

Authors, Illustrators, Musicians, and Translators

GDI's publishing, curriculum, and cultural development programs are greatly enhanced by the vision and talents of the Métis community. Without our Elders, authors, educators, illustrators, musicians, and translators, GDI would not be able to produce such a varied and high-calibre complement of Métis-specific resources. As a proud Métis publisher, owned and operated by Saskatchewan's Métis community, we would like to show our gratitude to all those who have given their invaluable cultural knowledge and creativity towards the production of our resources. They are:



Anne (née Carrière) Acco, now living in Laval, Québec, is originally from Cumberland House, Saskatchewan—the province's oldest settlement. A Métis/Cree community, Cumberland House has produced a rich and vibrant culture based on its Swampy Cree ("N" dialect) language and adherence to traditional lifeways—including trapping and canoeing. This rich cultural life has greatly impacted Anne's writing, and her life as a thinker, and an educator.



Vince Ahenakew has been an educator for almost a quarter century. He has taught in Beauval and Ile-à-la Crosse, Saskatchewan, and has been an administrator for ten years. He is a graduate of the Northern Teacher Education Program in northern Saskatchewan, and is currently enrolled in a Master's program through the University of Saskatchewan. He was raised by his grandmother, and would like to dedicate his resources to her memory and to all Elders.



Gilbert Anderson was born in 1934. He comes from a large musical family and inherited a couple of family fiddles. He was always around Métis music, and continues to teach and promote fiddle and dance through the Edmonton Métis Cultural Dancers programs. He calls many of his traditional songs "Fort Edmonton" tunes. Gilbert currently resides in Edmonton, Alberta.



John Arcand was born in 1942 near Debden, Saskatchewan. His greatest musical influences were his family, especially his father Victor and grandfather Jean-Baptiste Arcand. He currently lives near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He is known as the "Master of the Métis Fiddle." In 2003, John was the recipient of a *National Aboriginal Achievement Award* in 2004; was awarded the *Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor's Award*; and in 2007, he was named a member of the *Order of Canada*.





Lawrence J. Barkwell is a Honourary Life Member of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF). Now in semi-retirement, he was the Director of the Métis Justice Institute and was formerly a Senior Policy Analyst in the MMF's Tripartite Self-Government Negotiations. He has an M.A. in clinical psychology, and has edited or co-edited eight books, provided chapters for several textbooks, and contributed articles to a variety of refereed journals. Over the last twenty-five years, he has taught at Brandon University (Winnipeg Centre Project), the Louis Riel Institute and Red River College. He is presently teaching Métis decorative arts, particularly beading, to Métis youth and adults.



Mel Bedard was born in 1929 at Selkirk, Manitoba. He is the first recording artist to use the term "Métis" on an album. One of his greatest musical influences and closest personal friends was Andy Dejarlis. Mel is a very experienced judge and competitor winning the *Manitoba Fiddling Championship* and the *Andy Dejarlis Championship* several times.



Christi Belcourt is an acclaimed Métis artist who resides in northern Ontario. Like generations of Aboriginal beadworkers, she celebrates the beauty of flowers and plants in her artwork. She draws inspiration from traditional Métis floral art and uses this motif metaphorically to relay a variety of meanings, which include her concern for the environment, biodiversity, spirituality, and awareness of Métis culture. She is a past recipient of awards from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario. Her work can be found in various public collections including the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Batoche National Historic Site, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery, and at GDI.



Lon Borgerson is a playwright, author, educator, and political activist. He has authored or co-authored numerous plays including *A Thousand Supperless Babes: The Story of the Métis* and *The Batoche Musical*. He has published numerous articles on the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, Prince Albert Theatre. Currently, he lives in MacDowall, Saskatchewan and is a former Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Saskatchewan Rivers Constituency.





Rita Bouvier is a Métis educator born and raised in Ile à la Crosse, Saskatchewan who loves to write essays and poetry in her spare time. Her publications include two poetry books, *Blueberry Clouds* (nominated for First People's Publishing, *Saskatchewan Book Awards*) and *pâpiyâtak* (released by Thistledown Press, and nominated for Book of the Year, 2004, *Saskatchewan Book Awards*), a co-edited book entitled, *Resting Lightly on Mother Earth*, highlighting educational experiences of Aboriginal people in urban environments, and a children's book entitled *Better That Way* (nominated for the Saskatoon Book Award, 2008, *Saskatchewan Book Awards*). Rita's poetry appears in literary anthologies and television productions, and has been adapted for *The Batoche Musical*, a collective work, and more recently for a musical in *Wa Wa Tey Wak—Northern Lights/Aurores boréales*, a contemporary Cree legend by Andrew Balfour. She holds B.Ed and M.Ed degrees from the University of Saskatchewan.



