

# The Michif Resource Guide: Lii Michif Niiyanaan, aan Michif biikishwanaan



Laura Burnouf, Norman Fleury, Guy Lavallée

# **The Michif Resource Guide:** *Lii Michif Niiyanaan, aan Michif biikishwanaan*

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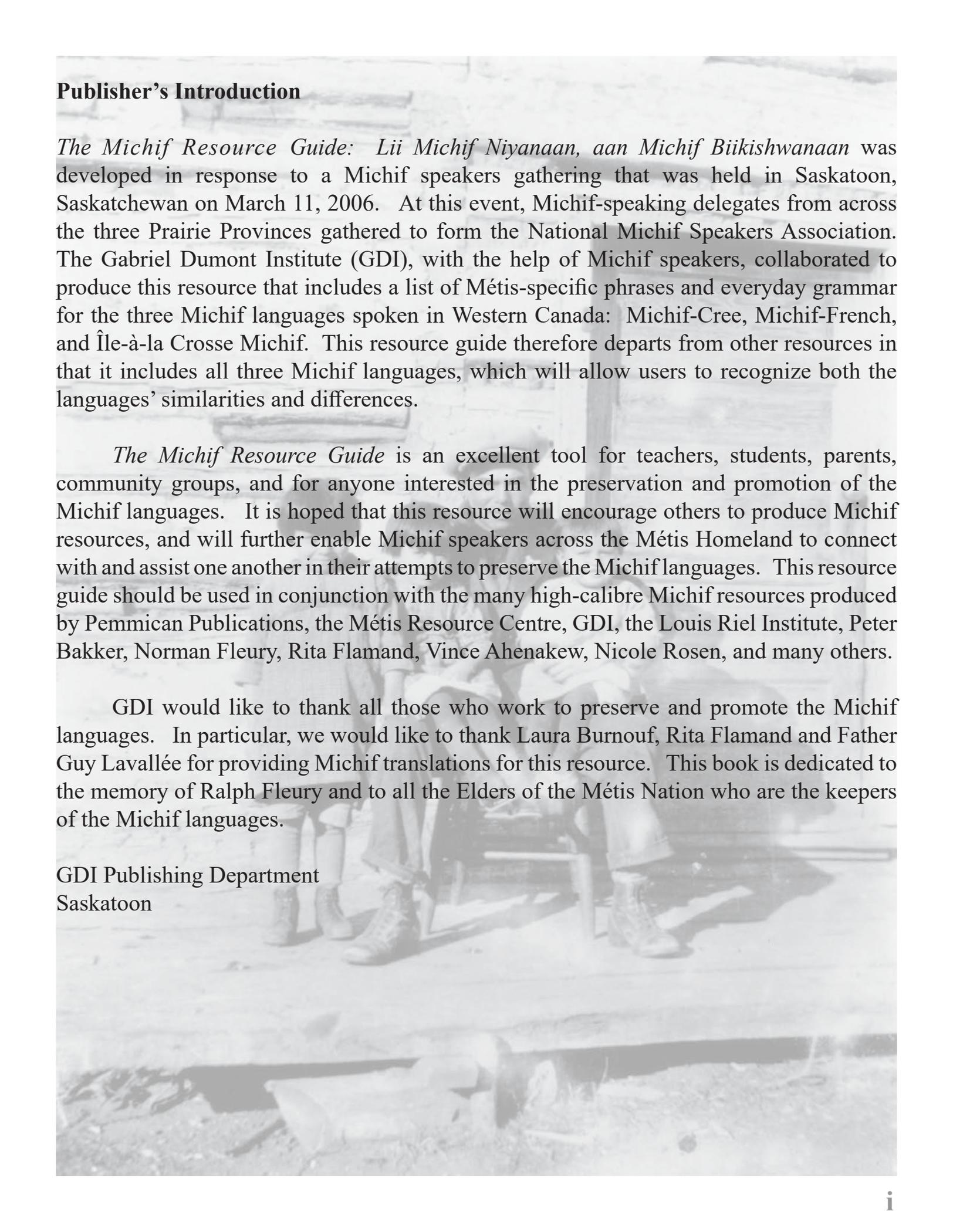
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## Publisher's Introduction

*The Michif Resource Guide: Lii Michif Niyanaan, aan Michif Biikishwanaan* was developed in response to a Michif speakers gathering that was held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on March 11, 2006. At this event, Michif-speaking delegates from across the three Prairie Provinces gathered to form the National Michif Speakers Association. The Gabriel Dumont Institute (GDI), with the help of Michif speakers, collaborated to produce this resource that includes a list of Métis-specific phrases and everyday grammar for the three Michif languages spoken in Western Canada: Michif-Cree, Michif-French, and Île-à-la Crosse Michif. This resource guide therefore departs from other resources in that it includes all three Michif languages, which will allow users to recognize both the languages' similarities and differences.

*The Michif Resource Guide* is an excellent tool for teachers, students, parents, community groups, and for anyone interested in the preservation and promotion of the Michif languages. It is hoped that this resource will encourage others to produce Michif resources, and will further enable Michif speakers across the Métis Homeland to connect with and assist one another in their attempts to preserve the Michif languages. This resource guide should be used in conjunction with the many high-calibre Michif resources produced by Pemmican Publications, the Métis Resource Centre, GDI, the Louis Riel Institute, Peter Bakker, Norman Fleury, Rita Flamand, Vince Ahenakew, Nicole Rosen, and many others.

GDI would like to thank all those who work to preserve and promote the Michif languages. In particular, we would like to thank Laura Burnouf, Rita Flamand and Father Guy Lavallée for providing Michif translations for this resource. This book is dedicated to the memory of Ralph Fleury and to all the Elders of the Métis Nation who are the keepers of the Michif languages.

