

Janet Blythe Panic (née Pruden). (b. 1970)

Janet Panic is the Métis daughter of Dr. Barry Pruden, a Chemical Engineer, and Norma Pruden an Early Childhood Educator. She has one sibling, a brother, Alexander Pruden. She is a singer, guitarist, songwriter, and broadcast journalist.

The family followed the oil industry around Canada, moving 13 times over the course of her childhood. Janet left home at 17 finishing high school on her own in Calgary, Alberta. She attended Concordia University in Montreal in 1988, majoring in Art History with a minor in Music. Discovering an interest in music, she switched her major to music and began to consider a career in music.



At Concordia, Janet met Dragan Panic, a fellow musician, whom she would later marry. The couple moved to Vancouver together in 1992 where Janet took a job at Punch Lines Comedy Club and met Canadian comedian Brent Butt. From 2000 through 2002, together with Butt and Jamie Hutchinson, Janet Panic operated a club called The Comedy Store. The club closed with Brent Butt's departure to work on Canadian sitcom, *Corner Gas*.

Métis artist Janet Blythe Panic has built a reputation as a premier Canadian songwriter over the past 10 years. Her captivating solo performances have attracted much attention and the *Vancouver Sun* called her “a cross between Lou Reed and Leonard Cohen.” She moves between haunting ballads and up tempo melodic foot tappers with flawless dynamics and arrangement. Whether she is singing in English or French, Janet Panic's appeal is universal and she brings magic wherever she goes.

Janet Panic has released a number of albums of original music as a member of the band Phew (1994-1995), 10 Ft. Henry (1996-1997), and under her own name. Janet Panic is best known for the 10 Ft. Henry songs, “I Can't Get Enough”, “Shove It,” and “Fish,” which received considerable Canadian college radio airplay and the song “Blink” from 2001's *The Girl Who Passed for Normal* that has also received regular Canadian airplay. She has also been active in First Nations media, both as a producer and as a broadcast journalist.

In 2005, Janet Panic joined the crew of APTN television series *Beyond Words*, working as associate producer, interviewer and camera person and was featured in one of the

episodes called *Voices Pure And Simple*. In 2007, she worked as associate producer on APTN program entitled *MyTV*, a First Nations youth music magazine. In 2009, she teamed up with (producer and guitarist) Stevie Salas and Brandon Friesen creating a new APTN series, *Arbor Live*, and she worked on that program for its first season, but left after the first season citing creative differences. Janet Panic appeared as a featured performer on the second season.

In 2010, Janet Panic joined Aboriginal voices Radio, a Canadian national radio network where she sits as a member of the board, acts as assistant music programmer and interviews significant members of the Canadian Aboriginal community for a weekly broadcast.



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