Albert "Hap" Boyer was born in 1928 at Cochin, Saskatchewan. He currently lives in North Battleford, Saskatchewan. Hap can usually be seen at *Back to Batoche Days* and at other Métis celebrations. He continues to collect and record Métis tunes.



Trent Bruner was born in 1965 at Canwood, Saskatchewan. He began playing piano at age twelve and has since gone on to become the national accompanist on piano for the prestigious *Canadian Grand Masters Fiddling Championship* in Nepean, Ontario from 1991 to 1993 and from 1995 to present.



Laura Burnouf is an educator originally from the Cree-Métis community of Beauval, Saskatchewan. She grew up speaking Cree and Île-à-la-Crosse Michif and faced discrimination for speaking her language in the school system. Laura feels that the preservation of her Michif language is of vital importance not only to herself but the entire Métis community. She is presently a faculty advisor and instructor in the Northern Teacher Education Program in La Ronge, Saskatchewan. She recently completed her M.Ed from the University of Alberta.





Wilfred Burton is a Métis educator originally from the area around Glaslyn, Saskatchewan. He has been a teacher since 1979. His first elementary teaching position was in La Loche, Saskatchewan. He then taught for many years for the Regina Public School Board. He was recently a faculty member at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Regina, Saskatchewan where he taught pre-service teachers reading/language arts classes, cross-cultural classes, and a children's literature class. He is a graduate of the University of Regina, Saskatchewan Indian Federated College and the University of Victoria. Reading and jigging are his two loves. His books *Fiddle Dancer* and *Dancing in My Bones* combine these two passions!



Richard Callihoo was born in 1920 and is recognized by his peers as the elder statesman of Métis fiddling. He comes from a large family of fiddle players and has recorded some of his traditional family tunes on his recording, *Richard Callihoo Plays Traditional Old Tunes*. He has won the *North American Fiddling Championship* several times during his career. He still travels to fiddle events across Canada, and currently lives in Grovesdale, Alberta.



Maria Campbell is one of Canada's most accomplished Métis literary artists. *Halfbreed*, her poignant memoir, awakened the country to the poor social conditions facing the Métis. A highly-acclaimed writer, storyteller, playwright, and filmmaker, her broad body of work tells inspiring Métis stories with pride and compassion, with humour and sorrow, and with the same enduring spirit that keeps Métis history and culture vibrant. Through various genres of books, plays, and films, and through her ongoing work as an Elder, mentor, and community activist, Maria has made enormous contributions to both the Métis people and to Canada.



Ken Carriere, a Swampy Cree-Métis, was born in 1951 in Cumberland House, Saskatchewan. He has taught primary and secondary school, and has taught Cree, Ecology, Math, and Science Methodology at the post-secondary level. He has also developed Cree language curriculum. Ken currently resides in La Ronge, Saskatchewan.





Paul Chartrand, Indigenous Peoples' Counsel (IPC) of the Canadian Indigenous Bar Association, is originally from St. Laurent, Manitoba. He has held teaching and other academic appointments at universities in Australasia and North America. Paul is presently a faculty member in the Department of Aboriginal Governance at the University of Winnipeg. He was a Professor of Law at the University of Saskatchewan where he specialized in Indigenous law and policy. He has numerous publications including many on Métis land rights and identity. He has served on several high-profile public bodies including the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1991-95), and Manitoba's Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission (1999-2001). Paul was a founding member on the board of directors of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (1998-99).



Penny Condon is an emerging Métis artist and author from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. She is presently a teacher in the Saskatoon Public School System. Her hobbies include spending time with her daughter Sydney and husband Verne, working with children, drawing, painting, and photography.