GDI Publishing Department  
Saskatoon

## Michif: A Brief Overview

The Métis, having First Nations, French-Canadian and European ancestry, were traditionally the most multilingual people on the northern Plains. Unfortunately, colonization has had a devastating impact upon the Métis' collective identity, particularly through the near eradication of Métis heritage languages. For almost a century, the Métis bore the stigma of being Indigenous, of having mixed ancestry, and of being “rebels.” This meant that many Métis abandoned their heritage or downplayed it in order to better fit into the non-Aboriginal mainstream. The end result was a loss of heritage language retention among at least three generations of Métis, which means that most Métis, perhaps 90-95%, are unable to have a simple conversation in any of their heritage languages. The vast majority of those who still speak Métis heritage languages regularly are elderly. As a result, English has become the working and living language of the Métis Nation.

Linguists maintain that Michif, while being one of many hybrid languages throughout the world, is very unique, demonstrating the Métis' genius for fusing disparate cultures into a coherent synthesis. Within the Métis Nation, however, there is much confusion about the language. It has only been since the 1980s, possibly due to the linguist Peter Bakker's visit to the Prairies and North Dakota, that the Métis started calling various Métis heritage languages “Michif.” Traditionally, many of the Old People or “*lii vyeu*” called Michif “Cree,”<sup>1</sup> while referring to themselves as “Michifs” or “*métchifs*” – a variation of “*métif*” or “*mitif*”, archaic French spellings of Métis. At present, there are three languages that various Métis community members call Michif, and for easy categorization and to avoid confusion, these are listed here as **Michif-Cree**, **Michif-French** and **Île-à-la Crosse Michif**.<sup>2</sup>

**Michif-Cree**, according to linguists, is considered the “classic” Michif language<sup>3</sup> in terms of its structure and history. It is composed of Plains Cree (with some Saulteaux) verbs/verb phrases and French (with some English) nouns/noun phrases. Its origins date to the late eighteenth century; however, its precursors may have existed in the Great Lakes region a few generations earlier. Michif-Cree is spoken in pockets in all three Prairie Provinces and into Montana and North Dakota. Michif-Cree communities include those in central and southeastern Saskatchewan (from the Battlefords north to Debden and down towards Yorkton and into the Qu'Appelle Valley); southern and central Manitoba (St. Lazare, Camperville, and Duck Bay); and northern North Dakota, where, in the Turtle Mountains, it is known as “Turtle Mountain Chippewa-Cree.” Of all the Michif languages, it has by far the largest geographic range. This language is spelled phonetically and does not yet have a standardized orthography.

**Michif-French** or Métis-French – traditionally spoken by the Métis in Batoche/ St. Louis, Saskatchewan; St. Laurent, St. Eustache and St. Ambroise, Manitoba; and Lac La Biche, St. Paul and St. Albert, Alberta – is considered by linguists to be a dialect of Canadian French.<sup>4</sup> However, Michif-French is not easily intelligible to Francophones. It differs from standard Canadian French in a number of ways including, its borrowing of Cree and Saulteaux syntax (but only a few words), and its different French vocabulary, vowel pronunciation, and possessive construction.<sup>5</sup> Michif-French is likely the ancestor language of Michif-Cree since both languages have nearly identical French components (and both clearly evolved from the French spoken by French-Canadian voyageurs). Until recently, Francophones stigmatized Michif-French speakers for speaking “bad” French in communities such as St. Laurent and St. Eustache, Manitoba.<sup>6</sup> Consequently, the language was not handed down to succeeding generations. Like Michif-Cree, Michif-French is spelled phonetically, and does not have a standardized orthography.

**Île-à-la Crosse Michif** is spoken in the northwest corner of Saskatchewan, with most speakers living in or near Île-à-la Crosse, Buffalo Narrows, and Beauval. It is called “Michif,” “Michif-Cree,” “French-Cree,” and even “Church-Cree” because of its small French component that was brought to the region in the nineteenth century by Francophone priests. It is, according to linguists, a Woods Cree dialect<sup>7</sup> with some French (noun) word borrowings, and it is not closely related to Michif-Cree or Michif-French. Île-à-la Crosse Michif is strongly supported by community people and is taught in schools, most notably Rossignol Community School in Île-à-la Crosse. This language has a standardized (Cree) orthography, although its few French words may be spelled phonetically or in standardized French.

Including Michif-French and Île-à-la Crosse Michif as “Michif” languages is contentious. However, regardless of the fact that there are three distinct languages<sup>8</sup> that various Métis communities call Michif, the Métis should work towards their long-term preservation. Furthermore, if Métis people speak them, want to promote them and call them Michif, then by sociological reality, they are Michif languages, and they should be supported because losing any one of these languages would very tragic. If that were to occur, the Métis would lose not just a way to communicate, but also a specific worldview, and an array of accompanying cultural knowledge, including spiritual systems, oral traditions, harvesting strategies, and healing techniques.

Ensuring the survival of all Michif languages will require a firm commitment by Michif speakers themselves, the Métis community, Métis educational, cultural and political institutions, and all levels of government. This commitment has been undertaken. For instance, restoring Michif-Cree as a functional language has been undertaken by the Métis National Council and all if of its affiliates. At present, it is the official language of the

Métis Nation.<sup>9</sup> However, increased human and fiscal infrastructure is needed for Michif-language resources and programs, particularly dictionaries, grammar and phrase books, children’s audio books, and language nests and immersion programs – the tools needed to preserve these languages. Standardization is also required if the Michif languages are to survive. Very few Michif speakers can write in Michif-Cree or Michif-French, and neither language has a standardized orthography<sup>10</sup> or lexicon.<sup>11</sup> Finally, employing the passion and dedication of Michif speakers themselves is vital for the intergenerational transmission of these languages.



## (Endnotes)

<sup>1</sup> Peter Bakker. *A Language of Our Own: The Genesis of Michif, the Mixed Cree-French Language of the Canadian Métis*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997, p. 65. See also: Peter Bakker, “Michif Languages”, in Lawrence J. Barkwell et al (Eds.) *Metis Legacy II: Michif Culture, Heritage and Folkways*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute and Pemmican Publications, 2007, pp. 173-81.

<sup>2</sup> These terms are by no means universally recognized by the speakers themselves, or by Métis political, educational and cultural institutions.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp.118-160.

<sup>4</sup> Peter C. Douaud, “Mitchif: An Aspect of Francophone Alberta,” *The Journal of Indigenous Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Summer 1989), pp. 80-90.

