

Marie-Louise Perron, B.A., B.Ed., M. ès Arts.



Marie-Louise Perron grew up in a family which for sociological reasons did not identify their Métis ancestry. Upon discovering the dictation of her great-great-grandfather, Jean-Baptiste Laderoute, his role in the 1869-70 Resistance,¹ and ancient family folk tales all of which her aunt had collected and saved in trunks and oral history passed down to her, she began a recovery of her Métis identity.

Marie-Louise Perron is currently retired from her most recent role in the federal public service as Chief of Staff to the federal Commissioner of Official Languages. Previously, she was Francophone Archivist at the Saskatchewan Archives Board from 1985 to 1991, and then on staff at Library and Archives Canada from 1992 to 2007.

At Library and Archives Canada, she developed new service initiatives, first as Chief of the Decentralized Access Office, then as Project Leader Public Access Systems, Chief of the Genealogy and Personnel Records Section, as Content Specialist with the Canadian Genealogy Centre, and lastly, as Chief, Access and Partnerships.

Marie-Louise Perron has presented and published papers, in both English and French, on French/Métis folksongs and folktales, distant access to archival services, and the Perron-Laderoute-Marion-St. Arnaud families, her ancestors among the Red River (Manitoba) Métis. As a result of this work she appeared on global TV's *Past Lives* aired June 25, 2005. She continues her work as a visual artist, specializing in watercolours and mixed media on canvas. Marie-Louise Perron is a participating artist in the *Walking With Our Sisters* project. *Walking With Our Sisters* is an installation art project of 1,700 pairs of moccasin tops or "vamps" commemorating and representing an estimated 824 Aboriginal women and girls who have been murdered or gone missing in Canada since 1961.

¹ These reminiscences appeared as « Mémoires des troubles du Manitoba 1869-70 », in the *Bulletin de la Société historique de Sainte-Boniface*, Numéro 4, Été 1997 : 7-25.



Moccasin vamps created by Marie-Louise Perron for Walking With Our Sisters.

Marie-Louise Perron contributed a chapter on Métis folklore to *Metis Legacy Volume II: Michif Culture, Heritage and Folkways* (Gabriel Dumont Institute and Pemmican Publications 2006: 46-54). This chapter “L’Origine des canards gris,” or “The Origin of the Grey Ducks” has also appeared in the French language in *Saskatchewan History*, vol. 40, no. 3, 1987: 99-108. It is one of a number of Métis folk tales handed down by seven generations in her family and told to her by her aunt Josephine Perron as “one of Grandma Laderoute’s stories.” Further, recent publications of those stories include “*La persistance de la littérature orale autochtone dans le regroupement familial Laderoute-Perron-Marion*” published in the *Revue historique*, Winter 2013 edition, Vol. 23, No. 2 of the Société historique de la Saskatchewan. This article was translated as “The Persistence of Aboriginal Oral Literature in the Laderoute-Perron-Marion family Group”, and was published in November 2013 on the website of *The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* at:

<http://www.Métismuseum.ca/media/document.php/13927.pdf>.

She was the author (with Gilles Lesage and Claude Roberto) of “Les archives de la présence française dans l’Ouest Canadien,” in *Archives*, Volume 36, numéro 1, 2004-2005: 117-135. She presented the paper “The “Clandestinity Question” in the Search for Identity Among Francophone Métis People: The Case of the Laderoute-Perron-Marion Family Group” at the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

(IFLA) Genealogy and Local History for All: Satellite Pre-Conference, 6-7 August 2008, Ottawa, Canada.



Compiled and Edited by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute