

**Karon L. Shmon.** (b. 1953)

Karon Shmon is the daughter of Darlene Melvin and Douglas Shmon. Her maternal grandparents were Daisy Lenore McLaughlin (b. 1914, Lindsay, SK) and Alexander Melvin. Daisy was the daughter of Jane Mary Adams<sup>1</sup> (b. 1871) and Michael McLaughlin (1863-1923). McLaughlin's name appears on the Broadside listing the lands allocated in Headingly Parish, Manitoba for the Children of the Half Breed Heads of Family under Section 31 of the *Manitoba Act*. Michael McLaughlin was born on August 4, 1863 in St Boniface Parish, Red River Settlement (d: January 3, 1923); he married Jane Mary "Jennie" Adams born January 16, 1871 in Red River Settlement. They married on September 10, 1887 in St. Paul's Anglican Church in Lindsay, North-West Territories. Michael McLaughlin was the son of Peter McLaughlin (b. 1821) and Helene "Ellen" Foulds born February 1835 in St James Parish. Ellen died circa 1868.



Karon Shmon is currently the Director of Publishing for the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research. She has been a classroom teacher and consults in

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<sup>1</sup> Jane Adams was the daughter of James Adams (b. 1844) and Elizabeth Bruce. James Adams was the son of George Adams (b. 1797) and Ann Heywood (b. 1815).

Scrip affidavit for Bruce, James; deceased husband of Elizabeth Bruce; died: December 25, 1873; born: 1809; father: Wm. Bruce (Métis); mother: Frances Allory (Métis); heirs: (wife) Elizabeth; Elizabeth Adams, wife of James Adams; Frances Slater, wife of Thomas Slater; Laetitia Ann Brown, wife of Thomas H. Brown; Joseph Charles Bruce; John James Bruce; Adelaide Bruce; claim no.: 2071; scrip no.: 9626 to 9631; date of issue: August 8, 1876; amount: \$160.

the areas of Métis and First Nations Education. She is a participating artist in *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

Karon Shmon was among the six recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals on Friday, February 15, 2013 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan at an event presented by the Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women’s Circle Corporation. She was one of 33 Aboriginal women across Canada nominated by the Native Women’s Association of Canada. In particular, she was honoured for her advocacy for education and Métis history, and culture. Well known for her volunteer work, Karon Shmon has worked on behalf of the Saskatoon Preschool Foundation, SaskNative Rentals, and the First Nations and Métis Education Provincial Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Education. She has also served on the Race Relations Committees of both Prince Albert and Saskatoon. [From *Landscape*, Vol. 2, Issue 4: 7.]

Karon Shmon honoured at Awasis conference  
[From *Eagle Feather News* May, 2010: 15].

A dedication to excellence in First Nation and Métis education has led Karon Shmon down many paths. She has also blazed a few paths of her own. She was honoured at the Awasis Conference for her commitment and achievements as an educator.

Sheila Pocha, an educator and Karon Shmon’s friend is very proud of Shmon’s achievements.

“With 2010 being the Year of the Métis, it was only fitting that we honoured Karon for her dedication to the Awasis conference, but also for her advocacy for education and Métis history and culture.”

Karon Shmon was humble in her acceptance of the honour.

“I am grateful to have had the opportunity to serve Awasis. Its focus on the child, the name Awasis itself, initially drew me to the council. The emphasis on children, families and culture is what made me stay,” said Karon Shmon after she was presented with the honour by Métis Nation—Saskatchewan President Robert Doucette.

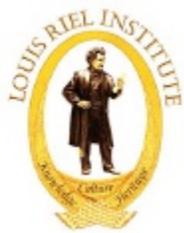
“I think I was lucky to start my career when there was very little support for Métis and First Nations teachers because Awasis became the beacon of support needed by so many of us. We owe thanks to the early builders who saw the need and made it happen and to the many people who have served the council over the years, helping Awasis grow and evolve to meet the changing needs of those it served. It was a privilege to be part of this journey.”

Karon Shmon’s published work includes:

Shmon, Karon L., 1953-. *La mishow wayayshhaywuk: the big rip off : loss of a land base: Métis land disentanglement: a teacher's resource guide*. Regina: Gabriel Dumont Institute, c1993.

Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research. *The Good Medicine Show*. [curated by Leslie Potter and Karon Shmon]. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, [2011]

Hughes, Judy. *Needs assessment guide for Métis communities*. [Judy Hughes, Karon Shmon ; prepared by Ontrac Consulting Inc.]. Ottawa: Métis Centre at the National Aboriginal Health Organization, 2005.



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