<sup>5</sup> Bakker, pp. 248-51.

<sup>6</sup> See Guy Lavallée. *The Metis of St. Laurent, Manitoba: Their Life and Stories, 1920-1988*. Winnipeg: Self-Published, 2003, pp. 111-116.

<sup>7</sup> Bakker, pp.144-160 and 161-81.

<sup>8</sup> While it is true that two of these languages have Cree as their main strata (Michif-Cree and Île-à-la Crosse Michif), and all of them have varying degrees of French words, it should be noted that the three Michif languages are distinct and are not dialects as some argue. Furthermore, there is no linguistic continuum between Michif-French (almost entirely French with a very small amount of Cree or Saulteaux words), Michif-Cree (about 65% Cree with some Saulteaux and 35% French), and Île-à-la Crosse Michif (about 90%+ Cree, 10% French). See Bakker, “Michif Languages”, p. 175.

<sup>9</sup> Lawrence J. Barkwell, Editor. *La Lawng: Michif Peekishkwewin. The Heritage Language of the Canadian Metis. Volume 2: Language Theory*. Winnipeg: Pemmican Publications, 2004, p.1.

<sup>10</sup> This term refers to spelling conventions including spellings and the use of word accents. In Michif-Cree and Michif-French words are spelled differently than in Cree or French. In addition, while all Michif-Cree speakers pronounce the words almost universally the same, they are often spelled differently. For instance, Michif-Cree speakers spell the French articles le/la/les as “li,” “le,” “lee,” or “lii.” The Turtle Mountain Orthography, developed in North Dakota by Ida Rose Allard, Patline Laverdure, and linguist John Crawford, is the dominant Michif-Cree orthography. Norman Fleury has contributed immensely to this dominant orthography.

<sup>11</sup> Lexicon is a particular language/dialect’s vocabulary.

**Ralph Fleury, Yorkton, SK**

*“Many people have to learn and experience the Michif language...”*



**In Memoriam 1927-2006**

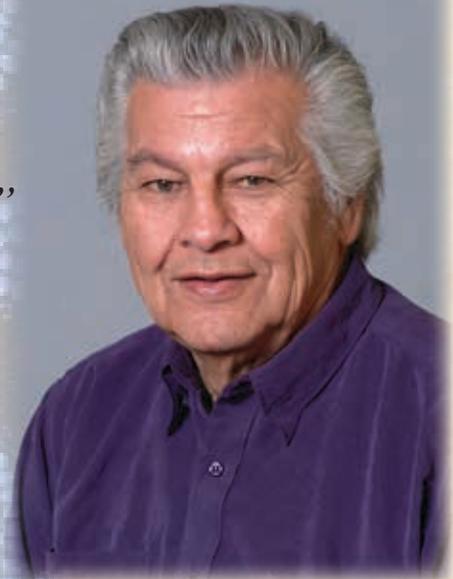


**Norman Fleury, Virden, MB**

*“When I was in my mother’s womb I heard the Michif language because it was essentially our first language...”*

**George Fleury, Ste. Madeleine, MB**

*“Michif is a unique way of communicating...”*



**Harriet Oaks, Saskatoon, SK**

*“This is a gift passed down from our ancestors...why should we refuse that beautiful gift now...and forget about the Michif language?”*

**Rita Flamand, Camperville, MB**

*“I am concerned about the Michif language as there is no mention of it anywhere, while the other Aboriginal languages are being developed and taught in schools...”*



**Grace Zoldy, Camperville, MB**

*“The younger generation has to grasp and learn our Michif Language...”*

**Claude Langan, Saskatoon, SK**

*“In order to preserve Michif we need to teach the young ones our culture, our language, and our way of life...”*





**George Pelletier, Brandon, MB**

*"Whenever I speak my language...I am proud to speak my language..."*

**Paul Peppin, Yorkton, SK**

*"We need to teach our young ones..."*



**Eva Brazeau, Togo, SK**

*"We are one step away from losing our language... Where will we be in twenty years from now?"*



**Armand Murray, La Loche, SK**

*“Our language has been around for a long time...there is a culture attached to it... it will never die...”*



**Edwin St. Pierre, Yorkton, SK**

*“People should be interested and want to learn the language...”*

**Joyce Larocque, Birch River, MB**

*“This is our culture, Michif is the language we are supposed to speak...”*





**Dorothy Aubichon, Saskatoon, SK**

*“I don’t want the young generation to get lost or be ashamed of who they are...our language is important...”*

**Erma Taylor, Regina, SK**

*“Preservation of the Michif language is important to the preservation of our culture and heritage...it gives one a sense of belonging...”*



**Edna Fleury, Yorkton, SK**

*“If we don’t speak it, we’ll forget it...”*

**Gerald St. Pierre, Yorkton, SK**

*“Without Michif we’d have no heritage...it would be a shame if we lost it...”*



**Fred LaVallee, Duck Bay, MB**

*“It’s an old language and a happy language...”*

**Harvey Pelletier, Brandon, MB**

*“We need to continue teaching the language to preserve it for the future...”*





**Viner Perreault, Moose Jaw, SK**  
*“This is our language, this is the only language I speak when I see Michif...”*

**Jeanne Pelletier, Regina, SK**  
*“The Michif language is one of the first ways of talking to our people...”*



**Heubert LeDoux, Saskatoon, SK**  
*“It is important to keep the language alive...”*

**Laura Burnouf, La Ronge, SK**

*“Michif is important because that is the language of my ancestors and community... I feel the need to continue with the struggle to keep it alive...”*



**Lillian Lafontaine, Yorkton, SK**

*“We need to talk the language with our children...”*

**Lorraine LaVallee, Dauphin, MB**

*“Our children need to learn the language...”*





**Margaret Hodgson, Saskatoon, SK**

*“It is part of our culture, we must keep it alive!”*

**Louis Duscharme, Russell, MB**

*“It is important for the coming generation to learn the language... there should be more youth and Elder interaction...”*



**Marie Schoenthal, Medicine Hat, AB**

*“It is our language.... our way of identifying as Michif...it can't be forgotten!”*

