



North Island Métis

Spring-Summer 2020 Newsletter

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Taanishi kiiya? (How are you?),

We hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy and enjoying the last bits of the summer weather. North Island Métis has been busy this year, hosting events and connecting with members. In March 2020, NIMA postponed all planned cultural events and workshops and closed the office space for just over two months. During that time, we continued to work from the safety of our homes while shifting our focus from cultural supports to health and safety supports.

Over the last six months, we have called all of our members to make sure everyone knows about the supports NIMA is able to offer. We have hosted over twenty events all over the North Island where members received free safety supplies, such as hand sanitizer, masks, reusable temperature strips and gloves. We also offered office services at these events. We ensured the well-being of our members by hosting these events outside and by having members physically distance by driving up to the NIMA table in the same manner as you do for a gas station.

In June, we hosted our first Zoom event online. Denise Findlay presented “Culture is Medicine”. A video of the workshop can be found on our YouTube page. Starting in July, our free Métis Cultural Kits for NIMA members between the ages of 0-17 years became available. The cultural kits have been a huge success and we have had very favourable feedback about the program.

Starting in September, we will offer a number of events. The FitNation program will begin September 5th, registration required. At the end of September, we will have a number of Zoom presentations about weaving and colouring fibers for sash making. Additionally, we are offering a Computer Basics 101 program for anyone who needs help with using a computer and accessing our online programming. Due to continued safety concerns, most of our programming will continue to be online or in outside areas with physical distancing measures in place. For more details, go to our website or look at the posters provided.

Your health and safety is our main concern. If you have not received a phone call, please contact us to ensure your contact info is up-to-date. If you need supports, please feel free to contact us and we will assist as much as we are able to.

Jackie Lever, NIMA Executive Director