

2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL
MICHIF LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

“OUR MICHIF LANGUAGE
FOR TOMORROW”

NUTR LAWNG ~ MICHIF POHR DIMAEN

243
any.
S. Hawley



April 11 - 12, 2003
Radisson Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Sadlowski /96

MÉTIS PRAYER

MÉTIS PRAYER

Michif Version:

Li bon jeu, not Creatuer, li courage, miyinawn, paray chee itayhtamawk, kwayesh kapimouhtayhk, marsee chee itwayak Ka kiskcheetayimoyak.

Lee Michif Weechihik awnsawmbl chee atoushkaychik, sourtoo lee vyeu chee awpachihayakook li zhen chee kishnamawachik pour li tawn ki vyaen.

Li bon jeu la direksyoon miyinawn, itayhta chimiyoutayhtamak, li shmaen chee oushtawynawk pour la nawsyoon de Michif ota dans not piyee.

Sa prend lee famee di Michif chee shoohkshichik kispin la Nation di Michif chee shoohkawk.

Marsee d'twnanan.

English Translation:

God, Our Creator, give us courage, let us be of one mind, make us righteous, thankful and proud.

Help the Métis to work together especially utilizing our elders as teachers and preparing our youth for the future.

Lord provide us with direction and inspiration as we build a road for the Métis Nation in this country.

We must have strong Métis families in order to have a strong Métis Nation.

Thank you and Amen.

By Norman Fleury

Jan chee chee a

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"OUR MICHIF LANGUAGE FOR TOMORROW"

NUTR LAWNG - MICHIF POHR DIMAEN

April 11-12, 2003

*Radisson Hotel
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan*

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**CONFERENCE
GOALS & OBJECTIVES
HIGHLIGHTS**

“OUR MICHIF LANGUAGE FOR TOMORROW”
NUTR LAWNG - MICHIF POHR DIMAEN

April 11-13, 2003

Radisson Hotel

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

*This conference is a partnership of development between the
Métis National Council, Métis Nation of Alberta,
Métis Provincial Council of British Columbia, Manitoba Métis Federation,
Métis Nation Of Ontario, and the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan.*

CONFERENCE GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

“To development and build a new tomorrow where the Michif language is a recognized and used language that promotes our Métis heritage, culture and traditions.”

Objective Tab #1 Increase awareness and knowledge of the Michif language.

Objective Tab #2 To promote culturally appropriate education and training in all aspects of our society of the Michif language.

Objective Tab #3 To promote community based research and development that leads to the preservation of the Michif language.

Objective Tab #4 To promote a collaborative action with our educational institutions, libraries and other agencies to get the Michif language into the public arena.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Workshops on the latest developments in the preservation of the Michif language.*
- Sharing circles and networking.*
- Michif language speakers.*
- Michif materials.*
- Exhibits.*
- Plenary sessions.*
- Métis arts, crafts and entertainment.*

CONFERENCE AGENDA

“OUR MICHIF LANGUAGE FOR TOMORROW”

NUTR LAWNG - MICHIF POHR DIMAEN

April 11-12, 2003

Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday - April 10, 2003

5:00 p.m. *Conference registration.*
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - “A”

8:00 p.m. *Play: “All Mixed Up”*
by The Batoché Theatre Company
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - “A”



The Batoché Theatre Company: President Clem Chartiér acting debut as Old Alphonse along with Maureen Belanger as Old Ernestine in the 2002 production of “Le Rabahou.”

9:00 p.m. *Talent Contest.*
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - “A”

Friday - April 11, 2003

8:00 a.m. *Conference Registration*
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"

9:00 a.m. *Opening Session*
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"
- *Opening Prayer: Norman Fleury*
- *Opening Remarks:*
★ *Métis Nation - Saskatchewan: Ralph Kennedy*
★ *City of Saskatoon: Mayor Jim Madden*
★ *Métis National Council Interim President: Audrey Poitras*
★ *Métis National Council's Minister of Culture: Ed Ducharme*
★ *Manitoba Michif Language Development Chair: Rose Marie McPherson*
★ *Métis Nation - Saskatchewan - Senator: Joe Perreault*

