helps us see the world as Ken, called "Manny" in his youth, remembers it. Norman Fleury's accompanying Michif translation and narration returns to the language which Manny often hears as a boy. *Manny's Memories* leaves us with a rare and satisfying glimpse of life not so long ago.

**Chartrand, N., & Leason, J. (2019). *Meennunyakaa / Blueberry Patch.* (J. Leason, Illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3 or Ages: 6-8

Key Themes: Manitoba, berries, food sovereignty, culture, family, community, traditions

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Art, Math, Science, Social Studies

Synopsis: Based in Duck Bay, Manitoba, in the 1940s, an Elder shares his experience of packing up to go out to collect blueberries, a traditional gathering that took place every summer. He describes the journey and landscape with humor and such vivid imagery that readers will see themselves there with him, boarding the trail of wagons from surrounding communities and heading east toward the blueberry patch. The Elder's stories offer a journey back in time and are complemented by images of fields of plump blueberries, tall green grass, bannock baking over an open fire, clear freshwater streams and the tents the people slept in.

**Condon, P. (2000). *Changes*. (P. Condon, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3 or Ages: 5-8

Key Themes: Emotions, seasons, guidance, acceptance, change

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: This story is about Kona, a young Métis child, who undergoes a personal journey by learning that the changing seasons closely interact with her emotions. She is guided along the way by the Gathering Spirit who teaches her about accepting change and celebrating the richness of life's emotions.

**Delaronde, D. L. (2021). *Louis Riel Day: The Fur Trade Project*. (S. Dawson, Illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Fur trade, métis, red river resistance, history, historical figures

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: When a young boy is assigned a project about the fur trade by his teacher, he doesn't know who to turn to because his mom works all day. With help from his grandfather and the internet, they travel back in time and discover how the fur trade began, a new people emerged, the Métis' role in the fur trade, Louis Riel and the Red River Resistance, and the reason behind a holiday named Louis Riel Day.

**Denny, E. (2008). *Jenneli's dance*. (C. Auchter, Illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 7-9

Key Themes: Dance, Red River Jig, jigging, performance, self-esteem, family

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Jenneli is a shy young girl who feels that she is nothing special, until she learns about the Métis Red-River Jig from her grandma. One day, Grandma Lucee enters her into a jigging contest. Jenneli's Dance is a story that instills a sense of pride in the Métis culture, and deals with low self-esteem.

**Dogniez, C. (2021). *Road to La Prairie Ronde*. (J. McDougall, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key themes: Transportation, family, Métis communities, genealogy/kinship, relationship with the land, relationship with the Dakota, travel pre-1885, coming-of-age, bison hunting, humour, familial relationships

Key areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Cort Dogniez's *Road to La Prairie Ronde*, takes the reader on an imagined journey of his ancestor, Frederick Dumont, from his home in Batoche to the Métis settlement of La Prairie Ronde, known today as Round Prairie. Frederick was a relative of the famous Métis leader, Gabriel Dumont. Frederick's journey takes place just a few years prior to the tragic events of the 1885 Resistance. This charming coming-of-age story focuses on young Frederick learning valuable lessons from his family as he begins his own journey from boyhood to manhood. The Cree and Métis concept of wâhkôtowin is a central part of this story. Wâhkôtowin is about maintaining and affirming relationships with the Creator and the natural world and with families, communities, and Indigenous nations. We have a relationship to all things.

**Dorion, L. M. (2004). *Strong Readers: Metis Series*. Strong Nations Publishing.**

Titles Include: LV. 3 – My Metis Sash; LV.6 – Metis People Travel; LV. 8 - I Can Bead; LV. 10 - Giving Thanks; LV. 12 - A Metis New Year; LV. 14 – Two Metis Vests; LV. 16 – A Red River Cart; LV. 18 Ways to Carry a Metis Baby.

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2 or Ages: 5-7

Key Themes: Culture, art, transportation, travel, family, children

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Arts Education,

Synopsis: The Métis Series includes a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books that provide cultural reflections of the Métis.

**Dorion, L. M. (2009). *The giving tree: A retelling of a traditional Métis story*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3 or Ages: 6-8

Key Themes: values, beliefs, culture, language, creative thinking

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: This charming story, richly steeped in Métis culture, focuses on the boyhood reminisces of Moushoom as he describes finding the "great giving tree" with his mother and father. The story emphasizes the Métis core values and beliefs including strength, kindness, courage, tolerance, honesty, respect, love, sharing, caring, balance, patience, and most of all, the important connection with the creator and Mother Earth.

**Dorion, L. M. (2011). *Relatives with roots*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key Themes: Plant medicines, family, lessons, relationships, animals, natural world

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science

Synopsis: "Relatives with Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land" is a heartfelt story about a Métis grandmother who takes her granddaughter out into the bush to teach her how to pick traditional medicines. As the granddaughter learns the traditional beliefs and stories about how the Métis people use the plants for food and medicine, she feels happy to be a Métis child with access to such wonderful cultural knowledge. This charming and vibrant book introduces young readers to key concepts in the traditional Métis worldview while focusing on the special relationship between a young Métis girl and her grandmother.

**Dorion, L. M. (2014). *My first Métis lobstick*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Ceremony, transition, family, lobstick poles, boreal forest

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Leah Marie Dorion's *My First Métis Lobstick* takes young readers back to Canada's fur trade era by focusing on a Métis family's preparations for a lobstick celebration and feast in the boreal forest. Through the eyes of a young boy, we see how important lobstick making and ceremony was to the Métis community. From the Great Lakes to the present-day Northwest Territories, lobstick poles—important cultural and geographical markers, which merged Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions—dotted the landscape of our great northern boreal forest. This little-known aspect of Métis history vividly comes to life through Leah Marie Dorion's crisp prose and stunning gallery-quality artwork.

**Dorion, L. M. (2017). *Métis Christmas mittens*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 5-9



Key Themes: Family, tradition, culture, holidays

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: The holiday season has always been a very special time for Métis families. A family-oriented people, the Métis often didn't have money to buy expensive presents, but instead made practical items with much love. In this spirit, award-winning author and illustrator, Leah Marie Dorion takes readers back to the Métis tradition of making mittens for loved ones. *Métis Christmas Mittens* is a touching ode to Métis family life accompanied by Leah's distinctive and evocative art.

Lesson plan available here: <https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/149639>.

**Dorion, L. M. (2019). *Métis camp circle: A bison culture way of life*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 6-12

Key Themes: Buffalo, buffalo hunting, culture, lifestyles

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: During much of the nineteenth century, bison hunting was integral to the Métis' social, economic, and political life. As "people of the buffalo," the Métis were bison hunters par excellence. In *Métis Camp Circle: A Bison Way of Life*, author and artist Leah Marie Dorion transports young readers back in time when bison were the basis of Métis lifeways on the Plains. Vibrantly illustrated and infused with important cultural teachings, this charming book skillfully informs us about this important period of Métis history.

Lesson plan available here: <https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/149643>.

**Guest, J. (2004). *Belle of Batoche*. (J. Lawrason, Illus.). Orca Book Publishers.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or ages: 8-12

Key Themes: Louis Riel Rebellion, Family, Culture, Morality

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Belle, an 11-year-old Métis girl, and Sarah both want the coveted job of church bell ringer. An embroidery contest is held to award the position, and Sarah cheats. Before Belle can expose her, the two are caught up in the advancing forces of General Middleton and his troops as they surround Batoche in the 1885 Riel Rebellion. The church bell disappeared that day and remains missing to this day.

Lesson plan available here:

<https://werklund.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/36/Belle%20of%20Batoche%20Grades%206-9%20Lesson.pdf>.

**Larsen-Jonasson, T. (2019). *The Circle of Caring and Sharing*. (J. V. Innerebner, Illus.). Medicine Wheel Education.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 4-9

Key themes: Language, emotions and feelings, family and community, self-regulation, social skills, healing, and wellness

Key areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: When two foxes, who are best friends, have a fight it upsets the whole community of animals. Kokum the Owl knows just what to do and brings together all the animals and holds a Sharing Circle.

**Pelletier, J. (2007). *The story of the Rabbit Dance*. (J. Panas, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Family, ways of living, trapping, dancing, Métis lifestyles, gatherings

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Jacques arrives late to a community gathering and is amazed to see dogs and rabbits dancing outside the building, mimicking the humans inside. He is thrilled to bring this new dance The Rabbit Dance to his friends and family.

**Simpson, A. (2022). *Noodin's perfect day*. (R. McGregor, Illus.). Flamingo Rampant.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1 or Ages: 3-5

Key themes: Urban Indigenous, modern family, cousins, babysitting, adventure, divorced parents, queer identity

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: When Noodin's perfect day is interrupted, they decide to strike out for adventure instead - spending the day with their human, animal, and tree cousins in the city. But will Noodin ever get the pancakes they're craving? Come along and find out!

**Wagner, E. J. (2009). *Racin' Jason*. (J. Kaszonyi, Illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3 or Ages: 6-8

Key Themes: horses, racing, orphan, bullying

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: After helping his Mishoomis (Grandfather) save an orphaned Appaloosa colt from a bog, Jason takes a special interest in caring for it which he names Binesi or Thunderbird. At school, the bullies make fun of his affection for the funny looking colt he hopes to race one day. They laugh and call him Racin Jason. With support from his Grandparents, Jason raises and trains Binesi. On the day of the big race, Jason and Binesi are ready. The teasing only makes Jason more determined than ever to win.

## Novels

**Daniel, D. (2022). *Forever birchwood: A Novel*. HarperCollins.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 8-12

Key Themes: Wilderness, family, cultural roles, tradition, environmental protection, conflict, small town, friendships

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Wolf, a young, outdoors-loving girl spends a lot of time amongst the trees with her friends. Wolf learns from her grandparents that she is destined to protect the forests while at the very same time, developers encroach on the small mining town – and her family.

## Videos

**Scopes, M. (2021, May 7). "The giving tree: A retelling of a traditional Métis story," written and illustrated by Leah Dorion [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r45WHex-0Bg>.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3 or Ages: 6-8

Key themes: values, beliefs, culture, language, creative thinking

Key areas: English Language Arts. Social Studies

Synopsis: This charming story, richly steeped in Métis culture, focuses on the boyhood reminisces of Moushoom as he describes finding the "great giving tree" with his mother and father. The story emphasizes the Métis core values and beliefs including strength, kindness, courage, tolerance, honesty,

respect, love, sharing, caring, balance, patience, and most of all, the important connection with the creator and Mother Earth.

## **DVD & Film**

**Pelletier, J. (Writer). (2015). *Story of the Rabbit Dance* [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Family, ways of living, trapping, dancing, Métis lifestyles, gatherings

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Jacques arrives late to a community gathering and is amazed to see dogs and rabbits dancing outside the building, mimicking the humans inside. He is thrilled to bring this new dance The Rabbit Dance to his friends and family.

## **Intermediate Grades (Grade 4 – Grade 8)**

### **Illustrated Books**

**Ashwin, K., McDONALD, K., & PETE, A. (Eds.). (2022). *The woman in the woods and other North American stories*. Iron Circus Comics.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8 or Ages: 10-13

Key Themes: Storytelling, knowledge, culture

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Loup Garrou, trickster rabbits, and spirits with names that can't be spoken — the plains and forests of North America are alive with characters like these, all waiting to meet you in this collection of folklore retold in comics!

**Boreham, B., Dorion, L. M., & Mach, T. (2017). *We are all connected: Métis, wetlands and mallards*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Strong Nations Publishing.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key Themes: Stories, wildlife, science and technology, environment, ecosystems, life cycles

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies

Synopsis: "We Are All Connected" is a series that explores how we all live together in a shared balance upon Mother Earth. Each book explores a specific ecosystem with a focus on one animal and its adaptations for survival within that ecosystem. Indigenous interviewees, each living within the same area, have responded to strategic questions as to how their community interacts with the land, their traditional territory. Explore each text with a sense of inquiry in mind.

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2007). *Fiddle dancer*. (S. F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritage, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging, Elders, role models

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Fiddle Dancer tells the tale of a young Métis boy, Nolin, and his growing awareness of his Métis heritage and identity while his "Mooshoom" or grandfather, teaches him to dance.

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2008). *Dancing in my bones*. (S.F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritages, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging, hunting, relationships, fiddling

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Dancing in My Bones will take you on a journey to discover Moushoom's first moose hunt, red lipstick kisses, Uncle Bunny's fiddling, and the return of the "Bannock Jig." But most importantly, by the end of the story, you might feel like you have dancing in your bones!

**Burton, W., & Patton, A. (2011). *Call of the fiddle*. (S. F. Racette, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 7-11

Key Themes: Heritage, family, tradition, culture, dancing, jigging

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Join Nolin one last time as he hears the rollicking rhythm of the "Red River Jig," learns of tearful memories, and experiences the excitement of jigging at Batoche!