**Mervin Fleury, Roblin, MB**

*“A lot of our people still use the language...we don't want to forget it!”*



**Noella LeBlanc, Birch River, MB**

*“The language is our identity...”*

**Rose Marie McPherson, Dauphin, MB**

*“Language gives us our identity...more importantly it allows us to understand our culture, dance, song, and legends which needs to be told in the language to keep the significance of our culture...”*





**Ruth Henry, Regina, SK**

*“We all have the same interest and desire to see our language revived!”*

**Verna Demontigny, Brandon, MB**

*“Through my language I have learned my culture, what and who I am and my history...”*



**Victoria Genaille, Binscarth, MB**

*“I am proud of my parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents... they are always in my heart... We need to preserve our language and culture for the young people...”*

**Willard LaViolette, Boggy Creek, MB**  
*“Michif will never die...”*



**Edna St. Pierre, Yorkton, SK**  
*“If we don’t start now with our generation...  
our language will die...”*

**Laura Coates, Yorkton, SK**  
*“We are Michif...we should be able  
to speak Michif and be proud to be  
Michif!”*



## Northern Cree “Y” Dialect Île-à-la-Crosse Michif – Laura Burnouf

### I. Articles

The Michif articles *la* and *li* are only used when the words are in Michif–French and not in Cree.

A/An (Masculine/Feminine) N/A

The (Masculine/Feminine) *la*

The (Plural) *li*

It was a beautiful day. *kî miyo kîsikâw.*  
The table is made of wood. *la tâp mistik ohci osihcikâtiw.*  
The Elders are wise. *kihtêyak ayinîsowak.*

### II. Pronouns

I – <i>niya</i>	him/her too – <i>wîsta</i>
me too – <i>nîsta</i>	she/he/it – <i>wiya</i>
you – <i>kiya</i> or <i>ki</i>	her/him too – <i>wîsta</i>
you (plural) – <i>kîstwâw</i>	she/he/it – <i>wiya</i>
he/she/it – <i>wiya</i>	her too – <i>wista</i>
it – <i>îyako</i>	we/us (exclusive) – <i>niyanân</i>
us/we (inclusive) – <i>kiyanâw</i>	them – <i>wîstawâw</i>
they – <i>wiyawâw</i>	

I am talking to them.  
*Î-ayamihakwâw wiyawâw.*

She is good at fingerweaving.  
*Î-nakacihât wiya ta pîmastîhikî.*

It is beside the table.  
*Asicâyihk la tâp astêw îyakohk.*

You cannot go to the movies!  
*Namôya cikâstîpayihcikanihk ki kî itohtân!*

We are learning Michif.  
*Î-mêkwâ kiskinwahamâsoyahk Michif.*

### III. Nouns

Artwork – <i>masinipêhikîwin</i>	Leggings – <i>ihtapiwitâs</i>
Ball – <i>la plot</i>	Moccasins – <i>napakaskisin</i>
Beadwork – <i>mîkisihkahcikîwin</i>	Pants – <i>la kilot</i>
Bed – <i>li lit/nipîwin</i>	People – <i>ayisînowak</i>
Book – <i>masinahikan</i>	Pemmican – <i>pîmihkân</i>
Brush (hair) – <i>sîkahon</i> floorbrush – <i>sîpîkinihtakwâkan</i>	Pen – <i>la krriyõñ/masinahikî-winâhcikos</i>
Car – <i>l'kâr/sihkihpayis</i>	Pencil – <i>la krriyõñ/masinahikî-winâhcikos</i>
Chair – <i>la shâsh/tihtapowin</i>	Telephone – <i>sîwîpitamâtowin</i>
City – <i>otî naw</i>	Red River Cart – <i>Red River cihcicâpânâskos</i>
Coat – <i>l'kapô</i>	Sash – <i>la sâncîrr</i>
Country – <i>askiy</i>	Shawl – <i>akwanahon</i>
Our land – <i>kitaskî naw</i>	Shirt – <i>la shimîsh/pâpakowayân</i>
Couch – <i>l'shófâ</i>	Shoes – <i>li bwacin/maskisina</i>
Computer – <i>mâmahtâwâpacihcikan</i>	Shorts – <i>kîskimitâs</i>
Desk – <i>masinahikîwinahtik</i>	Socks – <i>li bâ/asikanak</i>
Food – <i>mîcowin</i>	Table – <i>la tâp mîcisowinâhtik</i>
Friend – <i>niwîcîwâkan</i>	Toque – <i>la cok/astotin</i>
Game – <i>mîta wîwin</i>	Tractor – <i>l' trâktarr</i>
Gloves – <i>li-gâñ</i>	Truck – <i>âwatâswâkan</i>
Hat – <i>l'shapô</i> or <i>lapalet</i>	Van – <i>âwatâswâkan</i>
Hockey puck – <i>atihkwasiniy</i>	Water – <i>l'dilô/nipiy</i>
Hockey stick – <i>mîta wîwimistik</i>	York Boat – <i>l' skiff/l' batô</i>
House – <i>wâskahikan</i>	
Internet – <i>ayâpâpacihcikan</i>	
Language – <i>pîkiskîwin</i>	

The Internet is a good way to preserve Michif.  
*Ayâpâpacihcikan mâwaci î-miyôsik ta manâcihtâyahk Michif isi pîkiskwîwin.*

Métis women wear shawls.  
*Lî Métis iskwêwak postiskamwak mâna akwanahôwina.*

My best friend has beadwork on his coat.  
*Ninîkâniwîcîwâkan mîkisihkahcikîwin kakikwâtiyw sô capo.*

The Métis Homeland is in two countries: Canada and the United States.  
*Lî Métis kî-nihtâwikôwahk nîswâyihk: kitaskî naw kanâta êkwa kihci mohkomâninahk.*

Winnipeg is the city in which most Métis live.  
*Mawaci mihcât li Métis Î-wîkicik misi-otînahk, Winnipeg.*

At Back to Batoche Days, I wear a sash and moccasins.  
*Ispihk Back To Batoche Days kâ-kî-ispayiki ni-ki postiskawâw la sâncîrr êkwa nipostiskî napakiskisina.*

#### IV. Verbs

Depending on whether the object is inanimate or animate, there are two different endings to some verbs. These verbs are classified as VTI –Transitive Inanimate or VTA –Transitive Animate. The abbreviations are: IN – Inanimate AN – Animate.