10:00 a.m. *Co-Chair's: Norman Fleury & Bruce Flamont*
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"
★ *Overview Of Last Year, Theme, Objectives of Conference, Recommendations of Last Year, & Introduction of Workshops*

10:30 a.m. *Break*

10:45 a.m. *Workshop Tab #1 Future of Michif*
Location: Naples Room
Facilitator: Bruce Flamont

Workshop Tab #2 How To Learn & Preserve Michif
Location: Venice Room
Facilitator: Gilbert Pelletier

Workshop Tab #3 Teaching Of Michif & Curriculum Development
Location: Florence Room
Facilitator: Verna Demontigny

Workshop Tab #4 National Michif Language Resource & Sanctioning Center
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "B"
Facilitator: Norman Fleury

Friday - April 11, 2003 . . . Continued . . .

12:00 noon

Lunch

Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"

Luncheon speakers include:

- ★ Senator - Métis Nation - Saskatchewan*
- ★ Métis Women: President: MaryAnn Gagnon*
- ★ Métis Youth: President: Jennifer Brown*
- ★ Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust - Three Globals (Sports, Culture & Recreation)*
- ★ Dancers: Nordale Métis Square Dancers*

1:00 p.m.

*Workshop Tab #1 Future of Michif
Location: Naples Room
Facilitator: Bruce Flamont*

*Workshop Tab #2 How To Learn & Preserve Michif
Location: Venice Room
Facilitator: Gilbert Pelletier*

*Workshop Tab #3 Teaching Of Michif & Curriculum Development
Location: Florence Room
Facilitator: Verna Demontigny*

*Workshop Tab #4 National Michif Language Resource & Sanctioning
Center
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "B"
Facilitator: Norman Fleury*

2:00 p.m.

Break

2:30 p.m.

*Workshop Tab #1 Future of Michif
Location: Naples Room
Facilitator: Bruce Flamont*

*Workshop Tab #2 How To Learn & Preserve Michif
Location: Venice Room
Facilitator: Gilbert Pelletier*

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Friday - April 11, 2003 . . . Continued . . .

Workshop Tab #4 National Michif Language Resource & Sanctioning Center

Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "B"

Facilitator: Norman Fleury

3:30 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m.

Workshop Tab #1 Future of Michif

Location: Naples Room

Facilitator: Bruce Flamont

Workshop Tab #2 How To Learn & Preserve Michif

Location: Venice Room

Facilitator: Gilbert Pelletier

Workshop Tab #3 Teaching Of Michif & Curriculum Development

Location: Florence Room

Facilitator: Verna Demontigny

Workshop Tab #4 National Michif Language Resource & Sanctioning Center

Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "B"

Facilitator: Norman Fleury

6:00 p.m.

"Our Michif Language For Tomorrow" - Nutr Lawng - Michif Pohr Dimaen Banquet

Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"

Special Guests:

- ★ Honourable Sheila Copps, Government of Canada's Minister of Culture (To be confirmed)*
- ★ Honourable Pat Lorje, Government of Saskatchewan's MLA for Saskatoon South East*
- ★ Dancers & Entertainment*
- ★ Talent Contest Winners*
- ★ Dance featuring Blue Water: Kelly Atcheynum.*
- ★ Cash Bar*

Saturday – April 12, 2003

*9:00am Workshop Summary
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"*

10:00am Break

*10:30am Workshop review and conclusion
Location: Michelangelo Ball Room - "A"*

Closing speakers:

- Métis Nation – Saskatchewan: Ralph Kennedy*
- President Métis Nation of Saskatchewan: Clem Chartier*
- Closing Prayer: Norman Fleury*





WHAT IS MICHIF ?

WHAT IS MICHIF ?

The Métis people of Canada are not only a mix of diverse races, but also a combination of their distinct cultures. As such, the Métis people have developed their own language using words and grammar from their European and First Nation's parents.

