

## **Shirley Firth Larsson, C.M. (b. 1953-2013)**

For over two decades, twin sisters Shirley and Sharon Firth were among the top cross-country skiers in Canada. Skier Shirley Firth Larsson was a recipient a National Aboriginal Achievement Award in 2006. She was inducted into the Canadian Ski Museum and the Skiing Hall of Fame in 1990.



*Sharon and Shirley Firth (Canadian Ski Association, 2002)*

Shirley Firth Larsson was the daughter of Stephen Firth (Métis) born November 20, 1922 at the Northwest Territories (NWT) and Fanny Rose Greenland (Métis) born January 21, 1922 also in NWT.<sup>1</sup>

Ms. Firth Larsson competed in four Winter Olympics, four World Ski Championships and numerous Canadian and North American Championships as well as being voted by the Canadian Women's Nordic Skier of the Year six times by Ski Racing Magazine. She and her sister Sharon – the equally successful 2005 NAAA recipient – were the first Aboriginal women to form a national ski team representing the NWT. The two were also the subjects of an inspiring CBC Documentary entitled *The Olympians: The Firth Sisters*.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen Firth was the son of James Firth born Feb. 12, 1889 at Fort McPherson and Eliza Bonnetplume born July 26, 1907. Stephen was the grandson of John Firth born in the Orkney Islands (1853) and Margaret Stewart (Métis b. 1863). John Firth worked for the HBC at the Peel River Post (Fort McPherson) and La Pierre House and Rampart House where he was the manager. He was a Justice of the Peace prior to the arrival of the Royal North West Mounted Police in 1903.

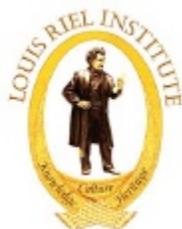


Throughout her career, she has been recognized for her achievements, most notably with the Order of Canada in 1987 and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002, the same year she received her diploma in teaching from the University of Paris.

Shirley Firth Larsson died of cancer in May 2013.

Métis Scrip:

Firth, James - Concerning his Métis grant of \$240.00 - Residence, McPherson - Born, 1882 at McPherson - Occupation, trapper - Father, John Firth, ( White man) - Mother, Margaret Stewart, (Métis) - Married, 1907 to Lisa Bonnetplume at McPherson - Children, five living - Annie, 1909, James Noel, 1911, Maria, Maggie, 1914, Sarah, Ann, 1916, John, Clay, 1919 - Claim no. 11.



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