Ask – *kakwícihkîmo*

Attack – *sisikoc* (all of a sudden) or *môskîstâto*

Begin – *mâcihtâ*

Blow – *pôtâcîkî*

Break – *pîkona*

Bring – *pîtâ* (IN), *pîsiw* (AN)

Choose – *nawasôna* (IN), *nawasônâ* (AN)

Come – *âstam*

Do – *itôta*

Drag – *pimitâpî* (IN), *pimitâpâtâ* (AN)

Draw – *tâpisnahîkî* or *nâspasinahîkî*

Drink – *minihkwî*

Drive – *pimipayihcîkî*

Drown – *nistâpâwî*

Eat – *mîciso*

Fall – *pahkisîni*

Fly – *pimiyâ*

Freeze – *ahkwaci*

Get – *nâta* (IN), *nâs* (AN)

Give – *mîki*

Give him/her/it – *miyâ*

Give me – *miyin*

Go – *itohtî*

Grow – *ohpîki*

Happen – *ispayin*

Know – *kiskiyihîta*

Lay – *pimisîni* (lie down)

Lead – *nîkânîw*

Lose – *wanihtâ* (lose something) or *wanihâ* (lose someone)

Pay – *tipahîkî*

Ride – *pôsi* – (ride in vehicle) *tihtapi* – (ride a horse)

Ring – *sîwîpicîkî*

Rise – *ohpipayi*

Run – *pimipahtâ*

See – *wâpahta* see it (IN) *wâpam* – see him/her (AN)

Saw – *kîskipocîkî* (to saw something)

Shake – *nanamipayi*

Shrink – *otihkâpâwî*

Sing – *nikamo*

Sink – *kotâwiypayi*

Sit – *api*

Sit down – *nahap*

Spring – *wayawîpayi* (...out from something), *tîhcîpayi* (...to the top)

Steal – *kimoti*

Stink – *wihcîkîsi*

Study – *wîcîhîso* – (to help yourself) (to work at something) – *atoskâta*

Swear – *wayahkwî*

Swim – *pakâsîmo*

Swing – *wîwîpîso*

Take – *otina* (IN), *otinâ* – take him/her/it (AN)

Tear – *tâtopita*

Throw – *pimoshinî*

Wake – *koshkopayi*

Walk – *pimohtî*

Wear – *pohciska* – (wear it) (IN),

*pohciskawâ* (wear it) (AN)

Wring – *sînikî*

Write – *masinahîkî*

My grandmother asked me a question.

*Nohkom ni-kî kakwîcimik piyak kîkway.*

I am learning to write Michif.

*Î mîkwâ kocimasinahamân michif.*

I eat traditional Métis food.

*Ni mîcin mâna lî Métis âniskotâta-mîcowin.*

He threw the football.

*Kî pimoshinîw la plot.*

She rides horses during the summer.  
*Tihtapiw mistatimwa mêkwâc kâ-nîpihk.*

The telephone is ringing.  
*Sîwîpitamâtowin sîwîpayiw.*

My great-uncle can speak several languages including Michif, Cree, English, and French.  
*Mô nôk kaskihtâw ta-pîkiskwît mihcâcîs pîkiskwêwina, tâpiskôc Michif, nîhiyawîwin, akayâsimowin, êkwa mistikôsîmowin.*

## **V. Conjunctions**

After – *mwîstas*

Although – *âta*

And – *êkwa*

Because – *osâm*

Before – *pâmowîs*

But – *mâka*

For – *ohci*

Neither – *ahpô namôwiya*

Nor – *namâ*

Or – *ahpô*

Since – *aspin ohci*

So – *tâspwâ*

Until – *iskohk*

When – *tânispî*

While – *mîkwâc*

Yet – *âsay cî*

We are going to eat after we finish our homework.  
*Ka-mîcisonâw kîsihtâyahki ki-kiskinwahamâkosiwininaw.*

I like Métis jigging and fiddling.  
*Nôsâmihîtin li-Métis onîsosimôwin êkwa sîsâpihkahikan-kitohcikêwin.*

Since I was young, I enjoyed my grandfather's stories.  
*Aspin ohci kâ oskâyowiyân nikî miyo-natohtîn ni-pâpâ otâcimôwina.*

I am proud to be Métis because I love my people.  
*Ni-mamihtisin niya li-Métis osâm nisâkiahkwâk nitayisînimak.*

They will stay at the dance until midnight.  
*Nîmihitôwinihk ta-ayâwak iskohk pôni âpihtâtipiskâki.*

Water and food are essential for life.  
*Nipiy êkwa mîcisowin piko ta âpacihîtayahk ta pimâtisiyahk.*

## **VI. Prepositions**

About – *papâmi* or *nânitâw*

Above – *ispimihk*

Across – *akâmihk*

After – *mwîstas*

Against – *asicâyihk*

Along – *pimic*

Among – *mîkwayîs* or *nanânîs*

Around – *wâsakâm*

At – “*ihk*” “*ohk*” “*ahk*” added as a suffix to nouns.

Before – *pâmowîs*

Behind – *otahk*

Below – *capasis*

Beneath – *atâmihk*

Beside – *pimicâyihk*

Between – *tastawâyihk*

Beyond – *awastî-isi*

But – *mâka*

By – *pâtimâ*

Despite – *ahci piko*

Down – *nihcâyihk*

During – *mîkwâc* or *mîkwâ*

Except – *kîkway piko*

For – *kici*

From – *ohci*

In – *pihci*

Inside – *pihcâyihk*

Into – *pihcê* (depends where you are going into)

Like – *piyakwan*

Middle – *tâwâyihk*

Near – *cîki*

Of – *mani* or *ohci* (may vary)

Off – *aspin* (varies as it has multiple meanings)

On – *tahkohc* (on top of) *waskic* (on the edge)

locative endings “*ihk*,” “*ohk*,” “*ahk*” added

as a suffix to nouns.