The Michif language, originating with the Red River Métis, use French nouns and non phrases with the Plains Cree verb system. This language is unique and in all the world, no other language has these characteristics. Michif has diverse regional dialects and adopts words from the dominant language of the region or community. This trend is obvious in communities where Ojibwa, Dene and Saulteaux are dominant. Through its evolution and expansion, Michif has grown to include words from many different North American Indian languages.

Michif is now an endangered language. It is not taught to children in school and is rarely taught at home since most of the fluent speakers are over the age of forty five. Michif is a oral language and it did not exist in written form until about twenty years ago.

There is now a national effort to preserve the language on audio and video tape, to begin teaching the language, and to produce a standardized written form of the language.

**MICHIF LANGUAGE
DEVELOPMENT BACKGROUND**

BACKGROUND - MICHIF LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

In June, 1998, the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage announced the Aboriginal Language Initiative. This program came with a funding commitment of \$20 million to be dispersed over a four year period (1998-2002). Through discussions with national aboriginal organizations a funding allocation of ten percent was made for the revitalization and development of the Michif language. A formula was created to allocate these funds among the governing members of the Métis National Council.

At the Manitoba Métis Federation Annual General Assembly in March, 2000, a workshop was held on the topic of Michif language revitalization. A suggestion was put forth that Manitoba should host an international conference centering around the revitalization of the Michif language. The primary focus of the conference would be to stimulate discussion that would lead to the development of the revitalization of the Michif language. The secondary focus would be to organize efforts currently underway throughout Canada and the world to preserve the Michif language. Also in attendance were a number of Michif speakers with a unique regional mixture of Dene and Chippewa along with representatives from various institutions such as Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont Institutes. Several publishing houses including Pemmican Publications Inc. and the national media participated and took the opportunity to conduct interviews with several delegates.

Armed with a clear mandate the Manitoba Métis Federation organized the first international Michif language conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba with the theme of the conference being "Tande etoh teyawk avik li Michif?" - "Where to Michif?" The conference was made possible with a combined effort from the Métis Nation from across the homeland and the Government of Canada's Department of Canadian Heritage's

Aboriginal Language Initiative.

The two day conference was filled with workshops that centered around the topics of Michif language in your family and your community; sharing songs, stories and humor; and speech comparison. Due to the large number of delegates, guests and observers the workshops were divided into three groups and conducted by facilitators with strong Michif language skills. In conjunction with the workshops a Michif language survey was conducted. The short survey included questions directed to Michif Cree and Michif French speakers. It also included questions that would lay a sound foundation for the preservation and restoration of the Michif language. The survey did not leave out important questions about the conference, its workshops and its effectiveness as well as suggestions for future conferences.

The first annual Michif Language Development Conference put into place an important data base for the future when it started the Michif Language Registry. Participants were encourage to put their names, contact information and ability to speak Michif into the databank. Since its introduction the Michif Language Registry continues to grow with the identification of Michif speakers no matter what form of Michif they speak. The next comes with this conference with the introduction of the identification and acquisition of Michif language resources, such as books, dictionaries, cd's, teaching tools, etc., which will be placed in a national resources source center and made available to all to use.

In December, 2002, the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage announced that the Aboriginal Language Initiative would be receiving an additional \$172.5 million for a three phase approach to the ongoing development of aboriginal languages in Canada. The first would extend the current level of funding to the first year 2004 / 2005. The next phase was to establish a predominantly aboriginal task force to examine, consult and make recommendations on aboriginal languages and cultural

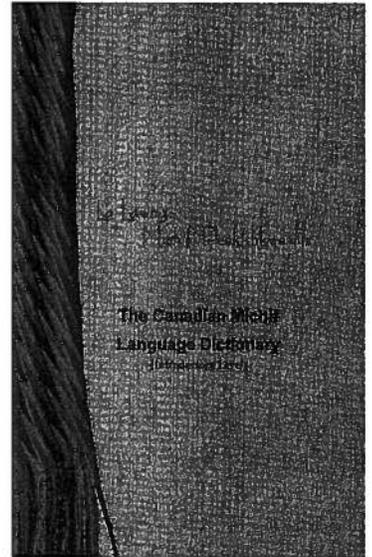
centers. The third and final phase was to create an aboriginal languages and culture center, which would be a not - for - profit corporation under the stewardship of Canadian aboriginal peoples, to begin in 2004 and receive funding for the next ten years.