**Burton, W. (2015). *Road allowance kitten*. (C. Johns, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 8-11

Key Themes: Pets, children, family, historical events, travel

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: They say, "home is where the heart is." For Rosie and Madeline, home also included their pet kitten. Imagine being told you have to leave your home ... without your pet. Based on a true story, Road Allowance Kitten gives readers a glimpse into the history of the Road Allowance Métis and their forced removal from their humble, but beloved, homes on the road allowance. Award-winning children's author Wilfred Burton skillfully shares this story through the eyes of the children involved. The vibrant illustrations by Christina Johns are the perfect accompaniment to this authentic vignette of a little-known part of Prairie history.

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Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key themes: Healing and wellness, family and community, culture/identity

Key areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: The Big Tease is a timeless story because we've all been involved in teasing to some degree, and often it has involved family. Time with family has always been important to Métis families. Like most families, there is usually at least one person who likes to tease others. In this story, it is Eliza, grandmother to author Wilfred Burton, and cousin to Édouard Beupré. The Big Tease provides a lovely human touch to Édouard Beupré's life before his fame as the "Willow Bunch Giant" and his early tragic death took him from his beloved family.

**Burton, W. (2021). *Road allowance kitten: Broken promises*. (C. Johns, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 8-11

Key Themes: forcible removal, force migrations, relocation, family, pets

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: *Road Allowance Kitten: Broken Promises* shares more of the adventures of the main characters, Rosie and Madeline, and their pet kitten. Their adventure began in *Road Allowance Kitten*, which has become a very popular and widely acclaimed book within the canon of Métis children's literature. Readers urged author Wilfred Burton to share what happens next.

**Caron, A., & Caron, K. (2014). *Manny's memories*. (D. L. Dumont, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 7-9

Key Themes: History, Saskatchewan, family, community, childhood

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: *Manny's Memories*, by Author Ken Caron with his daughter Angela Caron, introduces us to the Métis community of Round Prairie, Saskatchewan through the eyes of a young boy growing up in the 1940s. Manny shares his boyhood memories of the once vibrant community not too far from Saskatoon's city limits. Though rural life at the time called for hard work, self-sufficiency, and generosity, there was always time to have fun and to enjoy being a young Métis boy. Artist Donna Lee Dumont's visual expression of *Manny's Memories* helps us see the world as Ken, called "Manny" in his youth, remembers it. Norman Fleury's accompanying Michif translation and narration returns to the language which Manny often hears as a boy. *Manny's Memories* leaves us with a rare and satisfying glimpse of life not so long ago.

**Delaronde, D. L. (2021). *Louis Riel Day: The fur trade project*. (S. Dawson, illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Fur trade, Métis, red river resistance, history, historical figures

Key Areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: When a young boy is assigned a project about the fur trade by his teacher, he doesn't know who to turn to because his mom works all day. With help from his grandfather and the internet, they travel back in time and discover how the fur trade began, a new people emerged, the Métis' role in the fur trade, Louis Riel and the Red River Resistance, and the reason behind a holiday named Louis Riel Day.

**Denny, E. (2008). *Jenneli's dance*. (C. Auchter, illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 7-9

Key Themes: Dance, Red River Jig, jigging, performance, self-esteem, family

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: Jenneli is a shy young girl who feels that she is nothing special, until she learns about the Métis Red-River Jig from her grandma. One day, Grandma Lucee enters her into a jigging contest. Jenneli's Dance is a story that instills a sense of pride in the Métis culture, and deals with low self-esteem.

**Dogniez, C. (2021). *Road to La Prairie Ronde*. (J. McDougall, illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key themes: Transportation, family, Métis communities, genealogy/kinship, relationship with the land, relationship with the Dakota, travel pre-1885, coming-of-age, bison hunting, humour, familial relationships

Key areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Cort Dogniez's *Road to La Prairie Ronde*, takes the reader on an imagined journey of his ancestor, Frederick Dumont, from his home in Batoche to the Métis settlement of La Prairie Ronde, known today as Round Prairie. Frederick was a relative of the famous Métis leader, Gabriel Dumont. Frederick's journey takes place just a few years prior to the tragic events of the 1885 Resistance. This charming coming-of-age story focuses on young Frederick learning valuable lessons from his family as he begins his own journey from boyhood to manhood. The Cree and Métis concept of wâhkôtowin is a central part of this story. Wâhkôtowin is about maintaining and affirming relationships with the Creator and the natural world and with families, communities, and Indigenous nations. We have a relationship to all things.

**Dorion, L. M. (2011). *Relatives with roots*. (L. M. Dorion, illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 8-10

Key Themes: Plant medicines, family, lessons, relationships, animals, natural world

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Science

Synopsis: "Relatives with Roots: A Story About Métis Women's Connection to the Land" is a heartfelt story about a Métis grandmother who takes her granddaughter out into the bush to teach her how to pick traditional medicines. As the granddaughter learns the traditional beliefs and stories about how the Métis people use the plants for food and medicine, she feels happy to be a Métis child with access to such wonderful cultural knowledge. This charming and vibrant book introduces young readers to key concepts in the traditional Métis worldview while focusing on the special relationship between a young Métis girl and her grandmother. Relatives With Roots is the second in a series of children's books relating to traditional Métis values by Leah Marie Dorion. The first book, *The Giving Tree: A Retelling of a Traditional Métis Story*, was nominated in 2010 for a Willow Award in the Shining Willow category.

**Dorion, L. M. (2013). *The diamond willow walking Stick*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 9-12

Key themes: Seven sacred teachings, art, culture, language

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Science

Synopsis: Leah Marie Dorion's "The Diamond Willow Walking Stick: A Traditional Métis Story About Generosity" focuses on a Métis Elder's remembrances of traditional teachings about generosity that were taught to him by his grandparents during his childhood. These lifelong lessons imparted on him "how to live in a good Métis way," and taught him how to live with respect within the circle of life. In this charming children's book, the third in an ongoing series on traditional Métis culture, author and illustrator Leah Marie Dorion takes the reader on another enchanting journey while once again honouring the special bond between Métis children and their grandparents. With breathtaking artwork and an elegant Michif translation by Norman Fleury, this heartfelt, coming of age story will resonate with both young and old.

**Dorion, L. M. (2014). *My first Métis lobstick*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Ceremony, transition, family, lobstick poles, boreal forest

Key Areas: English Language Art, Social Studies

Synopsis: Leah Marie Dorion's "My First Métis Lobstick" takes young readers back to Canada's fur trade era by focusing on a Métis family's preparations for a lobstick celebration and feast in the boreal forest. Through the eyes of a young boy, we see how important lobstick making and ceremony was to the Métis community. From the Great Lakes to the present-day Northwest Territories, lobstick poles—important cultural and geographical markers, which merged Cree, Ojibway, and French-Canadian traditions—dotted the landscape of our great northern boreal forest. This little-known aspect of Métis history vividly comes to life through Leah Marie Dorion's crisp prose and stunning gallery-quality artwork.

**Dorion, L. M. (2017). *Métis Christmas mittens*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 5-9

Key Themes: Family, tradition, culture, holidays

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: The holiday season has always been a very special time for Métis families. A family-oriented people, the Métis often didn't have money to buy expensive presents, but instead made practical items with much love. In this spirit, award-winning author and illustrator, Leah Marie Dorion takes readers back to the Métis tradition of making mittens for loved ones. *Métis Christmas Mittens* is a touching ode to Métis family life is accompanied by Leah's distinctive and evocative art.

Lesson plan available here: <https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/149639>.

**Dorion, L. M. (2018). *Strong stories Metis*. Strong Nations Publishing.**

Titles Include: How the Moon Came to Be; Metis and Dandelions; Metis Singing Sticks: A Story About Metis Musical Traditions; Pemmican Berries; Poems to Honour Mother Earth; The Helpful Sasquatch; Metis Transport Boxes; The Story of the Tamarack Tree.

Grades: 4; 5; 6 or Ages: 9-11

Key Themes: Culture, tradition, music, food, transportation

Key Areas: English Language Art, Social Studies

Synopsis: Strong Stories focus on different First Nation territories from across Canada and the United States. These stories reflect the belief that our stories are the roots of our people, our lands and our cultures. It is from our stories that we grow and become strong and proud.

**Dorion, L. M. (2019). *Métis camp circle: A bison culture way of life*. (L. M. Dorion, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 6-12

Key Themes: Buffalo, buffalo hunting, culture, lifestyles

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: During much of the nineteenth century, bison hunting was integral to the Métis' social, economic, and political life. As "people of the buffalo," the Métis were bison hunters par excellence. In "Métis Camp Circle: A Bison Way of Life", author and artist Leah Marie Dorion transports young readers back in time when bison were the basis of Métis lifeways on the Plains. Vibrantly illustrated and infused with important cultural teachings, this charming book skillfully informs us about this important period of Métis history.

Lesson plan available here: <https://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/149643>.

**Dumont, D. L. (2013). *Peter Fidler and the Métis*. (D. L. Dumont, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9 or Ages: 11-14

Key Themes: Fur trade, historical figures, racism, medicine & healing, environment, family

Key areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: Peter Fidler and the Métis is an excellent primer on Métis history and culture for middle years readers. The book is the personal reflection of Métis artist and author Donna Lee Dumont on her direct ancestors, the Hudson's Bay Company explorer and mapmaker Peter Fidler and his Cree wife, Mary Mackegonne. Interwoven with this self-reflection is the author's discussion of the formation of Métis culture during the fur trade, the racism that forced many Métis to deny their heritage, and the proud place that the Métis now have as one of Canada's founding peoples. Writing about her childhood, which consisted of many summers spent picking and eating berries and learning about Aboriginal medicinal and healing traditions from her grandmother and her elders, Donna Lee Dumont poignantly takes the reader back to a gentler, more environmentally friendly time. She concludes by writing about her pride in being a Métis artist, author, educator, mother, and grandmother. Lavishly illustrated in bright, vibrant acrylics, Peter Fidler and the Métis is one woman's enchanting journey to document her Métis identity.

**Guest, J. (2004). *Belle of Batoche*. (J. Lawrason, Illus.). Orca Book Publishers.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6 or ages: 8-12

Key Themes: Louis Riel Rebellion, family, culture, morality

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Belle, an 11-year-old Métis girl, and Sarah both want the coveted job of church bell ringer. An embroidery contest is held to award the position, and Sarah cheats. Before Belle can expose her, the two are caught up in the advancing forces of General Middleton and his troops as they surround Batoche in the 1885 Riel Rebellion. The church bell disappeared that day and remains missing to this day.

**King, T. (2021). *Borders*. (N. Donovan, Illus.). HarperCollins.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9 or Ages: 10-14

Key Themes: Indigenous perspectives, identity, justice, belonging

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: *Borders* is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other.

**LaBoucane-Benson, P. (2015). *The outside circle*. (K. Mellings, Illus.). House of Anansi Press.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Trauma, substance use, gang violence, family, rehabilitation, role models, healing, ceremony

Key Areas: Arts Education, Indigenous Studies, Social Studies

Synopsis: In this important graphic novel, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives. Pete, a young Aboriginal man wrapped up in gang violence, lives with his younger brother, Joey, and his mother who is a heroin addict. One night, Pete and his mother's boyfriend, Dennis, get into a big fight, which sends Dennis to the morgue and Pete to jail. Initially, Pete keeps up ties to his crew, until a jail brawl forces him to realize the negative influence he has become on Joey, which encourages him to begin a process of rehabilitation that includes traditional Aboriginal healing circles and ceremonies.

**Larsen-Jonasson, T. (2019). *The circle of caring and sharing*. (J. V. Innerebner, Illus.). Medicine Wheel Education.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 4-9

Key themes: Language, emotions and feelings, family and community, self-regulation, social skills, healing, and wellness

Key areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: When two foxes, who are best friends, have a fight it upsets the whole community of animals. Kokom the Owl knows just what to do and brings together all the animals and holds a Sharing Circle.

**Pelletier, J. (2007). *The story of the Rabbit Dance*. (J. Panas, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Family, ways of living, trapping, dancing, Métis lifestyles, gatherings

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Jacques arrives late to a community gathering and is amazed to see dogs and rabbits dancing outside the building, mimicking the humans inside. He is thrilled to bring this new dance The Rabbit Dance to his friends and family.

**Racette, S.F., & Strong, A. (2021). *Four faces of the moon*. (A. Strong, Illus.) Annick Press.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17



Key Themes: Cultural reclamation, ancestors, language, historical events, land

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: On a journey to uncover her family's story, Spotted Fawn travels through time and space to reclaim connection to ancestors, language, and the land in this essential graphic novel.

Key themes: Michif culture and history, colonialism, moon cycles, historical events, timeline

**Roy, Z. (2019). *The voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis nation*. (J. Thistle, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10 or Ages: 10-15

Key themes: History, Métis heritage, voyageurs, Canada,

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Art Education

Synopsis: "The Voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis Nation" tells an old story—integral to both the birth of the Métis Nation and to the development of Canada—in a new and engaging format. Zoey Roy has eloquently transformed the history of the voyageurs into a spoken-word performance poem which she has shared live at numerous events over the last several years. In this innovative resource, Zoey masterfully informs the reader and listener of the voyageurs' history, background, and lifeways in a format popular with today's youth.

