



North Island Métis

December 2020 Newsletter

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Taanishi kiiya? (How are you?),

As 2020 ends and we reflect on the last year, we would like to share with you our feelings of appreciation for the strong Métis community here on the North Island. NIMA has changed much in the last year and, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have grown into an organization that is able to offer more programming, services and supports for you. We are excited to continue to expand and hope there will be more opportunities for all members to get involved, even if we are only able to connect online.

Election 2021

The NIMA Election 2021 nominations are now closed. Thank you to all who inquired about the Board positions, to those who nominated candidates and to those who allowed their names to stand for nomination. All positions were acclaimed. This Board will begin (or continue in) their positions as of Feb 7th, 2021 at the NIMA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Results:

President - Tyler Masee

Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer - Charlotte Lever

Women's Director - Lorna Matthews

Youth Director - Marcus Malinski

Directors-at-Large - Melanie Archibald, Donna Beaulieu, Danielle Pennel, Rio Masee

NIMA AGM

The NIMA AGM will take place on February 7th, starting at 1pm on Zoom. Please register to attend the AGM. You will be asked for your NIMA membership number.

Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UCJy7X6xRpm5SV6EDLe65A

Winter Office Hours

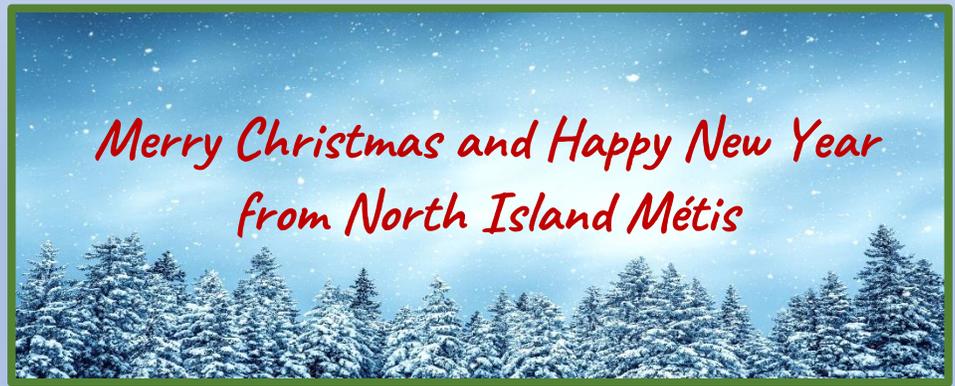
The NIMA office will be closed for Winter Holidays. Office hours will end Thursday, December 17th, and will resume Wednesday, January 6th. Please make an appointment if you wish to come into the office. This helps us ensure the safety of staff and everyone who requires in person meetings.



Group photo of
volunteers
working at Food
Hamper #4

“Together,
we must stay
apart”





Coming Events

We have many events planned already for the coming year. Our sash weaving sessions start in January for those who registered. We have some Michif language lessons planned for the beginning of 2021 and details will be coming soon. We will also host an Elders Conference, Youth Conference and Women's Conference for our members in the next year. There are lots of exciting things happening in the next few months that have not been mentioned yet, so watch our website and Facebook page for the latest events news.

Current Events

Computer Basics 101 - Do you have a computer, tablet or phone and you are unsure how to use them to join in activities online like sending emails and attending Zoom workshops? Or do you know a family member who needs some computer basics lessons? We will teach how to set up and use many different programs so that you can stay up-to-date with NIMA events and attend our many workshops. Private sessions will be done at the NIMA office. Each session is individual to you. Call our office for details. This service is free.

Métis Holidays and Celebrations

Did you know that traditionally Métis families started celebrations on Christmas Eve? Some called it *Le Revillon*. The people would go to Midnight Mass, where bells were rung to announce the festivities. Then they have a special meal together and open gifts.

New Year was when the Métis held *chivarees* where people would sing and dance, and eat a special meal called *Boulettes* or Bullet Soup (a meatball soup). They say "La Bonne Annee" and give kisses or handshakes to express good wishes. Some called it Kissing Day or Shaking Hands Day after this practice. Traditionally, gun shots were used to bring in the New Year, now people bang pots together instead to continue the midnight tradition.

The New Year celebrations would last until January 6th, called All Kings Day or Three Kings Day. Some people would give gifts this day instead of on Christmas Day.

For more information, read *Métis Holidays and Celebrations* by Lawrence Barkwell.

<http://www.metismuseum.ca/resource.php/148230>



Charlotte and Jackie giving out the first meat hamper at Quality Foods in Campbell River.

www.nimetis.com

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