The Métis National Council took strong objections to the creation of a new bureaucracy to administer the aboriginal languages initiative as the program has been operating for the past four years very successfully. The program had been operating through existing infrastructure of the representative organizations of the aboriginal people of Canada. The Council did applaud the infusion of new funding and extended time frame for the support of the development of aboriginal languages but had grave misgivings about the new structure being proposed by the federal government. The Métis National Council felt it did away with the Métis specific support for the Michif language and failed to respect Métis's right to self-government. Métis National Council's President Gerald Morin stated, "The Métis Nation is the steward of the Michif language and it's our responsibility to carry it on and it is our right. The government must recognize this fact." The Métis National Council called upon the federal government to respect the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal People and commit to work with the representative governments of the aboriginal people of Canada to develop a delivery mechanism for the language initiatives that respects Métis right of self-government and role in preserving our aboriginal languages.

Since the announcement, the Métis National Council and its member provinces has been working diligently to continue the work which began in 1998. In the fall of 2002, preparation began on the 2nd annual Michif language development conference, which brings us to the proceedings of this conference.

Michif

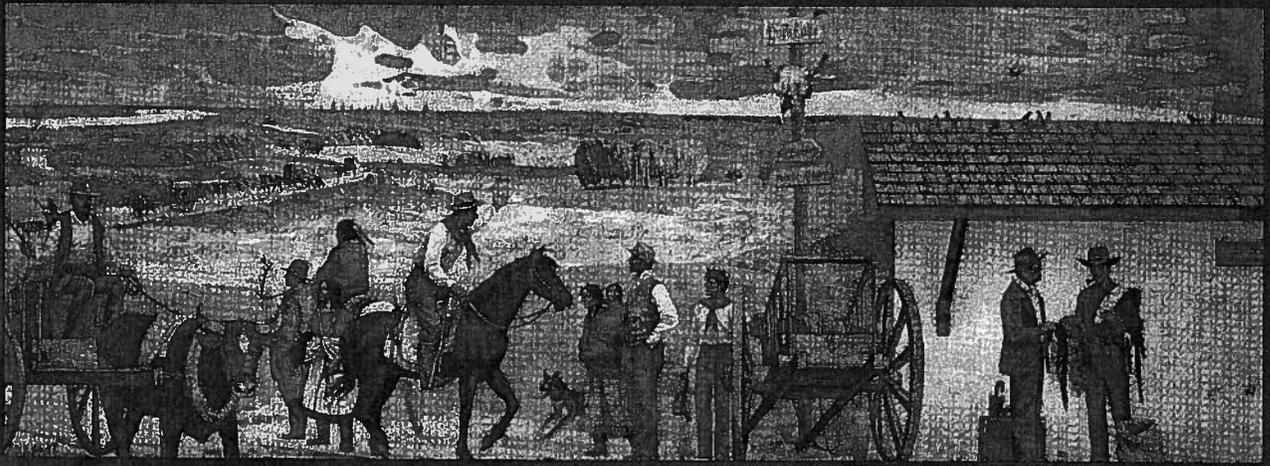
New Breed Magazine will be paying extra attention to the Michif Language in this and future publications with the help of Michif speakers. New Breed Magazine will begin a series of articles on the language, its current state, its history, and the plans to increase Michif language usage across the Métis Nation Homeland. New Breed will also feature some of the many projects taking place in Saskatchewan under the direction of the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan Cultural Committee and funded by Canadian Heritage Aboriginal Languages Initiative.



Métis Nation - Saskatchewan will host the second annual Michif Language Conference in Saskatoon on April 10th - 12th, 2003. MNS Cultural Committee Chairpersons, Clem Chartier and Ralph Kennedy, have begun preparations for the conference with the support of the National Michif Language Working Group. Along with others, Norman Fleury, Bruce Flamont, and Peter Bakker are providing direction to the conference workshop.