**Vermette, K. (2017). *Pemmican wars*. (S. B. Henderson & D. Yaciuk, Illus.). Highwater Press.**

Grades: 7; 8 or Ages: 12-14

Key Themes: Coming of age, orphans & foster homes, prejudice, racism

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Echo Desjardins, a 13-year-old Métis girl adjusting to a new home and school, is struggling with loneliness while separated from her mother. Then an ordinary day in Mr. Bee's history class turns extraordinary, and Echo's life will never be the same. During Mr. Bee's lecture, Echo finds herself transported to another time and place—a bison hunt on the Saskatchewan prairie—and back again to the present. In the following weeks, Echo slips back and forth in time. She visits a Métis camp, travels the old fur-trade routes, and experiences the perilous and bygone era of the Pemmican Wars.

Lesson plan available here:

[https://www.portageandmainpress.com/content/download/38233/456535/version/1/file/9781774920190\\_excerpt.pdf](https://www.portageandmainpress.com/content/download/38233/456535/version/1/file/9781774920190_excerpt.pdf)

**Vermette, K. (2019). *Red River Resistance*. (S. B. Henderson & D Yaciuk, Illus.). Highwater Press.**

Grades: 7; 8 or Ages: 12-14

Key Themes: Coming of ages, orphans, foster homes, prejudice, racism, Métis heritage, culture

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Echo Desjardins is adjusting to her new home, finding friends, and learning about Métis history. She just can't stop slipping back and forth in time. One ordinary afternoon in class, Echo finds herself transported to the banks of the Red River in the summer of 1869. All is not well in the territory as Canadian surveyors have arrived to change the face of territory, and Métis families, who have lived there for generations, are losing access to their land. As the Resistance takes hold, Echo fears for her friends and the future of her people in the Red River Valley.

**Vermette, K. (2020). *Northwest resistance*. (S. B. Henderson, Illus.). Highwater Press.**

Grades 7; 8 or Ages: 12-14

Key Themes: Coming of age, orphans, foster homes, prejudice, racism, Métis heritage, culture

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Katherena Vermette, a Governor General's Award-winning author deftly enters a format typically dominated by male creators with this graphic novel series, *A Girl Called Echo*. Featuring compelling illustrations, a female main character, and the contemporary foster care system, the series follows Echo Desjardins as she discovers her Métis heritage firsthand while slipping back and forth through time.

**Vermette, K. (2021). *Road allowance era*. (S. B. Henderson & D. Yaciuk, Illus.). Highwater Press.**

Grades: 7; 8 or Ages: 12-14

Key Themes: Coming of age, orphans, foster homes, prejudice, racism, Métis heritage, culture

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: The Manitoba Act's promise of land for the Métis has gone unfulfilled, and many Métis flee to the Northwest. As part of the fallout from the Northwest Resistance, their advocate and champion Louis Riel is executed. As new legislation corrodes Métis land rights, and unscrupulous land speculators and swindlers take advantage, many Métis settle on road allowances and railway land, often on the fringes of urban centres. For Echo, the plight of her family is apparent. Burnt out of their home in Ste. Madeleine when their land is cleared for pasture, they make their way to Rooster Town, settling on the southwest edges of Winnipeg. In this final installment of her story, Echo is reminded of the strength and resilience of her people, forged through the loss and pain of the past, as she faces a triumphant future.

**Woodcock, G. (2003). *Gabriel Dumont*. (J. R. Miller, Ed.). University of Toronto Press.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8 or Ages: 10-13

Key Themes: Historical figures, historical events, biography

Key Areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: George Woodcock's biography of Dumont displays the author's remarkable gift for evocative narration and description. In the wake of its 1975 publication Canadians had a new reference point in the way they thought of the Riel Rebellion; alongside the spirituality and impulsiveness of Riel was the calm commitment of Dumont, whose intuitive feel for the land and for the moods of his people have now become part of the Canadian historical imagination.

## Novels

**Daniel, D. (2022). *Forever birchwood: A Novel*. HarperCollins.**

Grades: 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 8-12

Key Themes: Wilderness, family, cultural roles, tradition, environmental protection, conflict, small town, friendships

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Wolf, a young, outdoors-loving girl spends a lot of time amongst the trees with her friends. Wolf learns from her grandparents that she is destined to protect the forests while at the very same time, developers encroach on the small mining town – and her family.

**Dimaline, C. (2017). *The marrow thieves*. Amulet Books.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13+

Key Themes: Indigenous culture, racism, genocide, family, global climate Change, dreams

Key Areas: English First Peoples, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. In

this dark world, Frenchie and his companions struggle to survive as they make their way up north to the old lands. For now, survival means staying hidden - but what they don't know is that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves.

Lesson plan available here:

[https://www.dcbyoungreaders.com/files/ugd/fea6f4\\_ebcf11ba311f404c9366048a33b86d40.pdf](https://www.dcbyoungreaders.com/files/ugd/fea6f4_ebcf11ba311f404c9366048a33b86d40.pdf).

[https://media.curio.ca/filer\\_public/93/9b/939be401-60c9-4cd7-a731-21fb9e9b5ed7/cr18bgmarrow.pdf](https://media.curio.ca/filer_public/93/9b/939be401-60c9-4cd7-a731-21fb9e9b5ed7/cr18bgmarrow.pdf).

**Dimaline, C. (2021). *Hunting by stars: A marrow thieves novel*. Penguin Random House.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12+

Key Themes: Indigenous Culture, Racism, Family, Land, Dreams, Global Climate Change

Key Areas: English First Peoples, English Language Arts

Synopsis: The thrilling follow-up to the bestselling, award-winning novel *The Marrow Thieves*, about a dystopian world where the Indigenous people of North America are being hunted for their bone marrow and ability to dream.

## Short Story/Creative Writing

**Daniels, G., Clements, M. H., & Kane, M. (2001). *DraMétis: three Métis plays*. Theytus Books.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key Themes:

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Arts Education

Synopsis: *DraMétis* is the first anthology to focus on the emerging discipline of Métis drama. The pieces have all been previously produced and highlight the diversity of Métis drama being written and performed in Canada.

**Vermette, K. (2018). *River woman*. House of Anansi Press.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Love, decolonization, reclamation, trauma, language, body

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Like the river they speak to, these poems return again and again to the same source in search of new ways to reconstruct what has been lost. Vermette suggests that it's through language and the body — particularly through language as it lives inside the body — that a fragmented self might resurface as once again whole. This idea of breaking apart and coming back together is woven throughout the collection as the speaker contemplates the ongoing negotiation between the city, the land, and the water, and as she finds herself falling into trust with the ones she loves.

## Videos

**Heritage Saskatchewan. (2017, July 1). *Road allowance people* [Video]. YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFpTlbuaAao>.

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Road Allowance communities, disenfranchisement, connection to the land, community, culture, independence, resilience, resistance

Key Areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: The first video in our Canada 150 series features Russell Fayant from the Gabriel Dumont Institute speaking about Métis cultural heritage and the legacy of the Road Allowance People - and why Canada 150 is not celebratory for everyone.

**Kikino Metis. (2013, April 4). *We are Metis* [Video]. YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bEGwt-Ghpo&t=27s>.

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Identity, heritage, culture, tradition

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: A video focusing on Métis culture and heritage; created by the Niwîkôwin Métis Family Services Society located in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.

**Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning. (2020, December 2). *Who are the Métis?* [Video].**

**YouTube.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvullRnPE3Y&t=8s>.

Grades: or Ages: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Métis identity, family, community, resilient, adaptability, language, culture, residential schools

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Métis Nation of Alberta and the Rupertland Institute examine what it means to be Métis in 2020 and how important the defining characteristics of that identity are.

## **DVD/Film**

**Chambers, B. (Writer). (2003). *Young and Métis (Season 4, Episode 10)* [TV series episode]. In B. Chambers (Executive Producer), *Venturing forth*. Filmwest Associates; Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Identity, Métis youth

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Examines the issues of identity crisis that the Métis face and how various youth approach the question of what it means to be Métis.

**Coyes, G. (Director). (2002). *How the fiddle flows* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key Themes: Music, fiddling, dancing, culture, identity, fur trade, Métis history, travel,

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: The film follows Canada's great rivers west along the fur-trading route of the early Europeans. The newcomers introduced the fiddle to the Aboriginal people they intermarried with along the way. A generation later, their mixed-blood offspring would blend European folk tunes with First Nations rhythms to create a rich and distinct musical tradition. From the Gaspé Peninsula, north to Hudson Bay and to the Prairies, the film reveals how a distinctive Métis identity and culture were shaped over time. Featuring soaring performances by some of Canada's best-known fiddlers and step dancers and narrated by award-winning actress Tantoo Cardinal.

**Freeman, L. (Director). (2001). *The dances of the Metis/Li dawns di Michif* [Film]. Metis Resource Centre.**

Grades: 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; or Ages: 9-17

Key Themes: Dance, jigging, music, fiddling, culture

Key Areas: Arts Education, Physical and Health Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: "The Dances of the Metis" is an effort on behalf of The Metis Resource centre Inc. to ensure the cultural preservation and restoration of the unique oral tradition Metis style fiddle music and dance. Dancers and musicians are in 1890-1920 traditional Metis dress. Showcased on this video are "The Reel of Eighth "Seven Step" "Drops of Brandy" "Square Dance with Caller" Duck Dance" "Waltz Quadrille" and "Red River Jig".

**Lazarowich, A. (Director). *Lake* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 10-17

Key Themes: Net fishing, Métis culture, women, winter

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Cree director Alexandra Lazarowich riffs off classic verité cinema to craft a contemporary portrait of Métis women net fishing in Northern Alberta.

**LeMay, M. (Director). (2021). *Stories of Métis women: Tales my kookum told me* [Film]. LeMay Media.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Oral history, Métis knowledge, kinship, family, community, buffalo, buffalo hunt and camps

Key Areas: Social Studies, Applied Design, Skills and Technologies

Synopsis: In this program narrated by Norma Spicer, we look at Métis society as told through the voices of various Métis women. They share their passion for Métis history, culture, and customs. They are the caretakers of traditional knowledge and are ensuring that the perspectives of Métis women are included in their history. In many ways, Métis women are the heart and soul of the Métis people. They are the strength in Métis families, communities, and places of work. In the past, their kinship networks established where people settled and whom people married. Sovereign within their familial and community roles, they were the healers, the stewards of the land and its resources, the keepers of Indigenous knowledge, and the midwives who kept the Métis Nation nurtured, educated, and sustained. Norma tells the story of the traditional Métis buffalo hunt and camps. We hear wonderful stories of the land, community and Métis family life from Norma Spicer, Beatrice Demetrius, Doreen Poitras, Gail Gallupe, Rachelle Venne, Juanita Marois, Lisa Wolfe, and Pearl Calahasen.

**LeMay, M. (Director). (2016). *The Métis in Canada* [Film]. LeMay Media.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: History, culture, Métis heritage, Canada

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: The Métis are one of Canada's three official Aboriginal peoples and have played an instrumental role in shaping the Canada we know today. Narrated and produced by multi award winning Métis film maker Matt LeMay, *The Métis in Canada* provides the viewer with a compelling overview of the history, culture and heritage of the Métis people.

**Nokony, D. (Director). *The giant* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 10-17

Key Themes: The Willow Bunch, community, historical figure

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This animated short tells the story of Edouard Beupré, a.k.a. the Willow Bunch Giant. At 2.5 m (8' 3"), he was the tallest Canadian in history. Born in 1881 in a small Métis community south of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, his life was tragically cut short in 1904 while he was "on display" at the St. Louis World's Fair

**Pelletier, J. (Writer). (2015). *Story of the Rabbit Dance* [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4 or Ages: 6-9

Key Themes: Family, ways of living, trapping, dancing, Métis lifestyles, gatherings

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Jacques arrives late to a community gathering and is amazed to see dogs and rabbits dancing outside the building, mimicking the humans inside. He is thrilled to bring this new dance The Rabbit Dance to his friends and family.

**Shannon, K. (Director). *Like the trees* [Film]. Nation Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Motherhood, capitalism, health, substance use, traveling, working, culture, family, tradition

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This short film is told in the first person by Rose, a Métis woman from northern Alberta who has left a difficult life in the city to rediscover her roots by returning to her Woodland Cree community. Rose reveals the racism, isolation, and health issues she faced when trying to make a life for herself outside her home community, and how she is able to help others now that she has reconnected to her culture.