Onto – *tahkohci*

Out – *wayawî*

Outside – *dahwârr wayawîtimihk*

Over – *pasci*

Past – *kayahtî*

Since – *aspin*

Through – *sâpo*

Throughout – *kapê ayi*

Till – *mêsci*

To – *isi*

Toward – *îkotî-isi* (action is going away from you), *pê* – (action is coming towards you)

Under – *sîpâ*

Underneath – *atâmipihk*

Until – *iskohk*

Up Upon – *ispimihk*

With – *ahci*

Within – *pihci*

Without – *namakîkway*

The Métis sash is on the table.

*Li Métis la sâncîrr tahkohc la tâp apiw.*

My book is under the table.

*Nimasinahikan sîpâ la tâp astîw.*

They wore their Métis sashes to school.

*Kî postikawîwak lî sâncîrr kiskinwahamâtowikamikohk isi.*

Her dog is outside, and is between the fence and the house.

*Otîma wayawîtimihk, î-ayâyit tastawâyihk mînikanihk êkwa wâskahikanihk.*

## **VII. People**

Ancestors – *aniskâc wahkômâkanak, anskotâpânak*

Brother – *nistîs*

Canadian – *môniyâwiyiniw*

Caucasians – *môniyâwak*

Cousin – *kazõñ*

Elders – *kihtêsîyiniwak*

European – *opîtôtowîw*

Father – *papa/nohtâwiw*

First Nations – *nîhiyawak*

Friend – *niwîcîwâkan*

Grandparents – *câpânak*  
Grandfather – *moshôm*  
Grandmother – *kohkom*  
Immigrants – *akamaskîwiyinôwak*  
Labourer – *otatoskîw*  
Mother – *mama/nikâwiy*  
Non-Aboriginal – *môniyâw*  
Office Worker – *omasinahikîsîs*  
People – *ayisiyiniwak*  
Police Officer – *Simâkanisiwiyiniw*  
Priest – *l'pârr/ayamihîwiyiniw*  
Sister – *la sârr* (nun)  
Older sister – *nimis*  
Younger sister – *nisîmis*  
Teacher – *okiskinwahamâkîw*

My cousin is my aunt's son and my father's nephew.  
*Mô-kazõñ ana n'dôsis okosisa êkwa nipâpâ otihkwâtima.*

The Métis are a bicultural people with First Nations and European ancestry.  
*Lî-métis nîso otîhîwak osâm nîhîyânahk asci môniyânahk isi îwahkohtwâcîk.*

A mix of First Nations and White People.  
*Mâmawitîhîwak ôki nîhîyawîwak êkwa môniyâwak.*

They are their own people.  
*Tipîymisôwak wiyawâw.*

Miss/Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is my favourite teacher.  
*Miss/Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ mâwaci nitakahkîmâw.*

### **VIII. Days and Months**

Notice that some days are in Michif–French and others are only in Cree.

Monday – <i>lândzî, piyakokîsikâw</i>	January – <i>kisîpîsim</i>	September – <i>takwâkipîsim</i>
Tuesday – <i>nîsokîsikâw</i>	February – <i>mikisiwipîsim</i>	October – <i>pimihâwipîsim</i>
Wednesday – <i>mêrrkrredzî, nistokîsikâw</i>	March – <i>niskipîsim</i>	November – <i>iyikopîwipîsim</i>
Thursday – <i>niyokîsikâw</i>	April – <i>ayikipîsim</i>	December – <i>nîpâyamihâwipîsim/</i> <i>opâwahcikanasîs</i>
Friday – <i>niyânokîsikâw</i>	May – <i>opiniyâwîwipîsim</i>	Winter – <i>pipon</i>
Saturday – <i>sam'dzî, mâtinâwikîsikâw</i>	June – <i>pâskâwîhowipîsim</i>	Spring – <i>sîkwan</i>
Sunday – <i>l'dzimâsh, ayamihîwikîsikâw</i>	July – <i>paskowipîsim</i>	Summer – <i>nîpin</i>
	August – <i>ohpahâwipîsim</i>	Fall – <i>takwâkin</i>

Saturday is my favourite day.  
*Mâwaci kê-mâtinâwikîsikâk î-nîkânihtamân.*

Christmas is on December 25.

*Manitowikîsikâw opâwahcikanasîs nîstanaw niyânosâp akimâw.*

Back to Batoche Days are held in July.

*Î-wî-mâwawopihk kâwi Back to Batoche kîsikâwa Paskowipîsimohki.*

Traditionally, fall was a busy season for the Métis.