Leah Dorion is a Métis artist, author, curriculum developer, lecturer, and researcher. She has taught Métis History and Native Studies as a sessional lecturer for the First Nations University of Canada, GDI, and the University of Saskatchewan. She worked in the GDI Publishing Department for eight years as a Curriculum Developer and Publishing Coordinator. She is the author of or contributor to numerous books including *The Snow Tunnel Sisters*, *Metis Legacy* and *Drops of Brandy*. She is currently an artist and is an instructor at the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, Prince Albert.



Robert Glen Doucette was born on February 29, 1962, in Buffalo Narrows, Saskatchewan. His early childhood years were spent in Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. After which he was raised by his parents – Marcien and Rita Doucette. His entire primary and secondary education occurred in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Robert and his partner, Betty Garr, live and work in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan with their three children: Brady, Breanna, and Julia. Robert also has a daughter, Kyra, from a previous relationship. For several years, Robert has been actively involved in Métis political life and has been employed with a variety of Métis social justice programs. He is presently the President of the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan. Robert is an avid collector of Aboriginal-specific primary documents.



Joseph Jean Fauchon, originally from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, graduated from the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) in Saskatoon in 2005. While in SUNTEP, Joseph majored in Native Studies and worked for GDI's Publishing Department. In the fall of 2005, he started work at John Paul II Collegiate in North Battleford, where he is teaching a transitions class for students with low English literacy and math skills. He also authored his first children's book, *The Métis Alphabet Book*, in 2005.





Rita Flamand is a Métis Elder from Camperville, Manitoba. Concerned with the disappearance of her Michif-Cree language, she took courses on how to develop her own writing system or orthography. She has developed, translated or contributed to the following resources: *Michif Conversational Lessons for Beginners*, *Li Minoush*, *Li Paviyoñ di Michif*, *Li Saennchur Fleshii di Michif*, *Tumaas eekwa la Sharey di Rivyer Ruzh*, *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin* (Vols. 1 and 2), and *The Story of the Rabbit Dance*. She is presently finalizing a Michif-Cree orthography.



Norman Fleury, originally from St. Lazare, Manitoba, is a gifted Michif storyteller. He has worked extremely hard in the promotion and preservation of Michif-Cree, including the production of language resources, and an introductory Michif-Cree dictionary. He has been active with the Manitoba Métis Federation since 1967 and is currently its Director for the Michif Language Program. Married with two children, he farms southwest of Virden, Manitoba in the small community of Woodnorth.



Rose Fleury was born Rose Gariepy in the MacDowall area of Saskatchewan on November 26, 1926. She lived on a homestead north of Duck Lake until she was seventeen and attended school in Duck Lake. While in school she learned to read and write and developed a keen interest in history. She received an equally valuable education at home where her Grandmother recounted stories relating to travelling, work and local and extended families. Underpinning her stories was the reminder to “never forget where you come from or who you are. Listen to your Elders.”



Don Freed was born in New Westminster, British Columbia in 1949. His professional music and songwriting career has been quite varied. In 1993, he produced *Young Northern Voices*, a series of songs written and recorded by students from the Northern Lights School Division in northern Saskatchewan. In 1996, he produced *Singing About the Métis*, which contains songs written by primary students from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. His latest CD, *The Valley of Green and Blue*, was released in 2005. He currently lives in Winnipeg with his wife and child.



Henry Gardipy was born in 1949 on Beardy's Reserve near Duck Lake, Saskatchewan. Traditional Métis fiddlers such as Eli Dumont, John Champagne, and Alec Fayant were his early mentors. Henry proudly remembers winning contests such as the *Reg Bouvette Trophy* at Batoche from 1985-87. He presently lives in North Battleford, Saskatchewan.





Murray Hamilton is a Métis administrator, educator, and activist originally from Lebrét, Saskatchewan. He has spent most of his life advocating for Métis-specific issues, particularly education initiatives. He is presently the Program Coordinator for GDI's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.



Margaret Harrison was born and raised in the Katepwa Lake area of the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan. Her mother Adeline taught her how to sew and embroider. Her grandmother and her mother's sisters, Florence and Agnes, also influenced her love of traditional Métis arts. She continues to sew, embroider, and make hooked rugs.



Donna Heimbecker is a Métis of Cree and German descent. She is a graduate of GDI's Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program, and has worked as a classroom teacher, project manager, cultural awareness facilitator, Aboriginal employment development consultant, and community developer. She is the founder and general manager of the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company.