## **Secondary Grades (Grade 9 – Grade 12)**

### **Illustrated Books**

**Brown, C. (1999). *Louis Riel: A comic-strip biography*. Drawn & Quarterly.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key Themes: History, leadership, Métis heritage, Louis Riel

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Chester Brown reinvents the comic-book medium to create the critically acclaimed historical biography *Louis Riel*, winning the Harvey Awards for best writing and best graphic novel for his compelling, meticulous, and dispassionate retelling of the charismatic, and perhaps insane, nineteenth-century Métis leader. Brown coolly documents with dramatic subtlety the violent rebellion on the Canadian prairie led by Riel, who some regard a martyr who died in the name of freedom, while others consider him a treacherous murderer.

**Campbell, M. (1995). *Stories of the road allowance people*. (S. F. Racette, Illus.). Theytus Books.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Storytelling, oral history, Métis history,

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Acclaimed Métis writer, Maria Campbell has lovingly brought these evocative stories to life once again in this revised edition. Remaining true to the oral history and written in the melodious Michif-accented English of the original storytellers, this timeless collection of traditional stories reflects the Métis' rich and vibrant storytelling tradition.

**King, T. (2021). *Borders*. (N. Donovan, Illus.). HarperCollins.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9 or Ages: 10-14

Key Themes: Indigenous perspectives, identity, justice, belonging

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: "Borders is a masterfully told story of a boy and his mother whose road trip is thwarted at the border when they identify their citizenship as Blackfoot. Refusing to identify as either American or Canadian first bars their entry into the US, and then their return into Canada. In the limbo between countries, they find power in their connection to their identity and to each other.

**LaBoucane-Benson, P. (2015). *The outside circle*. (K. Mellings, Illus.). House of Anansi Press.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Trauma, substance use, gang violence, family, rehabilitation, role models, healing, ceremony

Key Areas: Art, Indigenous Studies, Social Studies

Synopsis: In this important graphic novel, two Aboriginal brothers surrounded by poverty, drug abuse, and gang violence, try to overcome centuries of historic trauma in very different ways to bring about positive change in their lives. Pete, a young Aboriginal man wrapped up in gang violence, lives with his younger brother, Joey, and his mother who is a heroin addict. One night, Pete and his mother's boyfriend, Dennis, get into a big fight, which sends Dennis to the morgue and Pete to jail. Initially, Pete keeps up ties to his crew, until a jail brawl forces him to realize the negative influence he has become on Joey, which encourages him to begin a process of rehabilitation that includes traditional Aboriginal healing circles and ceremonies.

**Racette, S.F., & Strong, A. (2021). *Four faces of the moon*. (A. Strong, Illus.) Annick Press.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12+

Key Themes: Cultural reclamation, ancestors, language, historical events, land

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: On a journey to uncover her family's story, Spotted Fawn travels through time and space to reclaim connection to ancestors, language, and the land in this essential graphic novel.

Key themes: Michif culture and history, colonialism, moon cycles, historical events, timeline

**Roy, Z. (2019). *The voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis nation*. (J. Thistle, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10 or Ages: 10-15

Key themes: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Art Education

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Arts Education

Synopsis: The Voyageurs: Forefathers of the Métis Nation tells an old story—integral to both the birth of the Métis Nation and to the development of Canada—in a new and engaging format. Zoey Roy has eloquently transformed the history of the voyageurs into a spoken-word performance poem which she has shared live at numerous events over the last several years. In this innovative resource, Zoey masterfully informs the reader and listener of the voyageurs' history, background, and lifeways in a format popular with today's youth. To fully appreciate Zoey's masterful delivery, a DVD to accompany this book was essential. Combined with Jerry Thistle's evocative illustrations and Norman Fleury's Michif narration, this resource becomes a teaching tool, a work of art, and the impetus for further research all in one.

## Novels

**Dimaline, C. (2013). *The girl who grew a galaxy*. Theytus Books.**

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Feelings of guilt and inadequacy, death of a relative, strength, narrative, jobs, mental illness

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: A galaxy of odd planets spins around Ruby Bloom's head, slick and regulated as a game of snooker. The big purple one is Anxiety. It grew in the slipstream of Guilt, a smooth, loud planet with two moons: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder and Agoraphobia. The black one is Envy. It's crusted with ice and solid as tungsten. The pink spotted one, a loud sparkly affair, is Fantasy and it careens wildly about like a ball after the break. There is a shiny amber globe that catches passing light; a small marble named Longing that is the brightest of all the orbs. The universe didn't start with a big bang of cosmic proportions; instead, it grew out of trauma that occurred in the middle of an otherwise quiet childhood. It began the day Ruby Bloom, age seven and a half, killed her grandfather.

**Dimaline, C. (2017). *The marrow thieves*. Amulet Books.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13+

Key Themes: Indigenous Culture, Racism, Genocide, Family, Global Climate Change, Dreams

Key Areas: English First Peoples, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Humanity has nearly destroyed its world through global warming, but now an even greater evil lurks. The indigenous people of North America are being hunted and harvested for their bone marrow, which carries the key to recovering something the rest of the population has lost: the ability to dream. In this dark world, Frenchie and his companions struggle to survive as they make their way up north to the old lands. For now, survival means staying hidden - but what they don't know is that one of them holds the secret to defeating the marrow thieves.

Lesson plan available here:

[https://www.dcbyoungreaders.com/files/ugd/fea6f4\\_ebcf11ba311f404c9366048a33b86d40.pdf](https://www.dcbyoungreaders.com/files/ugd/fea6f4_ebcf11ba311f404c9366048a33b86d40.pdf).

[https://media.curio.ca/filer\\_public/93/9b/939be401-60c9-4cd7-a731-21fb9e9b5ed7/cr18bgmarrow.pdf](https://media.curio.ca/filer_public/93/9b/939be401-60c9-4cd7-a731-21fb9e9b5ed7/cr18bgmarrow.pdf).

**Dimaline, C. (2021). *Hunting by Stars: A marrow thieves novel*. Penguin Random House.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12+

Key Themes: Indigenous Culture, Racism, Family, Land, Dreams, Global Climate Change

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: The thrilling follow-up to the bestselling, award-winning novel *The Marrow Thieves*, about a dystopian world where the Indigenous people of North America are being hunted for their bone marrow and ability to dream.

**Mosionier, B. C. (2000). *In the shadow of evil*. Theytus Books.**

Grades: or Ages: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Loss, family, childhood, trauma, foster homes, crime

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: This murder mystery is set in the foothills of the Rockies. The main character, Christine, is a Métis woman who struggles to deal with the sudden loss of her husband and child. Haunted by her own childhood of a broken family, sibling rivalry and foster homes, Christine's life suddenly unravels revealing the ghosts and events of her past. All is brought to a suspenseful and surprising conclusion.

**Vermette, K. (2016). *The break*. House of Anansi Press.**



Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Motherhood, social work, art, death, relationships, police, Winnipeg

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: When Stella, a young Métis mother, looks out her window one evening and spots someone in trouble on the Break — a barren field on an isolated strip of land outside her house — she calls the police to alert them to a possible crime. In a series of shifting narratives, people who are connected, both directly and indirectly, with the victim — police, family, and friends — tell their personal stories leading up to that fateful night. Lou, a social worker, grapples with the departure of her live-in boyfriend. Cheryl, an artist, mourns the premature death of her sister Rain. Paulina, a single mother, struggles to trust her new partner. Phoenix, a homeless teenager, is released from a youth detention centre. Officer Scott, a Métis policeman, feels caught between two worlds as he patrols the city. Through their various perspectives a larger, more comprehensive story about lives of the residents in Winnipeg's North End is exposed.

Lesson plan available here:

<https://biblioshare.org/BNCservices/BNCservices.aspx/Samples?token=fcf85c1c1b298e99&ean=9781487001117&SAN=&Perspective=teachersguide&FileNumber=0>

**Winn, Vanessa. (2009). *The Chief Factor's daughter*. Touchwood Editions.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Fur-trade, Hudson's Bay Company, colonial Victoria, Métis heritage, cultural differences

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Colonial Victoria in 1858 is an unruly mix of rowdy gold seekers and hustling immigrants caught in the upheaval of the fur trade giving way to the gold rush. Chief Factor John Work, an elite of the Hudson's Bay Company fur trade and husband to a country-born wife, forbids his daughters to go into the formerly quiet Fort Victoria, to protect them from its burgeoning transient population. Margaret, the eldest daughter, chafes at her father's restrictions and worries that, at 23, she is fated to be a spinster. Born of a British father and Métis mother, Margaret and her sisters belong to the upper class of the fur-trade community, though they become targets of snobbery and racism from the new settlers. But dashing naval officers and Royal Engineers still host parties and balls, and Margaret and her sisters attend, dressed in the fashionable gowns they order from England. As happens the world over, these cultural tensions lead to love and romance.

## **Short Story/Creative Writing**

**Baker, C. (2017). *Bad endings*. Anvil Press.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Family, marriage, death, nature, animals, urbanism

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: While steadfastly local in her choice of setting, Baker's deep appreciation for nature takes a lot of these stories out of Vancouver and into the wild. Salmon and bees play reoccurring roles in these tales, as do rivers. Occasionally, characters blend with their animal counterparts, adding a touch of magic realism. Nature is a place of escape and attempted convalescence for characters suffering from urban burnout. In *Bad Endings*, Baker takes troubled characters to a moment of realization or self-revelation, but the results aren't always pretty.

**Daniels, g., Clements, M. H., & Kane, M. (2001). *DraMétis: three Métis plays*. Theytus Books.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key Themes:

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Arts Education

Synopsis: *DraMétis* is the first anthology to focus on the emerging discipline of Métis drama. The pieces have all been previously produced and highlight the diversity of Métis drama being written and performed in Canada.

**Dumont, M. (1996). *A really good brown girl*. Brick Boks**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Indigeneity, exploitation of Indigenous identity, competition, white condescension

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: *A Really Good Brown Girl* is a fierce, honest and courageous account of what it takes to grow into one's self and one's Métis heritage in the face of myriad institutional and cultural obstacles. It is an indispensable contribution to Canadian literature.

Teaching Guide: <https://www.spdbooks.org/images/tn/subfolder/marilyndumont.pdf>

**Dumont, M. (2001). *Green girl dreams mountains*. Oolichan Books.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Place, family, mother & daughter, loss, disenfranchisement, belonging, separation, land

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: *Green Girl Dreams Mountains* is about memory and transformation, about the details that shape us no matter which culture we emerge from or into. It is a book about place, rural and urban, and the powerful way landscapes define our character, our perceptions, and the future. It is a book of love poems, of extraordinary sensuality. It is a book that celebrates language and the songs we are compelled to sing. It is a book of lessons.

**Glenn, L. N. (2017). *Following the river: Traces of Red River women*. Wolsak and Wynn Publishers.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Family, relations, racism, sexism, colonialism, research, history, Métis heritage

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Of Cree-Métis ancestry, Lorri Neilsen Glenn, is a poet, essayist, teacher, and researcher. Lorri Neilsen Glenn first discovered her great-grandmother's tragic death in a passing comment from an aunt. Startled, she began to search out the history of her family, to understand the life of this woman she knew nothing about. Along the way Neilsen Glenn works to unravel the issues of racism, sexism and colonial nation building that haunt us still. In elegant prose and poetry, she has created a story of pieces, bringing to life what she could find in newspaper reports and museums. Through these fragments and portraits, she gives the reader a glimpse of the lives lived by her ancestors and by women like them.

**Mayer, L. (2015). *Cries from a Métis heart*. Pemmican Publications.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Identity, motherhood, academic, recognition, womanhood

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Sometimes you have to draw upon your history to escape your past. In her hard-hitting debut, Lorraine Mayer uses poetry and prose to entwine two stories -- one following her struggle to be recognized as a Métis woman, mother and academic, the other seeing that struggle in terms of the Métis people and their quest for recognition

**Scofield, G. (1999). *I knew two Métis women*. Polestar Books.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Relationality, love, humour, hardship, poverty, violence, prejudice, Métis community

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: *I Knew Two Metis Women* is both frankly autobiographical and a rich, multi-voiced tribute to a generation of Aboriginal people. In this stunning collection, Gregory Scofield takes a leap forward by looking back. As he recreates the voices, tells the tales, and sings the songs of his Metis family, he reveals the integrity and beauty that exist alongside hardship and oppression.

**Scofield, G. (1999). *Thunder through my veins*. HarperFlamingo.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Family, loss, poverty, violence, self-hatred

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Few people can justify a memoir at the age of thirty-three. Gregory Scofield is the exception, a young man who has inhabited several lives in the time most of us can manage only one. *Thunder Through My Veins* is Gregory's traumatic, tender and hopeful story of his fight to rediscover and accept himself in the face of a heritage with diametrically opposed backgrounds.