*Lî Métis mana otamîyowak kâ-takwâkihk.*

## **IX. Numbers (akihtâsowina)**

0 – <i>nêwomitanaw</i>	34 – <i>nistomitanaw nêwosâp</i>	70 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw</i>
1 – <i>piyak</i>	35 – <i>nistomitanaw niyânosâp</i>	71 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw pikâkosâp</i>
2 – <i>nîso</i>	36 – <i>nistomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>	72 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw nîsosâp</i>
3 – <i>nisto</i>	37 – <i>nistomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>	73 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw nistosâp</i>
4 – <i>nêwo</i>	38 – <i>nistomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>	74 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw nêwosâp</i>
5 – <i>niyânan</i>	39 – <i>nistomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	75 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw niyânosâp</i>
6 – <i>nikotwâsik</i>	41 – <i>nêwomitanaw piyakosâp</i>	76 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>
7 – <i>tîpakohp</i>	42 – <i>nêwomitanaw nîsosâp</i>	77 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>
8 – <i>ayinânîw</i>	43 – <i>nêwomitanaw nistosâp</i>	78 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>
9 – <i>kîkâmitâtaht</i>	44 – <i>nêwomitanaw nêwosâp</i>	79 – <i>tîpakohpomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>
10 – <i>mitâtaht</i>	45 – <i>nêwomitanaw niyânosâp</i>	80 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw</i>
11 – <i>piyakosâp</i>	46 – <i>nêwomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>	81 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw piyakosâp</i>
12 – <i>nîsosâp</i>	47 – <i>nêwomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>	82 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw nîsosâp</i>
13 – <i>nistosâp</i>	48 – <i>nêwomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>	83 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw nistosâp</i>
14 – <i>newosâp</i>	49 – <i>nêwomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	84 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw nêwosâp</i>
15 – <i>niyânosâp</i>	50 – <i>niyânomitanaw</i>	85 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw niyânosâp</i>
16 – <i>nikotwâsosâp</i>	51 – <i>niyânomitanaw piyakosâp</i>	86 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>
17 – <i>tîpakohposâp</i>	52 – <i>niyânomitanaw nîsosâp</i>	87 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>
18 – <i>ayinânîwosâp</i>	53 – <i>niyânomitanaw nistosâp</i>	88 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>
19 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	54 – <i>niyânomitanaw newosâp</i>	89 – <i>ayinânîwomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>
20 – <i>nîstanaw</i>	55 – <i>niyânomitanaw niyânosâp</i>	90 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw</i>
21 – <i>nîstanaw piyakosâp</i>	56 – <i>niyânomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>	91 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw piyakosâp</i>
22 – <i>nîstanaw nîsosâp</i>	57 – <i>niyânomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>	92 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw nîsosâp</i>
23 – <i>nîstanaw nistosâp</i>	58 – <i>niyânomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>	93 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw nistosâp</i>
24 – <i>nîstanaw nêwosâp</i>	59 – <i>niyânomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	94 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw nêwosâp</i>
25 – <i>nîstanaw niyânosâp</i>	60 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw</i>	95 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw niyânosâp</i>
26 – <i>nîstanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>	61 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw piyakosâp</i>	96 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>
27 – <i>nîstanaw tîpakohposâp</i>	62 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw nîsosâp</i>	97 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>
28 – <i>nîstanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>	63 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw nistosâp</i>	98 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>
29 – <i>nîstanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	64 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw nêwosâp</i>	99 – <i>kîkâmitâtahtomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>
30 – <i>nistomitanaw</i>	65 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw niyânosâp</i>	100 – <i>mitâtahtomitanaw</i>
31 – <i>nistomitanaw piyakosâp</i>	66 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw nikotwâsosâp</i>	
32 – <i>nistomitanaw nîsosâp</i>	67 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw tîpakohposâp</i>	
33 – <i>nistomitanaw nistosâp</i>	68 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw ayinânîwosâp</i>	
	69 – <i>nikotwâsomitanaw kîkâmitâtahtosâp</i>	

Andrea Menard has released two CDs.  
*Andrea Menard kî-pakitinam nîso kâwâwîyayâki sîkwascikanisa.*

Maria Campbell was born in 1940.  
*Maria Campbell kî nihtâwikiw 1940.*

Bryan Trottier's number was 19.  
*Bryan Trottier otakihtâsowin kayahtî kikâmitâtahkosâp.*

Theo Fleury's number is 14.  
*Theo Fleury otakihtâsowin mîkwâc nêwosâp.*

Sheldon Souray's number is 44.  
*Sheldon Souray otakihtâsowin mîkwâc nêwomitanaw nêwosâp.*

We eat lunch at 12:00 p.m.  
*Nimîcisonân mâna âpihtâkîsikâki.*

Supper is at 6:00 p.m.  
*Otâkwanimîcisowin mâna nikotwâsik tipahikan ispayiw.*

The two main Métis resistances occurred in 1869-70 and 1885.  
*Nîso mawaci kihci lî Métis nôtinikêwina kî-ispayiwa 1869 iskohk 1870 êkwa âsamîna 1885.*

## **X. Holidays and Celebrations**

Canada Day – *askîwikîsikâw*  
Christmas – *manitôwikîsikâw*  
Easter – *âpisisinowikîsikâw*  
Halloween – *cîpayotipiskâw*  
Labour Day – *atoskîwikîsikâw*  
Louis Riel Day – *Louis Riel okîsikâw*  
National Aboriginal Day – *nîhiyawikîsikâw*  
New Year's – *ocîmikîsikâw*  
Remembrance Day – *kanokiskisiwinikîsikâw*  
St. Patrick's Day – *okinâtisokîsikâw*  
Thanksgiving – *nanâskomôwikîsikâw*  
Valentine's Day – *sâkihitowikîsikâw*  
Victoria Day – *kihcikomâskwîwikîsikâw*

The main traditional holiday for the Métis was New Year's Day.  
*Ocîmikîsikâw mâna mâwaci kihci ayiwêpiwi-kîsikâw lî Métis kici.*

For Christmas, Santa Claus gave me two video games.  
*Santa Claus nikî-miyik nîso cikâstîpayi-mîtauwîwina ispihk kâ kî manitowikîsikâk.*

National Aboriginal Day is held every June 21.  
*Nîhiyawikîsikâw tahto askiy miciminamwak nîstanaw pîyakosâp akimihci, Pâskâwîhowipîsim.*

On November 16, Louis Riel Day is observed by the Métis.

*Ispîhk niktowâsosâp akimihci, Iyikopîwipîsim, Louis Riel okîsikâw mâna lí Métis kanawâpahtamwak.*

Halloween is an exciting day for children because they are given lots of candy.

*Môcikan mâna cîpayitipiskâw osâm itokwî mihcât lí-cândí î-mîyihcik awâsisak.*

## **XI. Food**

Bannock – *la galet*

Bison burgers – *paskwâw mostosoyâs*

Cake – *wihkihkasikan*

Chinese Food – *sîkopacipwâsomîcowin*

Chokecherries – *pîkomina*

Fish – *l'pwasõñ* or *kinosêw*

Fruit – *misti-mînisa*

Meatballs – *li boulet* or *kâpitikwâki wiyâsa*

Pizza – *wîyâsopahkwîsikan*

Potato – *lí patak*

Saskatoon berries – *misâskwatômina*

Tacos – *napwiyihkasikan*

Turkey – *misihîwiyâs*

Vegetables – *kistikâna*

Wild game – *pikwâci pisiskiwak*

What's your favourite food?

*Kîkway mawaci kâwihkistaman?*

I like to eat...

*Nimiyohîñ \_\_\_\_\_ ta mîcîyân.*

My grandmother makes me...to eat.