Audreen Hourie was born in 1943 in the Métis community of Grand Marais, Manitoba. She is a founding member (1980) of Pemmican Publications, and became its Managing Editor in March 2000. She has worked for the Manitoba Métis Federation in various capacities for the past twenty-five years as a researcher, Provincial Education co-ordinator and Interim President. On July 7, 2004 *Ka Ni Kanichihk* presented her with a *Keeping the Fires Burning Award* for her strong commitment to Métis culture and to her community. She is now retired and living at Vernon, British Columbia.



Isabelle Impey was born and raised in Cumberland House, in northeast Saskatchewan. She presently works for the First Nations Government Specialist Training Program in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. She was involved with the provincial and federal Human Rights Commissions, and was a past GDI Executive Director.



Ed Lafferty was born in 1927 at Wrigley, Northwest Territories. His greatest musical influences were his family, especially, his mentor and grandfather, "Old Joe" Villeneuve, an accomplished traditional Métis fiddle player. He passed away in 1992, and is buried in his home community of Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories.





Richard Lafferty was born in 1944 at Fort Providence, Northwest Territories. He plays fiddle tunes learned from "Old Tyme" fiddlers who travelled up and down the Mackenzie River. His uncle, Danny Bouvier, was one of his greatest traditional musical influences and mentors. Richard was awarded the *Order of the Sash* by the Métis Nation of the Northwest Territories for his contributions to Métis music and dance. He currently lives in Hay River, Northwest Territories.



Emile Lavallée was born in 1931 in the Métis community of St. Laurent, Manitoba. At the age of five, he learned to play on a fiddle given to him by his father. He was once a member of the Laurentian Valley Boys Band. He fondly remembers playing at barn dances, socials, and weddings. One of his greatest honours was representing the Métis during a performance in Ottawa in 1992.



Guy Lavallée O.M.I. is a Métis priest who was born in St. Laurent, Manitoba in 1939. Besides being a parish priest for the past thirty-five years, he holds a B.A. from the University of Ottawa and a M.A. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of British Columbia, and has lectured in Native Studies and Cultural Anthropology at the University of Ottawa and the University of Saskatchewan. In 1992, he was named the official priest of the Métis National Council. He is presently the parish priest for Saint-Pierre and Saint-Viateur (Otterburne), Manitoba.



Garry Lepine was born in 1950 at Birtle, Manitoba. His father encouraged his fiddling, and gave him the family fiddle when he was only ten years old. One of his greatest influences was Reg Bouvette, who was also a close personal friend. He has attended fiddling competitions across Western Canada. He continues to record his tunes in order to preserve Métis music and style.



Hartmut Lutz was born in 1945 in Rendsburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. Educated in West Germany, England, Sweden, and the US, he has taught in Europe and in North America, and is now chairing North-American Studies at the University of Greifswald. He and his wife Ruth Lutz-Preiskorn live in Bömitz, a tiny Pommeranian village near the Baltic Sea and the Polish border.





Sheldon Mauvieux is an emerging Métis artist with roots in St. Louis, Saskatchewan. *The Métis Alphabet Book* is his first published resource. He presently lives in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.



J.D. Panas, a Métis author and illustrator, is from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. She draws a regular cartoon for the *Prince Albert Rural Roots* newspaper entitled “The Farmers” and operates and instructs her own non-profit Tae Kwon-Do club, the Flying Dragon Academy of Tae Kwon-Do Inc. She and her husband Dennis also volunteer for the SaskTel Pioneers in and around Prince Albert.



Anne Patton, originally from southern Ontario, has lived in Saskatchewan for over forty years. Her teaching experiences include kindergarten, special education, primary and middle grades. To celebrate her retirement as an elementary school teacher, she backpacked throughout southeast Asia with her daughter. Since returning, she has worked at Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program instructing Métis education students. She has long been frustrated by the scarcity of children’s literature reflecting life in Saskatchewan. She decided to tackle that problem by writing children’s books.