**Scofield, G. (1996). *Native Canadiana: Songs from the urban rez*. Polestar Books.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Colonization, racism, family, loss, heritage, relations, Canada

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: "[Scofield's] lyricism is stunning, gets within the skin. Be careful. These songs are so beautiful they are dangerous." - Native American poet, singer, and storyteller Joy Harjo "These are poems that dig deeply into oral tradition in order to speak shattering truths of street life in 'the urban rez.'" - *The Small Press Magazine*

**Scofield, G. (1993). *The gathering stones for the medicine wheel*. Polestar Books.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Tradition, craft, heritage, hunting, culture, relations, history, politics

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: In "The Gathering", Gregory Scofield applies the sacred teachings of the Medicine Wheel to the harsh reality of life on the skids. Using poetry as a healing metaphor, he embarks on a personal journey that parallels the historic and contemporary displacement of the Métis people. With anger, humor, and powerful language, *The Gathering* offers rare insight into the world of Canada's Métis, creating a bridge between Native and non-Native worlds.

**Vermette, K. (2018). *River woman*. House of Anansi Press.**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Love, decolonization, reclamation, trauma, language, body

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Like the river they speak to, these poems return again and again to the same source in search of new ways to reconstruct what has been lost. Vermette suggests that it's through language and the body — particularly through language as it lives inside the body — that a fragmented self might resurface as once again whole. This idea of breaking apart and coming back together is woven throughout the collection as the speaker contemplates the ongoing negotiation between the city, the land, and the water, and as she finds herself falling into trust with the ones she loves.

**Vowel, C. (2022). *Buffalo is the new buffalo*. Arsenal Pulp Press.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Colonialism, buffalo, mystery, healing, stories, futurisms

Key Areas: English Language Arts

Synopsis: Inspired by classic and contemporary speculative fiction, *Buffalo Is the New Buffalo* explores science fiction tropes through a Métis lens: a Two-Spirit rougarou (shapeshifter) in the nineteenth century tries to solve a murder in her community and joins the nehiyaw-pwat (Iron Confederacy) in order to successfully stop Canadian colonial expansion into the West. A Métis man is gored by a radioactive bison, gaining super strength, but losing the ability to be remembered by anyone not related to him by blood. Nanites babble to babies in Cree, virtual reality teaches transformation, foxes take human form and wreak havoc on hearts, buffalo roam free, and beings grapple with the thorny problem of healing from colonialism.

## Non-Fiction

**Adams, H. (2005). *Howard Adams: Otapawy!: The life of a Métis leader in his own words and in those of his contemporaries*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Politics, Métis leadership, activism

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Passionate and engaging, Howard Adams: OTAPAWY! is an immense contribution to our knowledge of modern Métis political consciousness and activism. In addition to being Howard Adams' own record of his remarkable life, the book also contains many contributions by those who were touched by him as a friend, colleague, mentor, activist, political leader, teacher, and scholar.

**Anderson, K. (2012). *Life stages and Native women: Memory, teachings, and story medicine*.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Life stages, girls, women, culture, community, knowledge, health, ageing, puberty

Key Areas: Social Studies, Physical and Health Studies

Synopsis: A rare and inspiring guide to the health and well-being of Aboriginal women and their communities. The process of "digging up medicines" - of rediscovering the stories of the past - serves as a powerful healing force in the decolonization and recovery of Aboriginal communities. In *Life Stages and Native Women*, Kim Anderson shares the teachings of fourteen elders from the Canadian prairies and Ontario to illustrate how different life stages were experienced by Métis, Cree, and Anishinaabe girls and women during the mid-twentieth century. These elders relate stories about their own lives, the experiences of girls and women of their childhood communities, and customs related to pregnancy, birth, post-natal care, infant and childcare, puberty rites, gender and age-specific work roles, the distinct roles of post-menopausal women, and women's roles in managing death. Through these teachings, we learn how evolving responsibilities from infancy to adulthood shaped women's identities and place within Indigenous society and were integral to the health and well-being of their communities. By understanding how healthy communities were created in the past, Anderson explains how this traditional knowledge can be applied toward rebuilding healthy Indigenous communities today.

**Andrews, G. (1985). *Métis outpost: Memoirs of the first schoolmaster at the Métis settlement of Kelly Lake, B.C., 1923-1925*. G. S. Andrews.**

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Métis settlement, history, education, Cree language, English language, fur trade

Key Areas: Social Studies, History

Synopsis: This book details the time that teacher, engineer, forester, land surveyor, and writer Gerry Andrews spent at the remote and isolated outpost of Kelly Lake in the Peace River region. From aiding in the building of the schoolhouse to teaching the children and women how to speak English, Andrew's diary is an inside look into what the everyday looked like for those in the Kelly Lake Métis outpost.

**Bird, M. (1991). *Living kindness: The dream of my life: The memoirs of Métis Elder, Madeline Bird. Outcrop.***

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Métis tradition, lifestyle, church, bush life, town life, women's experiences, Catholicism, residential schools

Key Areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: This biography of Madeline Bird, a Métis elder resident in Fort Chipewyan, northern Alberta, includes detailed accounts of the traditional lifestyle, the role of the church, living conditions for women, bush life and town life, as told orally to Sister Agnes Sutherland

**Campbell, M. (1973). *Halfbreed. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart.***

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Poverty, oppression, alcoholism, addiction, discrimination, family, childhood, relationships, Métis heritage

Key Areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: Maria Campbell's biography is a classic, vital account of a young Métis woman's struggle to come to terms with the joys, sorrows, loves and tragedies of her northern Saskatchewan childhood. Maria was a strong and sensitive child who lived in a community robbed of its pride and dignity by the dominant culture. At 15 she tried in vain to escape by marrying a white man, only to find herself trapped in the slums of Vancouver—addicted to drugs, tempted by suicide, close to death. But the inspiration of her Cree great-grandmother, Cheechum, gives her confidence in herself and in her people, confidence she needs to survive and to thrive.

Lesson plan available here: <https://www.bctf.ca/classroom-resources/details/halfbreed-novel-study-english-first-peoples-12>

**Dobbin, M. (1981). *The one-and-a-half men: the story of Jim Brady and Malcolm Norris, Metis patriots of the twentieth century. New Star Books.***

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Métis history, Alberta, political organizing,

Key Areas: Social Studies, History

Synopsis: The Story of Jim Brady and Malcolm Norris, Metis Patriots of the Twentieth Century was published in 1981. It is the story of twentieth century Métis history as experienced by two life-long socialists who were an intimate part of that history.

**Fraser, G. N. (2020). *Joseph William McKay: A Métis business leader in colonial British Columbia. Heritage House.***

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Nanaimo BC, Métis history, Hudson's Bay Company, colonialism, Indian agents, settlement

Key Areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: An intriguing look at the accomplishments and contradictions of Joseph William McKay, best known as the founder of Nanaimo, BC, and one of the most successful Métis men to rise through the ranks of the Hudson's Bay Company in the late nineteenth century.

**Maracle, L. (1990). *Bobbi Lee, Indian rebel* (New ed.). Women's Press.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Indigenous women, colonial forces, oppression, Ontario, contemporary issues facing Indigenous women

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Lee Maracle's "Bobbi Lee, Indian Rebel" tells the narrative of an Indigenous woman raised in North America who finds her strength despite the forces that challenge and oppress her. Grippingly honest, Lee's autobiographical exploration of post-colonial tensions in Toronto circa 1960-1980 sheds light on the existing racist and sexist sentiments affecting Indigenous women. Reflective of the struggles Indigenous communities face today, this book continues to hold a place within contemporary Indigenous and women's studies classrooms.

**O'Neil, P. M. (2016). *I am Métis: The story of Gerry St. Germain*. Harbour Publishing.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Métis heritage, Canadian Government, Steven Harper, conservative government, Senate reports

Key Areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: This text outlines the span of Gerry St. Germain's life, from his troubled childhood to his career in the air force, police force, and a politician in the federal cabinet and the senate. As a government official, St. Germain brought key issues such as land claims and on-reserve education to the attention of parliament and the general public. He was also a passionate advocate for providing help to those who were feeling the consequences of the Indian Act and Residential Schools. Throughout all of this, St. Germain was on an ongoing journey of self-acceptance and cultivating a sense of pride in his Métis identity.

**Riel, L. (1976). *The diaries of Louis Riel*. (T. Flanagan, Ed.). Hurtig.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Manitoba history, 1885 Rebellion, Métis history, religion,

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: A collection of four diaries kept by Louis Riel from June 1884 to just prior to his execution. They detail the thinking and reasoning behind one of Canada's most prominent Métis leaders during defining moments in Métis history. Editor Thomas Flanagan provides contextual information that aids the reader in understanding the larger historical picture that these diaries were written during.

**Thistle, J. (2019). *From the ashes: My story of being Métis, homeless, and finding my way*. Simon & Schuster.**

Grades: 12 or Ages: 17

Key Themes: Healing and Wellness, foster care, homelessness, addiction, abuse, love, support

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Abandoned by his parents as a toddler, Jesse Thistle briefly found himself in the foster-care system with his two brothers, cut off from all they had known. Eventually the children landed in the home of their paternal grandparents, but their tough-love attitudes meant conflicts became commonplace. And the ghost of Jesse's drug-addicted father haunted the halls of the house and the memories of every family member. Struggling, Jesse succumbed to a self-destructive cycle of drug and alcohol addiction and petty crime, spending more than a decade on and off the streets, often homeless. One day, he finally realized he would die unless he turned his life around.

**Trindell, T., Morisset, J.-P., & Pelletier, R.-M. (1986). *Ted Trindell: Métis witness to the North*. Arsenal Pulp Press.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Industrialism, Métis heritage, trapping, bush life

Key Areas: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Synopsis: This text explores the life of Ted Trindell, a Métis trapper, storyteller, and philosopher who spent the majority of his time in the Liard River country in the Northwest Territories. From various correspondence and tapes reimagined in the form of a biography, we can glimpse into the struggles of a changing world subsequent intercultural struggles between Indigenous/Métis and non-Indigenous and the rapidly expanding industrial projects.

## Videos

**CBC News. (2019, April 27). *Who are the Métis?* [Video]. YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUKcxc6-IDA>.

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Powley Case, Métis hunting and fishing rights, identity, provincial and federal governments of Canada, disagreement, Nova Scotia, Manitoba

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Who is and who isn't "Métis" is a controversial topic. We hear different perspectives from the Cabinet Minister of the Manitoba Métis Federation and the self-described Grand Jesse Chief of an Eastern Métis organization from Nova Scotia.

**Heritage Saskatchewan. (2017, July 1). *Road allowance people* [Video]. YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFpTlbuAao>.

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Road Allowance communities, disenfranchisement, connection to the land, community, culture, independence, resilience, resistance

Key Areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: The first video in our Canada 150 series features Russell Fayant from the Gabriel Dumont Institute speaking about Métis cultural heritage and the legacy of the Road Allowance People - and why Canada 150 is not celebratory for everyone.

**Kikino Metis. (2013, April 4). *We are Metis* [Video]. YouTube.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bEGwt-Ghpo&t=27s>.

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Identity, heritage, culture, tradition

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: A video focusing on Métis culture and heritage; created by the Niwîkôwin Métis Family Services Society located in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada.

**TEDx Talks. (2017, July 21). *Indigenous realities of a bush Métis | Blake Desjarlais | TEDxUAlberta* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDxZFIEAj2o>.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Canadian identity, Canadian history, Canada 150, resistance, apprehension of children by the state, truth and reconciliation, intergenerational trauma, personal narrative

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Blake Desjarlais explores the idea of reconciliation and how it is about an inheritance of our countries' histories, agreements, values, and resistance. It involves the processes of recognition of the people that are part of the land, a deconstruction of systems that are supposed to serve all people, and the reconstruction of our commitments, our respect for self-determination, and our futures. While the 4% of Canada consisting of our Indigenous peoples are "trying their hardest" to survive traumas and work on the betterment of communities, but the story of Canada isn't complete until it involves the efforts and reflections of the 96%, or all Canadians.

**TEDx Talks. (2021, March 11). *We know who we are: five generations of Métis resilience* | Emerald UnRuh | TEDxSFU [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlwiTlpO5Q8>.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Resilience, personal narrative, Indigeneity, Métis identity, Métis history, culture, Road Allowance people, family

Key Areas: History, Social Studies

Synopsis: "We are known by so many names. Métis. Half-Breed. Michif. Otipemisiwak. Bois-Brûlés. The Free People. The People Who Own Themselves. The Flower Beadwork People. Half-Burnt Men. The Road Allowance People. The Forgotten People. All of these names speak to the fact that we are a strong People. We are a people in charge of ourselves. We are a resilient people. We are still here. We know who we are." In her TEDxSFU Talk, Emerald explores the nuance of Métis identity, following the arc her family stories across space and time to share an experience that is distinctly Métis, emphasizing the commonality, kinship, and values held in and shared by Métis stories.

**Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning. (2020, December 2). *Who are the Métis?* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvullRnPE3Y&t=8s>.**

Grades: or Ages: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Métis identity, family, community, resilient, adaptability, language, culture, residential schools

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Métis Nation of Alberta and the Ruperstland Institute examine what it means to be Métis in 2020 and how important the defining characteristics of that identity are.