Featured here is a Michif Language Dictionary published by the Manitoba Métis Federation Michif Language Program.

For more information, contact Ralph Kennedy at (306) 445-6822.



Michif Declaration

JULY 23, 2000

Whereas the Michif language is a unique and important part of the heritage of the Métis Nation, Michif is a second language of the Métis Nation and serves as a linguistic link between the Michif language and the languages of the Métis Nation's ancestral lands; and

And whereas the Michif language is a unique and important part of the heritage of the Métis Nation, Michif is a second language of the Métis Nation and serves as a linguistic link between the Michif language and the languages of the Métis Nation's ancestral lands; and

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**MICHIF LANGUAGE
REGISTRY FORM**

WORKSHOP #1

FUTURE OF MICHIF

FUTURE OF MICHIF

*Location: Naples Room
Facilitator: Bruce Flamont*

Biography – Bruce Flamont

Bruce was born in a tent in 1945, near Yorkton , Saskatchewan. He was raised in a non-English home with his grandparents Alexandre and Marie Adel Flamont.

He spent his first year of school learning the English language.

He left home to go to Tokyo in 1959. He then joined the Navy in the early sixties. Bruce returned back to Saskatchewan in 1965.

In 1966, he began organizing Métis and acted as the Recording Secretary at the founding meeting of today's M.N.S. (and subsequently M.N.C.) He was the Executive Director of M.S.S. – A.M.N.S.I.S. for the first twelve years of their existence.

Bruce finally got married and raised his family of two boys and one girl and then became a single parent from 1970 – 1992.

Bruce returned to school at the University of Regina in 1986 to study the white man. He then moved to Saskatoon in 1992, where he was employed by M.N.S. Head Office.

Bruce Flamont has spent all of his life working for advancement of the Métis Nation. Today he is deeply involved in the issue of Métis veterans and Michif - the language of the Métis.

WORKSHOP #2
HOW TO LEARN & PRESERVE MICHIF

HOW TO LEARN & PRESERVE MICHIF

*Location: Venice Room
Facilitator: Gilbert Pelletier*

Biography - Gilbert Pelletier

Gilbert was born and raised near Crescent Lake, Saskatchewan, better known as Tokyo. He met and married his wife, Mary, also a Crescent Lake native, in 1961. Gilbert and Mary have three biological children; Gale, Eleanore, and Avaline as well as three adopted children; Linda, Garry, and Melinda. Gilbert is the proud grandfather of ten children ranging in ages from one to twenty-two.

Gilbert has been involved with the Métis Nation for fifty years. His involvement began in the Crescent Lake Métis community and then moved to Esterhazy where he started a local, which still exists today. Upon returning to north east Saskatchewan, Gilbert and his family settled in Yorkton, where he has been a part of the Métis local for the past twenty seven years. Gilbert services as an Elder / Senator for his region within the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan. Gilbert serves as commissioner on the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Commission.

Gilbert has taught Michif language at every opportunity he has been afforded and continues to teach anyone who is interested in learning Michif. He was involved in the development and production of a Michif video and tapes. He just recently completed the translation of a television manuscript into Michif to be aired in the fall of 2003. Mary has and continues to assist Gilbert to ensure the ongoing use and development of the Michif language and the preservation of our Métis culture, traditions and heritage. As Gilbert put it, "She is my inspiration and confidant."

WORKSHOP #3

TEACHING OF MICHIF & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

TEACHING OF MICHIF & CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

*Location: Florence Room
Facilitator: Verna Demontigny*

Biography – Verna Demontigny

Verna's family goes back to a small Métis community known as Fouillard's Corner, where people settled after leaving Ste. Madeleine, Manitoba. She grew up immersed in the Michif language and Métis community. Verna is fluent in Michif and takes every opportunity she can to pass on her Métis heritage, culture and traditions through the spoken words of Michif.

Verna is a proud Métis woman, who is not just a mother but a grandmother. She lives and works in Brandon, Manitoba, where she is employed as a cook/childcare worker.

