



North Island Métis

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April 2021 Newsletter

Tawnshi kiyawow - How are you? (plural),

The last year has been a challenging year for all of us. We have had to change our routines, personal interactions, involvement in the community at large and many other facets of our lives. Yet here we are, one year later and NIMA has been busy working to provide services to our community.

We are proud to have offered PPE supplies, cultural kits to youth, food programs and garden totes to Métis households in our region. A big thank you to all the volunteers who have helped us over the last year to run these programs.

Due to increases in COVID numbers in the last few months, we have shifted to a skeleton crew for safety reasons. Thanks to these Campbell River volunteers, Port McNeill volunteers and staff who have been our main crew since December 2020 - Tyler Masee, Gailene Litwin, Marcus Malinski, David Malinski, Michel Des Rochers, Kathy Des Rochers, Charlotte Lever and Jackie Lever. Additional help has been received from Collins Harrow, Tulsa Masee, Victor Malinski and Cassie Conley.

Check out our website for the latest newsletters, info, events and check out our store for NIMA merch - www.nimetis.com. If you have not been receiving phone calls, emails or other communication regarding the many events we have been hosting, please ensure your contact information and membership fees are up-to-date.

CURRENT EVENTS

2021 Métis Cultural Kits

NIMA is proud to offer free 2021 Métis Cultural Kits to all members 0-17 years. Cultural kits are available in four different levels depending on age. Please note to receive a free kit, the child or youth must be a member of North Island Métis between the ages of 0-17 years old. To register for a free kit, email events@nimetis.com. For a detailed list of kit items, go to <https://www.nimetis.com/metisculturalkits.html>.

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 & available to NIMA members only.



Michif Language Lessons - April 20 to June 1

Join us through Zoom to learn Michif language with Métis elders every Tuesday at 6:00pm and Saturday at 11:00am. Each session runs for one and a half hours. This is a series of lessons meant for every age and level. Lessons will be at a beginner level. We encourage families and households to join so that you have people to practice with outside of the lessons. Attendance at every session or for the entire one and a half hours is not required. Participants will receive great Michif language resources for free based on the number of sessions attended. Resources include free books, flashcards and other cool items. Registration is required. The program is free for NIMA members. For non-members who wish to register, fees or other conditions may apply. Email events@nimetis.com to enroll. A list of each session date and topic will be available on our website at <https://www.nimetis.com/events.html>.

After School Program - May 3 to June 25

North Island Métis is offering an afterschool program for Métis youth age 9-16. The eight-week program runs Monday to Friday from 3:00 – 5:00pm starting May 3rd. The program will take place at the Robron Centre (740 Robron Road). The After School Program will help youth develop and strengthen their physical literacy, knowledge and passion for physical activity. Additionally, this program will foster important skills such as communication, critical thinking, teamwork and sportsmanship. NIMA's program will promote this learning through various sports, games and activities. It is recommended that participants come in active wear including a mask, running shoes and a warm jacket. Additionally, it is encouraged to bring a full water bottle and snacks. To register for the program please email events@nimetis.com. Daily attendance is not required, however if you are not able to attend a session we request that you contact us so we have time to alter the lesson plan. Participants are asked to register before the program begins, but we welcome registrants throughout the program duration.

DID YOU KNOW?

Traditionally, Métis hunted migratory birds like ducks and geese in the spring. They would also fish pike and sturgeon with weirs, nets and spears. Spring is the time that birch bark was harvested for canoes and other items. Maple and Birch sap was collected and used as a sweetener. After harvesting resources, a gift of tobacco or tea was left as a thank you. Tobacco traditionally consisted of kinnikinnick, not tobacco plant, but we use commercial tobacco in current times.

Source: *Métis Seasonal Cycles* by D. Préfontaine, P. Young and T. Paquin,
<http://www.metismuseum.ca/media/db/00742>