## **DVD/Film**

**(2011). *Métis studies* [Film]. College of New Caledonia.**

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Biography, personal narrative, growing up, identity, disenfranchisement, local history, Nechako region, Elder protocol, cultural values, medicine, storytelling

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Part of online curriculum for CNC's Aboriginal Studies 110, begun in January 2011. The course is designed to help students explore and understand past and present perspective in all areas of life with an eye toward fostering positive cross-cultural interaction between Metis and non-Metis individuals and communities. When developing the course, instructors invited seven Metis Elders from Prince George - Rose Bortolon, Irene Caplette, Irene Cardinal, Annette Maurice, Jim Roberts, Joyce Roberts, and Jean Walker - to talk about the things that mattered in their lives; what it was like for them as children, the joy and difficulty of growing up in a mixed culture and their firsthand experiences in the history that is normally only read about in books.



**Bailey, N. (Director). (1991). *Women in the shadows* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Genealogy, family, Hudson's Bay Company, Métis history, language, personal narrative

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This intensely personal documentary follows Indigenous writer and filmmaker Christine Welsh as she embarks on an extraordinary physical and spiritual journey in search of her Métis foremothers. It is the story of one Métis woman's reconciliation with her past and her people--a coming to terms with loss and with the price that has been paid for assimilation, and a celebration of survival.

**Cardinal, G. (Director). (1987). *Foster child* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Foster child, foster family, birth family, social services, adoption, racism

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: An important figure in the history of Canadian Indigenous filmmaking, Gil Cardinal was born to a Métis mother but raised by a non-Indigenous foster family, and with this auto-biographical documentary he charts his efforts to find his biological mother and to understand why he was removed from her. Considered a milestone in documentary cinema, it addressed the country's internal colonialism in a profoundly personal manner, winning a Special Jury Prize at Banff and multiple international awards.

**Brittain, M. (Director). (2017). *(Dis)placed: Indigenous you and the child welfare system* [Film].**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Canada's history, colonialism, family, culture, identity, storytelling, art, resistance, activism, advocacy, solidarity

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: The film features the voices of Indigenous youth as they reflect on their prior involvement with child welfare and share their multiple strategies of resistance to assimilation and state control.

Teaching guide available here:

[https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/displaced\\_teaching\\_guide\\_0.pdf](https://fncaringsociety.com/sites/default/files/displaced_teaching_guide_0.pdf)

**Cazabon, A. (Director). (2012). *Full Circle: First Nations, Metis, Inuit ways of knowing* [Film].**

**OSSTF/FEESO.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Indigenous peoples, economic conditions, social conditions, identity, teenage experiences, land, residential schools, health

Key Areas: Social Studies, Physical and Health Education, Career Education, English Language Arts

Synopsis: DVD contains the stories of six Ontario teenagers on their journey towards self identity. Each of them is unique but they have a common thread, they are all members of Canada's Aboriginal peoples, First Nation, Inuit and Metis. The DVD includes an educator resource booklet.

Teaching guide available here: <https://d31u61.training.osstf.ca/en-CA/resource-centre/curricular-materials-and-classroom-resources/common-threads/projects/full-circle-first-nations-m%C3%A9tis-inuit-ways-of-knowing.aspx>

**Chambers, B. (Writer). (2003). *Young and Métis (Season 4, Episode 10)* [TV series episode]. In B. Chambers (Executive Producer), *Venturing forth*. Filmwest Associates; Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Identity, Métis youth

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Examines the issues of identity crisis that the Métis face and how various youth approach the question of what it means to be Métis.

**Coyes, G. (Director). (2002). *How the fiddle flows* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key Themes: Music, fiddling, dancing, culture, identity, fur trade, Métis history, travel,

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: The film follows Canada's great rivers west along the fur-trading route of the early Europeans. The newcomers introduced the fiddle to the Aboriginal people they intermarried with along the way. A generation later, their mixed-blood offspring would blend European folk tunes with First Nations rhythms to create a rich and distinct musical tradition. From the Gaspé Peninsula, north to Hudson Bay and to the Prairies, the film reveals how a distinctive Metis identity and culture were shaped over time. Featuring soaring performances by some of Canada's best-known fiddlers and step dancers and narrated by award-winning actress Tantoo Cardinal.

**Duckworth, M. (Director). (1996). *Riel country* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Métis origins, history, Louis Riel, culture, racism, Aboriginal students, Francophone students, play, community roles

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: This documentary from Martin Duckworth features young adults from two distinct Winnipeg neighbourhoods on either side of the Red River who struggle to overcome geographical and cultural barriers. High school students from the predominantly Indigenous North End and their peers from the Francophone district of St. Boniface work together to produce a play on the origins of the Métis. Their collaboration raises questions about how these youths foresee their role and place within their respective communities and how these minority communities co-exist with the predominant culture. The film also tackles issues of intolerance, racism and discrimination.

**Freeman, L. (Director). (2001). *The dances of the Metis/Li dawns di Michif* [Film]. Metis Resource Centre.**

Grades: 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; or Ages: 9-17

Key Themes: Dance, jigging, music, fiddling, culture

Key Areas: Arts Education, Physical and Health Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: "The Dances of the Metis" is an effort on behalf of The Metis Resource centre Inc. to ensure the cultural preservation and restoration of the unique oral tradition Metis style fiddle music and dance. Dancers and musicians are in 1890-1920 traditional Metis dress. Showcased on this video are "The Reel of Eighth "Seven Step" "Drops of Brandy" "Square Dance with Caller" Duck Dance" "Waltz Quadrille" and "Red River Jig".

**Lazarowich, A. (Director). *Lake* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 10-17

Key Themes: Net fishing, Métis culture, women, winter

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Cree director Alexandra Lazarowich riffs off classic verité cinema to craft a contemporary portrait of Métis women net fishing in Northern Alberta.

**LeMay, M. (Director). (2021). *Stories of Métis women: Tales my kookum told me* [Film]. LeMay Media.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Oral history, Métis knowledge, kinship, family, community, buffalo, buffalo hunt and camps

Key Areas: History, Social Studies, Family Studies/Homes Economics, First Nations Studies

Synopsis: In this program narrated by Norma Spicer, we look at Métis society as told through the voices of various Métis women. They share their passion for Métis history, culture and customs. They are the caretakers of traditional knowledge and are ensuring that the perspectives of Métis women are included in their history. In many ways, Métis women are the heart and soul of the Métis people. They are the strength in Métis families, communities, and places of work. In the past, their kinship networks established where people settled and whom people married. Sovereign within their familial and community roles, they were the healers, the stewards of the land and its resources, the keepers of Indigenous knowledge, and the midwives who kept the Métis Nation nurtured, educated, and sustained. Norma tells the story of the traditional Métis buffalo hunt and camps. We hear wonderful stories of the land, community and Métis family life from Norma Spicer, Beatrice Demetrius, Doreen Poitras, Gail Gallupe, Rachelle Venne, Juanita Marois, Lisa Wolfe, and Pearl Calahasen.

**LeMay, M. (Director). (2016). *The Métis in Canada* [Film]. LeMay Media.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Social Studies

Key Areas: History, Social Studies, First Nations Studies

Synopsis: The Métis are one of Canada's three official Aboriginal peoples and have played an instrumental role in shaping the Canada we know today. Narrated and produced by multi award winning Métis film maker Matt LeMay, *The Métis in Canada* provides the viewer with a compelling overview of the history, culture and heritage of the Métis people.

**Mazur, D. (1986). *Places not our own* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Colonialism, racism, Prairies, education, homestead, lifestyle, poverty, Métis history, family, relationships, responsibility, belonging, identity

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Part of the "Daughters of the Country" series, this dramatic film set in 1929 depicts how Canada's West, home to generations of Métis, was taken over by the railroads and new settlers. As a result, the Métis became a forgotten people, forced to eke out a living as best they could. At the forefront is Rose, a woman determined to provide her children with a normal life and an education despite the odds. But due to their harsh circumstances, a devastating and traumatic event transpires instead.

**McLaren, I. (Director). (1974). *This Riel business* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: North-West Resistance, Louis Riel, Métis history, identity, political perspectives

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This documentary short is a cinematic recording of *Tales from a Prairie Drifter*, a stage comedy about the North-West Resistance during the opening of the Canadian West. Highlighting the roles of Louis Riel, the Resistance leader, prime minister Sir John A. Macdonald and General Middleton, who was sent to quell the uprising, the play defines the First Nations and Métis cause more succinctly than many history books. Here, the play is performed by the Regina Globe Theatre before an Indigenous audience of First Nations and Métis, whose reactions are recorded.

**Nokony, D. (Director). *The giant* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 10-17

Key Themes: The Willow Bunch, community, historical figure

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This animated short tells the story of Edouard Beupré, a.k.a. the Willow Bunch Giant. At 2.5 m (8' 3"), he was the tallest Canadian in history. Born in 1881 in a small Métis community south of Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, his life was tragically cut short in 1904 while he was "on display" at the St. Louis World's Fair

**Obomsawin, A. (Director). (1986). *Richard Cardinal: Cry from a diary of a Métis child* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

\*CONTENT WARNING\* Suicide

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Foster homes, child welfare, Alberta, RCMP, abuse, Sixties Scoop

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Richard Cardinal died by his own hand at the age of 17, having spent most of his life in a string of foster homes and shelters across Alberta. In this short documentary, Abenaki director Alanis Obomsawin weaves excerpts from Richard's diary into a powerful tribute to his short life. Released in 1984—decades before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—the film exposed the systemic neglect and mistreatment of Indigenous children in Canada's child welfare system.

**Shannon, K. (Director). *Like the trees* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 11-17

Key Themes: Motherhood, capitalism, health, substance use, traveling, working, culture, family, tradition

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: This short film is told in the first person by Rose, a Métis woman from northern Alberta who has left a difficult life in the city to rediscover her roots by returning to her Woodland Cree community. Rose reveals the racism, isolation, and health issues she faced when trying to make a life for herself outside her home community, and how she is able to help others now that she has reconnected to her culture.

**Welsh, C. (Director). (2006). *Finding Dawn* [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

\*CONTENT WARNING\* Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Grades: 11; 12 or Ages: 16-17

Key Themes: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, highway of tears, missing persons, police investigations

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Acclaimed Métis filmmaker Christine Welsh brings us a compelling documentary that puts a human face on a national tragedy – the epidemic of missing or murdered Indigenous women in Canada. The film takes a journey into the heart of Indigenous women's experience, from Vancouver's skid row, down the Highway of Tears in northern BC, and on to Saskatoon, where the murders and disappearances of these women remain unsolved.

**Wookey, J. (Director). (2008). *Mémère Métisse* [Film]. Wookey Films.**

Grades: 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 14-17

Key Themes: Identity, Métis heritage, family, culture, pride

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis: Cecile St. Amant has been keeping a deep secret all her life. Cecile is Métis. Now her grand daughter is setting out to find out why the family's Métis blood has been such an embarrassment to her mémère all these years. After a lifetime of shame, can mémère's mind be changed and eyes be opened to a new view of her own Métis heritage?

**(2009). *Metis of British Columbia* [Film]. Centre for Social, Spatial & Economic Justice Press, UBC Okanagan.**

Grades: 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 9-17

Key Themes: Story of Capote, Bannock. Beading, Story of the Flag, Story of the Sash, Wall Tents. Hunting

Menu: Deer Hunting, Grouse Fan, Elk Hide Processing, Pemmican, Rabbit Snares, Plant Harvesting,

History Menu: Language, The word "Metis", Metis Social Organization, Metis in B.C.

Key Areas: Social Studies, Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

Synopsis: Includes a series of interviews and video journeys that depict and document the Métis community of Prince George and BC.

1. Disc 1: Culture, History and Hunting
2. Disc 2 Music & Dance

**(2010). *The spirit has no colour* [Film]. Orca Productions.**

Grades: 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 15-17

Key Themes: Police-community relations, law, racial profiling, effects of policing on Indigenous culture, substance use, residential schools, intergenerational trauma

Key Areas: Social Studies, Physical and Health Education

Synopsis: A training film for B.C.'s municipal police recruits on: the history of Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples), particularly in B.C.; the role of police in the enforcement of laws of Canada that today are deemed to have been damaging to the Aboriginal peoples; the experience of the Aboriginal peoples showing what police will see on the streets and in the communities today, both the powerfully positive and the profoundly negative; the consequence of generations of children being taken from families and entered into the residential schools of this country; and finally, connecting issues of drug and alcohol abuse, family disintegration and loss of identity to the sexual, psychological, physical and other abuses common in the schools.

## All Ages

### Illustrated Books

**Gingras, G. (2021). *The Métis alphabet colouring book*. (G. Gingras, Illus.). Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key themes: Language, culture, art

Key areas: English Language Arts, Art

Synopsis: The Métis Alphabet Colouring Book is an adaptation of Joseph Jean Fauchon's popular children's book of the same name. With enhanced cultural content, this colouring book highlights historical figures, significant events, places of interest and other aspects of Métis identity to take youthful readers beyond the alphabet to explore the richness of Métis history and culture. George Gingras's images—which are meant to be coloured and are inspired by illustrations and photos—

provide an engaging complement to the text. The Métis Alphabet Colouring Book strengthens Métis pride and identity while providing young readers with an informative reference book about the essence of being Métis.