Verna states, "I am very concerned that our Michif language is becoming extinct, and so a few years ago I took it upon myself to construct basic lessons in Michif that I could pass on to my children and grandchildren. She went on to state "When classes started in the Turtle Mountain area, I went to listen to hear my native tongue spoken." From that simple inquiry of curiosity she went on to help in the teaching of the classes. She presently works with Harry Pelletier teaching Michif classes at the Brandon University each Monday night in a ten-week course.

It is Verna's dream to ensure our Michif language is not only preserved but it is passed on from one generation to another. "We must take every opportunity we can to pass on our language and keep it alive."

WORKSHOP #4

NATIONAL

MICHIF LANGUAGE RESOURCE & SANCTIONING CENTRE

NATIONAL MICHIF LANGUAGE RESOURCE & SANCTIONING CENTRE

Location: Florence Room
Facilitator: Norman Fleury

Biography – Norman Fleury

Norman is originally from St. Lazare, Manitoba. He is married to Ruth Ann and is the father of Chantelle, 10, and Marc, 6. Norman owns and operates his own mixed farm on a section of land eighteen miles south west of Virden in a small community call Woodnorth.

Norman has been very active cardholder of the Manitoba Métis Federation since 1967. He has had various executive positions, including chair, at the local level and is involved in various committees at the local level including housing, education, public relations and economic development. Norman also serves as a Métis elder at the Brandon University by working with the faculty, staff and students.

Currently, Norman is the Director of Michif Language Program with the Manitoba Métis Federation. As Director of the Michif Language Program for the Manitoba Métis Federation he facilitates Michif language workshops and a complete language course. He has written an introductory Michif Language Dictionary and is currently working on a second Michif dictionary. Norman is also involved in the preparation of a Michif language video in the form of documentaries. In cooperation with Denmark's linguist, Peter Bakker, Norman is working on computer games that will empower the player to learn Michif and more about the Métis of Canada. Norman has also served as a translator of the Michif language for the Manitoba Association of Native Languages and Census Canada.

Norman's language skills includes being fluent in English, French, Cree and Ojibway but understands Plains, Northern, Swampy and Oji Cree dialects, and some Dakota (Sioux).

NATIONAL MICHIF LANGUAGE RESOURCE & SANCTIONING CENTRE

*Location: Florence Room
Facilitator: Norman Fleury*

RESOURCES

1. *What are the recognized authentic resources?*
2. *Where are these resources?*
3. *Where should these resources be located?*
 - A] *Nationally?*
 - B] *Provincially?*
 - C] *Regionally?*

SANCTIONING

1. *Who sanctions or authorized which Michif resources are authentic?*
2. *How can these resources be standardized?*
3. *What should be standardized Michif writing system?*

**CONFERENCE
EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY**

CONFERENCE EFFECTIVENESS SURVEY

We, the Conference Coordinators, need your assistance. Please take the time to complete the following Conference Effectiveness Survey. Upon completion of this form, please return it to the Conference Registration Desk Personnel along with your Métis Language Registry Form

1. *We would like YOUR opinion on the following aspects of the 2nd Annual Michif Language Development Conference - "Our Michif Language For Tomorrow" Nutr Lawng - Michif Pohr Dimaen, which took place April 11-12, 2003 at the Radisson Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Use the following rating system of excellent, good, fair, poor by placing a "X" in the appropriate box.*

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Travel Arrangements (If they were made for you by the conference committee)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Kits & Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conference Speakers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Workshop Speakers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delivery of Information	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Banquet / Talent Contest / Play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Assistance by Conference Staff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. *We would like your feedback about the 2nd Annual Michif Language Development Conference - "Our Michif Language For Tomorrow" Nutr Lawng - Michif Pohr Dimaen. Please take the following space to make suggestions, provide ideas, and other comments you feel would assist the success of the next conference (Use the back side of this paper if you need more room).*
-
-

3. *Thank you for supporting the development of the Michif language in Canada for our Métis citizens. The time you have taken to fill in this form will enable us to continue the work which has begun in the Métis homeland of Canada.*

N · O · T · E · S

N . O . T . E . S

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