



North Island Métis Association

Room A123A – 740 Robron Road
Campbell River, B.C. V9W 6J7
250-287-7417 office@nimetis.com
www.nimetis.com

Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors Mentorship Program

Mentee Application

Please complete the form below and:

- email it to office@nimetis.com **OR**
- give the completed form to the Aboriginal Support Worker at your school **OR**
- bring the completed form to the North Island Métis Association (NIMA) office at the Robron Centre.

The mentorship program will run from September 2019 - February 2020. You will be paired with one Métis woman mentor. You are expected to exchange emails and phone numbers, as well as to spend time with your mentor in prearranged meetings - one event organized through NIMA and at least one more organized by your mentor. Pairs will be created based on the information you provide in the interests section.

The events organized by NIMA will occur once a month. These activities will take place on a Saturday or a Sunday and could take 5-6 hours depending on the activity. The events will be as follows: October - games and lunch, November - beading vamps for moccasins, December - blanket stitching Xmas Decorations, January - capote making, February - moccasin making. You are required to attend every NIMA event. There are no costs for NIMA events. The mentorship program is free for mentees. Any expenses from meetings with your mentor outside of the NIMA events are not the responsibility of NIMA.

Name:	
Address:	
Email:	Home phone: Cell phone: (One must be a parent/guardian phone number)
Do you identify as Métis? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
NIMA member: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	MNBC member: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Have you ever been part of a mentorship before? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
What clubs, activities, or sports are you in now?	



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How much of your time does your school work and your extra curricular activities take up? How much time do you have to give to this mentorship program?

What are three words that would best describe you?

Hobbies	
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Interests	
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Mentee Commitment

I, _____, commit to participating in the *Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors* Mentorship Program through North Island Métis Association (NIMA). If for some reason, I am unable to attend one of the NIMA events, I will provide as much notice to NIMA that I will not attend. I am aware that if I am unable to attend more than one NIMA event, I can be removed from the mentorship program. I commit to making time available to meet with my mentor outside NIMA events, and I will give my mentor as much notice as possible if I have to cancel a meeting.

Mentee signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Consent

I, _____, give my consent for the *Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors* Mentorship Program through North Island Métis Association (NIMA) to match my child, _____, with a Métis women who has provided NIMA with a criminal record check and their contact information. I will also give consent for my child to participate in all mentorship events. I agree to arrange transportation for my child to the Robron Centre to attend events. In consideration of the advantages of participation in the mentorship program, the undersigned agrees that NIMA, its agents, and its employees shall be released and exempt from any liability for damages for bodily injuries or property damages that may occur as a result of participation in the *Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors* Mentorship Program, except to the extent of insurance liability as provided by law.

Parent/Guardian signature

Date



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Important Information About Becoming a Mentee

What is the purpose of the program?

The *Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors* Mentorship Program is designed to give your child an opportunity to have a one-on-one relationship with an adult Métis woman. Through these relationships, as well as recreational and group activities, mentors provide friendship, support, and guidance to your child. The mentors are there to act as a positive role model.

Can my child be tutored by his or her mentor?

The *Embracing the Spirit of Our Ancestors* Mentorship Program is not a tutoring program. While sometimes pairs decide together to work on school work, this is not a requirement for the mentors.

What about transportation?

It is the responsibility of each mentor-mentee pair to decide on a transportation plan that will work for them. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian and your child to arrange transportation to events and meetings. If the mentor is asked and agrees to drive your child, NIMA accepts no responsibility in this, as we have informed mentors it is not their responsibility to drive their mentees.

When will my child meet with their mentor? What kinds of activities will they do together?

Mentors are also encouraged to connect with their mentee outside this monthly event. Meetings will be at a day and time convenient to you, your child, and the mentor. There is no scheduled location or activity for the non-NIMA arranged meetings. Rather, mentors will call your child to set up plans for the week. Activities range from going to the library, to going for lunch, to seeing movies, or going on hikes together. All activities are agreed upon by you, your child, and the mentor.

The only events that are pre-arranged are monthly events that NIMA host at the Robron Centre (740 Robron Road, Campbell River). These events typically take place on Saturday or Sunday. Please see attached calendar of events planned by NIMA.

What should I do if my child cannot attend a meeting or event with their mentor?

Have your child call her mentor and reschedule the meeting to a time that is more convenient. Be sure to keep the phone numbers of the mentor handy so that you or your child can call them when needed. If your child can not attend a scheduled NIMA event, please call the NIMA office (250-287-7417) as soon as possible. Please note that if your child misses more than one event, they could be removed from the program.

What if family plans conflict with a meeting?

The mentor should compliment or add to family opportunities. Time with the mentor is not intended to displace time with the family. You should continue your normal family plans. The mentor and your child should plan their time together around your family's normal schedule as much as possible. It may help to let your child and their mentor know about planned family events in advance to help avoid conflicts.



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Can other family members or I go with my child and the mentor?

A mentoring relationship is special in part because it is a one-on-one relationship. Even teens that feel very close to their parents sometimes need to talk with friends outside of the family. The mentor is an adult friend with whom your child can talk about things that concern him or her. Please respect their private time together. Moreover, mentors are not baby-sitters and cannot be responsible for anyone except their mentee.

The mentor and your child will inform you about their plans each week. If at any time you are uncomfortable with their plans, please let us know. Mentors will be sensitive to your parental concerns and will try to find an arrangement that is acceptable to you.

How can I be sure that the mentor will support my rules and regulations?

In the beginning, talk to the mentor about any rules or regulations that you expect to arise in his or her relationship with your child. If you have strict rules about curfew, activities in which your child may not participate, etc. then please discuss these with the mentor. By making this information known at the beginning, you can help avoid misunderstandings later.

What if the mentor says things with which I do not agree?

No matter how carefully we match mentors and mentees, you may find that some areas of your beliefs and ideas differ with those of the mentor's. If there are important issues to you, please let the mentor know. You can request that the mentor NOT question your most important beliefs or values when with your child.

Who will pay for activities of the mentor and my child?

Mentors and mentees always pay for their own expenses. If there is a cost for an activity, then you or your child will be responsible for the youth's fair share. Monthly events hosted by NIMA are cost-free; we also provide the mentors with many low-cost or no-cost activity suggestions. As with any friend, mentors may treat your child occasionally, but it should not be expected on a regular basis.

How often should I be in contact with the mentor and how much should I say about family problems/ concerns?

Get to know the mentor well enough to feel comfortable with him or her being with you child. Before each meeting, discuss the plans and times for returning home. Try talking directly to the mentor about your concerns, but please avoid talking to the mentor about your child in front of your child. If there is something the mentor should really know, then call them when your child is not around.

What if there are concerns or questions I don't want to discuss with the mentor?

Please call Jackie Lever, Executive Director of NIMA, to discuss any concerns or questions at 250-287-7417 or email at executivedirector@nimetis.com.



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Calendar of NIMA Planned Métis Mentorship Cultural Events

Please note that events with Lisa Shepherd and Suzan LaGrove may change to Sunday if required. Time will be provided close to the date of the event, but all events will occur during the day.

Saturday, October 26th - Getting to Know Each Other: Games and Lunch

Saturday, November 23rd - Beading with Lisa Shepherd

Saturday, December 7th - Blanket Stitch Decorations

Saturday, January 18th - Capote making with Suzan LaGrove

Saturday, February, 22nd - Moccasin making with Lisa Shepherd