## **DVD/Film**

### **(1979). Canada vignettes: Métis coat [Film]. National Film Board of Canada.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Métis apparel, Métis art

Key Areas: Social Studies, Arts Education

Synopsis: In this short from the Canada Vignettes series, the Earl of Caledon of Tyrone, Ireland, acquires an elegantly tailored deerskin coat. The coat is trimmed with fringe and brightly dyed porcupine quill embroidery, in a fashion popularized by the Métis.

### ***Métis communities series* [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten, 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Community, land, dispossession, oral history, culture

Key Areas: Social Studies

Synopsis:

1. Story of the Crescent Lake Metis: Our Life on the Road Allowance
  - a. This documentary tells the story of the Crescent Lake Road allowance community from the perspective of its Elders. This is a remarkable story about Metis land dispossession, relocation and survival.
2. Kitaskinaw I pi Kiskinohamakoya: The Land Gives Us Our Knowledge
  - a. For over 230 years, Ile-a-la Crosse, Saskatchewan has been a vibrant community with strong ties to the land and the fur trade. Elders stress their respect for the land, and share with us their knowledge, stories, history and their community culture.

### ***Metis fiddlers series* [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Culture, fiddles, music, dance, jigging, fiddle players

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies

Synopsis:

1. John Arcand and His Metis Fiddle
  - a. John Arcand is one of Canada's most accomplished Métis fiddle players and has made important, if not historic, contributions to the preservation of Métis music and dance. This video is about John Arcand, his life, and his music. However, it is also a documentary about the history of the "Métis Style of Fiddling" and how to dance the traditional "Red River Jig." It also highlights the annual John Arcand Fiddle Fest which was started in 1998. Interviewees such as Calvin Vollrath, Gilbert Anderson, Ray Isbister, Trent Bruner, and Emma Arcand tell us their memories and thoughts about John and his music. Join us for a great celebration of Métis history, music, and dance.
2. Richard Lafferty: The Muskeg Fiddler
  - a. Richard Lafferty is one of the most accomplished Métis fiddle players in the Northwest Territories. This video is about Richard Lafferty's life, his music, and his efforts to preserve Métis-style fiddling in the Mackenzie River Valley. It is also a

documentary about the history of Métis fiddling in the Northwest Territories. Learn about other northern Métis fiddlers and their contributions to this artform. Join us for an adventure in Métis music north of the 60th parallel.

***Métis women’s traditional arts series [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.***

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Culture, art, tradition

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies

Synopsis: Showcasing and celebrating the artistic talents of Metis women, the Gabriel Dumont Institute produced The Metis Women’s Traditional Arts Series. This DVD contains four-video series, which provides in-depth instructions and direction in the production of various forms of Metis cultural expression.

1. Metis Hooked Rugs
  - a. Featuring Margaret Harrison and her mother, Adeline Pelletier dite Racette, provides the viewer with step-by-step instructions on how to make a hooked rug. They also share their stories about living on a road allowance in the Qu’Appelle Valley in southern Saskatchewan.
2. Silk Embroidery
  - a. With instruction from Margaret Harrison, viewers have the opportunity to learn basic embroidery stitches, and receive direction in working with patterns, designs, needles and fabrics. Margaret also shares her experiences and thoughts on the importance of preserving and promoting this traditional Metis art form.
3. Fingerweaving
  - a. Combining Aboriginal finger weaving techniques with European materials, the sash remains an integral and highly symbolic aspect of Metis identity. In this video, Penny Condon provides finger weaving lessons to grade seven and eight students from St. Frances School in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.
4. Beadwork
  - a. This documentary discusses the Metis beading tradition of Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. It centres on Isabelle Impey and her efforts to preserve Metis beadwork. It also provides instructions on how to bead and make moccasins.

***Steps in Time II: Métis dance & instruction [Film]. Gabriel Dumont Institute.***

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Synopsis: Jeanne Pelletier’s “Steps in Time” teaches people of all ages the “Red River Jig’s” intricate steps, and square-dancing moves and holds, as well as two square dances, the “Quadrille” and “la danse du crochet” A conversation with Jeanne outlines her history as a dance instructor and caller, and why dance is important. Also included on this DVD is the original “Steps in Time” from 1989, which teaches dancers the “Duck Dance,” some basic Metis dance steps, fancy jig steps and the “Rabbit Dance.”

## **Music**

(2001). *Drops of brandy and other traditional Métis tunes vol. 2* [Album]. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Lakusta, D. (1999). *Crow-child* [Album]. Dennis Lakusta.

## Art Books

Belcourt, C. (2010). *Beadwork: First peoples' beading history and techniques*. Ningwakwe Learning Press.

Belcourt, C. (2020). *Medicines to help us*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Briley, A., & Scofield, G. (2021). *Asowacikanisa: A guide to small Métis bags*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Briley, A., Racette, S. F., & Scofield, G. (2013). *Maskisina: A guide to Northern-style Métis moccasins*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Briley, A., Racette, S. F., & Scofield, G. (2011). *Wâpikwaniy: A beginner's guide to Métis floral beadwork*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.

Johnson, B., & Dorion, L. M. (2021). *Sînapân kîskasâkâs: A guide to making contemporary-style Métis ribbon skirts*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.

## Art Kits

### Amber Leather Creations

- ❖ Classroom kits
- ❖ <https://www.ambersleathercreations.com/diy-kits>

## Vancouver Island-Specific Métis History

### The Victoria Voltigeurs

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<https://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/07418.Victoria%20Voltigeurs.pdf>

### Isabella Ross & Family

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*Isabella Mainville Ross*. (n.d.). Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella\\_Mainville\\_Ross](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isabella_Mainville_Ross)  
Kelm, M. E. (1990). *Ross, Flora Amelia*. Dictionary of Canadian Biography, 12. Retrieved August 7, 2022 from [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/ross\\_flora\\_amelia\\_12E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/ross_flora_amelia_12E.html).

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Richardson, D, J. (2020). *In her own footsteps: Flora Ross and her struggle for identity and independence in the colonial west*. Butterworth Books.



Smith, J. & Barkwell, L. J. (2017). *Ross (Mainville), Isabella*. Louis Riel Institute.  
<https://www.metismuseum.ca/media/document.php/149076.Mainville%20Ross,%20Isabella.pdf>.

Van Kirk. (1997). *Tracing the fortunes of five founding families of Victoria*. *BC Studies*, 115-116(115), 148–179.

Watts, R. (2013, June 20). The woman behind Ross Bay. *Times Colonist*.  
<https://www.timescolonist.com/archive/the-woman-behind-ross-bay-4596233>.

## William McKay & Family

Favrholdt, K. (2021, December 15). Kamloops history: Revisiting chief trader McKay of Kamloops. *Kamloops This Week*. <https://www.kamloopsthisweek.com/community/revisiting-chief-trader-mckay-of-kamloops-4867484>.

Fraser, G. N. (2020). *Joseph William McKay: A Métis business leader in colonial British Columbia*. Heritage House.

Hill, C. (2014). *HBC letterbook: Correspondence between Joseph McKay (Nanaimo) and James Douglas (Victoria), August 24<sup>th</sup> 1852 – September 27<sup>th</sup> 1853*. Nanaimo Archives.  
<http://www.nanaimoarchives.ca/transcripts-recordings/hbc-mckay-letters-1852-1853/>.

Jacobsen, J. (2021, July 6). Author pens biography of Métis man who ‘founded’ Nanaimo in colonial B.C.. *Vancouver Island Free Daily*. <https://www.vancouverislandfreedaily.com/entertainment/author-pens-biography-of-mtis-man-who-founded-nanaimo-in-colonial-b-c/>.

*The beacon of central Vancouver Island*. (n.d.). Nanaimo Museum. <http://nanaimomuseum.ca/exhibits-collections/the-bastion/>.

*The Nanaimo bastion*. (n.d.). HBC Heritage. <http://www.hbcheritage.ca/places/places-other-institutions/the-nanaimo-bastion>.

Richard M. (1990). McKay, Joseph William. *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, 12. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from [http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mckay\\_joseph\\_william\\_12E.html](http://www.biographi.ca/en/bio/mckay_joseph_william_12E.html).

## Teachers

### Teaching Practices

MacLean, M., & Wason-Ellam, L. (2006). *When Aboriginal and Métis teachers use storytelling as an instructional practice*. Aboriginal Education Research Network, Saskatchewan Learning.  
<https://web.archive.org/web/20150625135630/http://www.education.gov.sk.ca/storytelling>.

Synopsis: This study speaks to the need that in educating students, First Nations and Metis teachers became learners of and teachers of their students. They centered their instruction more on the lives and activities of the students first, and secondly on making links to the content. Teaching was about building relationships rather than finding an endless list of best

practices as a panacea for instruction. A caring community was the starting point for effective instruction. In this report, the following themes are addressed:

- ❖ storytelling fosters a caring community
- ❖ storytelling is teaching through analogy
- ❖ storytelling Indigenizing the curriculum
- ❖ storytelling facilitates culturally responsive teaching
- ❖ storytelling professionalizes teachers.

**Carrière, J. & Richardson, C. (Eds.). (2020). *Speaking the wisdom of our time*. JCharlton Publishing.**

Synopsis: Within this volume Métis stories of strength, courage and resistance are shared. Each of the chapters describe a need to re-examine how social policy is formulated and have impacted our relatives and continue to impact our children. Today we are faced with particular challenges on the planet and in our communities. We have stretched Mother Earth to the limits of her capacity and she is fighting back. As someone said, ‘we need the Earth, but the Earth does not need us’. One of the invitations of this time is to reduce our footprint, our consumption and to restore balance and harmony between mankind and the environment.

**Carrière, J. & Richardson, C. (Eds.). (2016). *Calling our families home: Métis peoples experience with child welfare*. JCharlton Publishing.**

Synopsis: This book is dedicated to informing social workers and other helping professionals in how Métis people are affected in the child welfare system. Métis peoples today negotiate a form of displacement that has occurred over generations although most Canadians are unaware of this history. The forced removal of children through child apprehension and adoption has been an integral part of displacement, perpetuating further family disruption and dislocation. There is scant literature on Métis experiences in child welfare systems, no national data is collected on the number of Métis children involved with child welfare systems, and there has never been a national study of these realities. The little research that does exist shows a very troubling picture: the misidentification of Métis children as simply “Aboriginal” or “White”, and the mass movement of Métis children outside of their birth communities.

**Métis Youth Mental Health and Wellness Initiative. (2021-). *Resilient Roots: Métis Mental Health and Wellness*. Métis Nation of British Columbia.**

## **Lesson Plans & Teaching Kits**

**BC Teacher’s Federation Sash Weaving Lesson Plan**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Areas: Arts Education

<https://www.bctf.ca/classroom-resources/details/m%C3%A9tis-sash-weaving>

**Comox Valley Schools Indigenous Education**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7 of Ages: 8-13

Key Themes: History, stories, culture, language, transportation, plants and medicines, art, land

Key Areas:

<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/indigenous-education/metis-culture/>

**Gabriel Dumont Institute**

Grades: Kindergarten, 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Children's literature, Métis identity, storytelling, National Indigenous Peoples Day

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

[https://www.metismuseum.ca/learning\\_resources.php](https://www.metismuseum.ca/learning_resources.php)

### **Gabriel Dumont Institute**

The Métis: Our People, Our Story – Teacher's Guide

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Social life, ceremony, church, family, marriage, education, language, art, culture, resistance, Métis organization, identity, leadership, buffalo hunt, trapping, hunting, political life, economic life, fur trade, transportation, land, health and wellbeing, community,

Key Areas:

### **Métis Nation of Ontario Teaching Kits**

Grades: 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 10-12

Key Themes: Language, culture, stories, history, music

Key Areas: Arts Education, Social Studies, Languages

<https://www.metisnation.org/programs-and-services/education-training/k-12-education-support/k-12-metis-education-kit/>

### **Métis Nation of Saskatchewan Métis Gathering Learning Packages**

Grades: 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 6-17

Key Themes: Harvesting, food, cooking, geography, land, music, dance

Key Areas: Science, Art Education, Physical and Health Education

<https://metisgathering.ca/classroom-resources/learning-packages/>

### **Richmond Art Gallery**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Métis beadwork, pointillism, traditional beading practices

Key Areas: Arts Education

<https://www.richmondartgallery.org/video-art-lesson-metis-beadwork>

### **University of British Columbia**

Grades: 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 13-17

Key Themes: Ways of Knowing and learning, identity, reconciliation, Residential Schools, pedagogy and approach, Elders, history, environment, traditional knowledge