Gilbert Pelletier was born in December 1939 at the Métis Road Allowance community of Crescent Lake, Saskatchewan. His parents were Joseph Pelletier and Isabelle Flamont. He tells a wide array of traditional Michif stories. He was the chair of the Senate for the Métis Nation—Saskatchewan, and is a leader in the revitalization of the Michif language. He has contributed to two GDI resources which include *The Story of the Crescent Lake Métis: Our Life on the Road Allowance*, and *Stories of Our People: A Métis Graphic Novel Anthology*.



Jeanne Pelletier was born in 1940 at Crooked Lake, Saskatchewan, a Métis community. In 1980, she formed a successful dance group for at-risk youth. In 1986, *Steps in Time* was created in partnership with GDI to complement Saskatchewan Education’s acceptance of the new Métis dance curriculum which she developed. She was honoured with the title, “Mrs. Batoche” for her successful efforts to instill cultural pride in young Métis in 1987. In 2005, she was awarded the *Commemorative Medal* for Saskatchewan’s Centennial. In 2008, Jeanne produced the follow-up to *Steps in Time* entitled *Steps in Time II*.





Homer Poitras was born in 1941 near Wolf Lake Métis Settlement in Alberta. His grandfather, Joseph F. Dion, a well-known Cree activist in Alberta, gave him his first fiddle. He has received many awards for his efforts in the preservation and promotion of Métis fiddle music and dance. He currently lives in Elk Point, Alberta.



Darren Préfontaine is originally from Rockglen, Saskatchewan. Darren majored in Canadian History at the University of Regina (B.A.), the University of Saskatchewan (Honours Courses), and York University (M.A.). Since 1996, he has been employed with GDI as an editor, copyright negotiator, fundraiser, researcher, publishing support officer, curriculum developer, and community resource person.



Sherry Farrell Racette is an accomplished academic, educator, and artist whose art practice includes illustration, painting, beadwork, and textiles. She is one of the early builders of the Gabriel Dumont Institute. During her tenure with the Institute—as an educator, author, and illustrator—Sherry left an enduring legacy of highly-acclaimed resources including *The Flower Beadwork People*, *The Flags of the Métis*, and several posters, and most recently, *The Métis: A Visual History*, *Dancing in My Bones*, *Better that Way*, and *Fiddle Dancer*, which have won or have been nominated for several book awards.



Adeline Pelletier *dite* Racette was born and raised in a Métis road allowance community in the Katepwa Lake area of the Qu'Appelle Valley, Saskatchewan. Adeline became known for her skills as a seamstress, and worked very hard making and selling hooked rugs to families throughout the valley, earning extra income for the family. She passed away in 2004.



Gregory Scofield is a Métis poet, storyteller, activist, and community worker of Cree, Scottish, English, and French ancestry. He was born in British Columbia and raised in Saskatchewan, northern Manitoba, and the Yukon. He has published three previous and highly praised books with Polestar Book Publishers: *The Gathering: Stones for the Medicine Wheel*; *Native Canadiana: Songs from the Urban Rez*; and *Love Medicine and One Song*. His autobiography is *Thunder Through My Veins: Memories of a Metis Childhood* (HarperCollins).





Cheryl Troupe, originally from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, has a B.A. (Honours) in Native Studies and worked in the GDI Publishing Department for three years. She is presently pursuing an M.A. in Native Studies through the University of Saskatchewan.



Joe Welsh is a Métis author and playwright originally from Lebret, Saskatchewan. His father was Joseph Welsh, his mother was Eleanor Amyotte, and he is Norma Welsh's younger brother. He is a direct descendent of Norbert Welsh, the "last buffalo hunter." After his mother died, he and seven of his siblings were raised in an orphanage in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. His latest book, *Jack Rabbit Street*, was published in 2004 by Thistle-down Press. He presently lives in Regina where he spends his time writing and collecting Métis stories.



Norma Welsh is originally from Lebret, Saskatchewan. Her father was Joseph Welsh, her mother was Eleanor Amyotte, and she is Joe Welsh's older sister. She is a direct descendent of Norbert Welsh, the "last buffalo hunter." She has lived in and around Lebret and Regina for most of her life including the Métis Farm and on Road Allowances. She has twelve grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Olive Whitford, a Métis Elder, comes from a long line of gifted storytellers who influenced her to record her family history and experiences. Recently, she began submitting stories of her childhood experiences and her memories of her grandfather to *Rural Roots*, a Prince Albert newspaper. She lives on a farm near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan with her son Keith Magee.