Key Areas: Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, English Language Arts, Career Education, Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies

<https://guides.library.ubc.ca/c.php?g=677238&p=4772604>

### **Rupertsland Institute Métis Centre for Excellence**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Language, culture and traditions, history, Métis in Alberta, governance

Key Areas: Social Studies, Languages

<https://www.rupertsland.org/teaching-learning/lesson-plans/>

### **University of Toronto**

Grades: Kindergarten; 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 5-17

Key Themes: Indigenous knowledge systems, colonialism, storytelling, art, land, history

Key Areas: Science, Math, Social Studies, English Language Arts

<https://guides.library.utoronto.ca/indigenouseducation/lessonplans>

## Interactive

### Rupertsland Institute Métis Centre of Excellence

- ❖ Rupertsland Education Community Connections (RECC) platform
  - Educational resources, virtual classroom field trips, and a variety of programs, events, and services are linked here for everyone to access. This is a great place to further your Métis foundational knowledge and understanding!
  - Stories with Leah Dorion, Art with Angela Hall, Métis Culture and Language Afterschool Program, MAPS Métis Access to Post-Secondary, Alberta ExamBank for Métis Learners, And more!
  - Register for FREE here: <https://rli.connectedcommunity.org/home>
- ❖ Métis Memories of Residential Schools Art Mural Resource
  - In a collaborative effort with respected Métis Elder Angie Crerar, Co-Author Jude D. Daniels, Canadian artist Lewis Lavoie, Rupertsland Institute, and Werklund School of Education, this powerful educational resource was designed to acknowledge, highlight, and share Métis residential school survivor experiences.
  - You can access the Métis Memories Virtual Art Mural online mural at this link: <https://www.muralmosaic.com/metis-memories/>
  - The link gives you access to: The complete digital PDF of Metis Memories of Residential Schools, A Testament to the Strength of the Métis; The complete digital PDF of Métis History and Experience and Residential Schools in Canada; and Dedications, Educational Questions, Additional Resource Links, and more that go along with each story shared.
- ❖ More resources can be found at <https://www.rupertsland.org/teaching-learning/resources/>.

### Interactive Historical Timeline of British Columbia's History

- ❖ From the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs
- ❖ <https://www.ubcic.bc.ca/timeline>

### Language Learning

- ❖ Métis Nation of Greater Victoria utilizes the Michif language learning courses made available through the Prairies to Woodlands Indigenous Language Revitalization Circle.
- ❖ <https://michif.org/>

## Reference Books

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- Adams, C., Dahl, G., & Peach, I. (Eds.). (2013). *Métis in Canada: History, identity, law and politics*. University of Alberta Press.
- Barber, C. (1994). *Growth of the first Métis Nation and the role of Aboriginal women in the fur trade*. First Nations Education, Greater Victoria School District.
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- Erasmus, P., Spry, I. M., & Thompson, H. (1976). *Buffalo days and nights*. Glenbow-Alberta Institute.
- Evans, M., & Krebs, L. (2004). *A brief history of the short life of the Island Cache*. CCI Press.
- Evans, M., Gareau, M., Krebs, L., Neilson, L., & Standeven, H. (Eds.). (1999). *What it is to be Métis: The stories and recollections of the Elders of the Prince George Métis Elders Society*. Prince George Métis Elders Society.
- Fiola, C. (2015). *Rekindling the sacred fire: Métis Ancestry and Anishinaabe spirituality*. University of Manitoba Press.
- Friesen, J. W., & Friesen, V. A. L. (2004). *We are included!: the Métis people of Canada realize Riel's vision*. Detselig Enterprises.
- Ghostkeeper, E. (2007). *Spirit gifting: the concept of spiritual exchange* (2nd ed.). Writing on Stone Press.
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- Hutchinson, D., Dorion, A., & Desjarlais, R. (1994). *Remembrances : Métis veterans*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.
- Inkster, Rene. (2001). *The Métis of British Columbia*. BC Ministry of Advanced Education.
- Lischke, U., & McNab, D. T. (Eds.). (2007). *The long journey of a forgotten people: Métis identities and family histories*. Wilfrid Laurier University Press.
- McLean, D. (1987). *Home from the hill: a history of the Métis in western Canada*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.
- McLean, D. (1987). *Fifty historical vignettes: view of the common people*. Gabriel Dumont Institute.
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## Classroom

### Native Reflections

- ❖ Classroom decorations: <https://nativereflections.ca/collections/education/Classroom-Decorations>
- ❖ Learning tools: <https://nativereflections.ca/collections/education>

## Publishing Companies

**Theytus Books** - <https://www.theytus.com/>

**Pemmican Publications** - <https://www.pemmicanpublications.ca/>

**Louis Riel Institute** - <https://www.louisrielinstitute.ca/>

**Kegedonce Press** - <https://www.kegedonce.com/>

**Gabriel Dumont Institute Publishing** - <https://gdins.org/metis-culture/publishing/>

**Inhabit Media** - <https://inhabitmedia.com/>

**Eaglecrest** - <http://www.eaglecrestbooks.com/index.html>

**Bearpaw Publishing** - <https://www.brandonu.ca/native-studies/bearpaw-publishing/>

**Douglas & McIntyre** - <https://douglas-mcintyre.com/pages/about>

**Wilfred Laurier University Press** - <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Series/I/Indigenous-Studies>

**HighWater Press** - <https://www.portageandmainpress.com/HighWater-Press>

**Second Story Press** - <https://secondstorypress.ca/>

**Fifth House** - <https://www.fifthhousepublishers.ca/Fifth-Native/?sk=0>

## Canadian Indigenous Bookstores

The Back Alley Book Nook - <https://backalleybooknook.com/> (Athabasca, AB)

Barely Bruised Books - <https://www.ottawabookstore.ca/> (Ottawa, ON)

Chat Noir Books - <https://chatnoirbooks.com/> (New Liskeard, ON)

GoodMinds - <https://goodminds.com/> (Brantford, ON)

Iron Dog Books - <https://irondogbooks.com/> (Vancouver, BC)

Librairie Hannenorak - <https://hannenorak.com/> (Wendake, QC)

Massy Books - <https://www.massybooks.com/> (Vancouver, BC)

McNally Robinson - <https://www.mcnallyrobinson.com/about> (Winnipeg, MN)

Raven Reads - <https://ravenreads.org/> (ships from Vancouver, BC)

Strong Nations - <https://www.strongnations.com/> (Nanaimo, BC)

## Websites

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples - <http://www.abo-peoples.org/en/>

Gabriel Dumont Institute - <https://gdins.org/>

Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada - <https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/section/metis/>

Les Femmes Michif Otipemisiwak - <https://metiswomen.org/>

Métis National Council - <https://www2.metisnation.ca/>

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria - <https://www.mngv.ca/>

Métis Nation of British Columbia - <https://www.mnbc.ca/>

Métis Nation of Alberta - <https://albertametis.com/>

Métis Nation of Saskatchewan - <https://metisnation.sk.com/>

Manitoba Métis Federation - <https://www.mmf.mb.ca/>

Métis Nation of Ontario - <https://www.metisnation.org/>

**Northwest Territories Métis Nation** - <https://nwtmetisnation.ca/>

**Métis Nation, Library and Archives Canada** - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/metis/Pages/introduction.aspx>

**Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture** - <https://www.metismuseum.ca/index.php>

## **Métis Artists located in British Columbia**

**Adele Maskwa iskwew Arseneau** (carving, beading, painting): <https://aarseneau.com/>

**Barb Hulme** (beading, embroidering, quilting): [https://m.facebook.com/UVicIACE/posts/we-raise-our-hands-to-all-of-the-elders-in-residence-at-uvics-first-peoples-hous/10157442224472397/?locale2=pt\\_BR](https://m.facebook.com/UVicIACE/posts/we-raise-our-hands-to-all-of-the-elders-in-residence-at-uvics-first-peoples-hous/10157442224472397/?locale2=pt_BR)

**Cindy Hatt** (painting): <https://www.cindyhatt.com/about>

**Erin Stagg** (painting): <https://erinstagg.com/>

**Gregory Scofield** (beading, textile, poet, writer):  
<https://www.uvic.ca/finearts/writing/people/faculty/profiles/scofield-gregory.php>

**Jesse Campbell** (mural artist): <https://www.campbellvisualarts.com/about>

**Jo-Ina Young** (beading): <https://www.martlet.ca/jo-ina-young-metis-knowledge-keeper-is-a-force-of-nature/>

**John Bell** (violin maker): <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/2022/nakaatchihtow-arts-and-culture-project-grant-john-bell/>

**Kim Gullion Stewart** (beading, caribou hair tufting, design): <https://www.kimstewartonline.ca/kim-story>

**Kristi Bridgeman** (painting, illustration, environmental art): <https://www.kristibridgeman.com/>

**Lynette La Fontaine** (beadwork, tufting, painting): <https://otipemisiwakartist.com/>

**Michelle Poirier Brown** (poetry, photography, performance): <https://michellepoirierbrown.ca/>

**Nevada Christianson** (portrait artist) : <https://www.mnbc.ca/news/2022/nakaatchihtow-arts-and-culture-project-grant-nevada-christianson/>

**Pat Calihou** (woodworking): <https://patcalihoumetisartist.com/>

**Sherry Leigh Williams** (painting, mixed media, jewelry): <https://www.sherryleighwilliams.com/index>

**Terry Jackson** (carver, porcelain maker): <https://www.lattimergallery.com/collections/terry-jackson>



Vance Theoret (stone carver): <https://www.vancetheoret.com/>

## Other Important Sources by non-Métis Folks

Carol James (fingerweaving, sprang): <https://www.spranglady.com/about-the-artist.html>

**Loyie, L., Spear, W. K., & Brissenden, C. (2014). *Residential Schools, With the Words and Images of Survivors*. Indigenous Education Press.**

Grades 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12 or Ages: 12-17

Key themes: residential schools, personal narratives, reconciliation

Key areas: history, social studies

Synopsis: *Residential Schools, With the Words and Images of Survivors*, A National History honours the survivors, the former students, who attended residential schools. Designed for the general reader this accessible, 112-page history offers a first-person perspective of the residential school system in Canada, as it shares the memories of more than 70 survivors from across Canada as well as 125 archival and contemporary images (65 black & white photographs, 51 colour, some never before published).

**Newman, C., & Hudson, K. (2022). *The witness blanket: Truth, art and reconciliation*. Orca Book Publishers.**

Grades: 4; 5; 6; 7 or Ages: 9-12

Key themes: Residential schools, social responsibility, art, biographies, history, reconciliation, colonization, racism

Key areas: Social Studies, Art

Synopsis: Artist Carey Newman created the Witness Blanket to make sure that history is never forgotten. The Blanket is a living work of art—a collection of hundreds of objects from those schools. It includes everything from photos, bricks, hockey skates, graduation certificates, dolls and piano keys to braids of hair. Behind every piece is a story. And behind every story is a residential school Survivor, including Carey's father. This book is a collection of truths about what happened at those schools, but it's also a beacon of hope and a step on the journey toward reconciliation.

**Webstad, P. (2018). *The orange shirt story*. (B. Nicol, Illus.). Medicine Wheel Education.**

Grades 2; 3; 4; 5 or Ages: 7-10

Key Themes: Residential Schools, childhood, family, emotions

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Career Education

Synopsis: When Phyllis Webstad (nee Jack) turned six, she went to the residential school for the first time. On her first day at school, she wore a shiny orange shirt that her Granny had bought for her, but when she got to the school, it was taken away from her and never returned. This is the true story of Phyllis and her orange shirt. It is also the story of Orange Shirt Day (an important day of remembrance for First Nations and non-First Nations Canadians).

**Webstad, P. (2019) *Phyllis's orange shirt*. (B. Nicol, Illus.). Medicine Wheel Education.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1 or Ages 4-6

Key Themes: Residential Schools, childhood, family, emotions

Key areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies.

Synopsis: When Phyllis was a little girl, she was excited to go to residential school for the first time. Her Granny bought her a bright orange shirt that she loved, and she wore it to school for her first day. When she arrived at school her bright orange shirt was taken away. This is both Phyllis Webstad's true story and the story behind Orange Shirt Day which is a day for us all to reflect upon the treatment of First Nations people and the message that 'Every Child Matters'.

**Webstad, P. (2022). With our orange hearts. (E. Kewageshig, Illus.). Medicine Wheel Education.**

Grades: Preschool; Kindergarten; 1 or Ages: 4-6

Key Themes: Residential Schools, childhood, family, emotions

Key Areas: English Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: "Every child matters, including you and me. With our orange hearts, we walk in harmony." As a young child, your little world can be full of big emotions. In this book, I, Phyllis Webstad, founder of Orange Shirt Day, show that sharing my story with the world helped me to process my feelings. My true orange shirt story encourages young children to open their hearts and listen as others share their feelings, and to be more comfortable sharing their own feelings too. Listening is a first step towards reconciliation. It's never too early to start.