*Nohkom nikîsisamâk \_\_\_\_\_ ta môwak.*

Name a couple of your family's traditional foods.

*Mahti wihtamawin nîso kîkwaya âniskotômîcôwina kâ-mîcîyîk kiyawâw.*

What kind of food do you dislike?

*Tânimatôwahk mîcowin kipakwâtîñ.*

## **XII. Lifeways**

Beading – *mîkisihkahcikêwin*

Canning – *kaskâpiskahikîwin*

Cooking – *piminawasowin*

Fishing – *paktahwâwin*

Gathering – *môshkinikîwin*

Hunting – *mâcîwin*

Sewing – *kaskwâsowin*

Tanning – *kaskâpicikêwin*

Trapping – *nôcihcikîwin*

Weaving – *pîmastîhikîwin*

Working – *atoskîwin*

In St. Laurent, Manitoba many Métis make a living by fishing.

*St Laurent Manitobânihk mana mihcât lí Métis pimâtisihôwak paktahwâwin ohci.*

With the Powley Ruling, the Métis have more hunting rights.

*Lî Métis êkwa nawac mistahi mâcîwin-tâpwêwina otihtikôwak osâm ôma Powley ruling i-ki-ispayik.*

Trapping is important to Métis living in the North.

*Nôcihcikîwin kistêyihâtâkwan lî Métis kiwitinohk kê-wîkitwâw.*

My grandmother was good at tanning hides.

*Nohkom kê-nakacihtâw ta-kaskâpasahk pahkîkina.*

Canning was an important way to preserve food for Métis families.

*Kaskâpiskahikîwin kihciyihâtâkwan lî Métis kici ayisk êkosîsi ta nahastâcik mîcisowina.*

### **XIII. Folklore/ Spirituality Oral Tradition**

Cannibal Spirit – *wihtikow*

Culture – *pimâtisowin*

Devil – *maci manitow*

God – *Kisê-manitow*

Holy water – *lôbinit* or *kihcitwâpoy*

Lent – *iywanisiwikîsikâw*

Little John – *apisci jôn*

Oral Tradition – *aniskâtotamowin*

Rosary – *ayamihiminak/l'chaplâ*

Sage – *miyahkasikan*

Saint – *otayamihâw*

Stories – *âcimowina*

Sweet Grass – *wihkask* or *miyahkasikan*

Tobacco – *l'tabâ, cistîmâw*

Tricksters – *wîsahkîcak*

Werewolf – *maci mahikan* or *wihtikow*

During Lent, the Elders told children stories in order to make them behave.

*Mîkwâc kê iywanisiwikîsikâk kihâyak mâna âcimostawîwak awâsisa tîpiyahk ta kiyâmapicik.*

The Métis werewolf can be either a man or a woman.

*Lî Métis maci mahikan nâpêw ahpôcî iskwêw ana.*

My grandmother told me those stories.

*Nohkom ni-kî âcimostawik anihi âcimôwina.*

This story means this...

*Ôma âcimôwin mâmiskôcikâtîw omisîsa ...*

Leaving tobacco when taking from nature shows respect for the Creator.

*L'tabâ piko ta-nakatihk pakwâcâyihk îkosîsi ôma ta kihciyimiht Kisê-manitow.*

Elders are the keepers of Métis history and culture.

*Kihâyiniwak kanawihamwak lî Métis kayâs-ispayiwîn êkwa pimâtisowin.*

The Métis patron saint is Saint Joseph.  
*Saint Joseph ana lî Métis onâtamâkîwi-otayamihâw.*

Our Elders tell us that Michif is a God-given language.  
*Kihtêšyininîmînak kiwihtamâkonawak awa Kisê-manitow kipîtamâkonaw kipîkiskwêwinânaw.*

#### **XIV. Animals**

Antelope – <i>apistâcîkos</i>	Falcon – <i>nawanahôwîwâw</i>
Bison – <i>paskwâwimostos</i>	Goose – <i>niska</i>
Bobcat – <i>pisiw</i>	Jack fish – <i>l’brroshâ</i>
Cat – <i>pôsîs</i>	Jackrabbit – <i>mistâpos</i>
Chicken – <i>l’pol</i> , <i>Pahpahahkwân</i>	Moose – <i>môswa</i>
Cow – <i>mostos</i>	Muskrat – <i>wacaskos</i>
Coyote – <i>mîscacâkanis</i>	Owl – <i>ôhôw</i>
Deer – <i>apiscimôsos</i>	Pickerel – <i>l’dôrrî</i>
Dog – <i>atim</i>	Pig – <i>kohkôs</i>
Duck – <i>sîsîp</i>	Prairie Chicken – <i>piyow</i>
Eagle – <i>mikisiw</i>	Turkey – <i>misipiyow</i>
Elk – <i>wâskîsôw</i>	Wolf – <i>mayihkan</i>

The Métis hunted many bison in the 1800s.  
*Lî Métis kî-minahôwak mihcât paskwâwimostoswa ispihk dâl 1800s.*

My cat’s name is...  
*Nipôsîm owîhowin...*

Her dog is called...  
*Otîma \_\_\_\_\_ isiyihkâsowîywa*

My favourite animal is...  
*Pisiskiw mâwaci kâ takahkîmak...*

#### **XV. Colours**

<b>English</b>	<b>Michif French</b>	<b>Cree-AN</b>	<b>Cree-IN</b>
Red	<i>lirrôj</i>	<i>mihkosiw</i>	<i>mihkwâw</i>
White	<i>L’blân</i>	<i>wâpiskisiw</i>	<i>wâpiskâw</i>
Blue	<i>L’blô</i>	<i>sîpihkosiw</i>	<i>sîpihkwâw</i>
Yellow	<i>L’jôñ</i>	<i>wâpiskisiw</i>	<i>wâposâwâw</i>
Orange	<i>L’zarrâñsh</i>	<i>oshâwisiw</i>	<i>osâwâw</i>
Green	<i>L’vârr</i>	<i>askihtakosiw</i>	<i>askihtakwâw</i>
Brown	<i>L’shakwalâ</i>	<i>kaskitîoshâwisiw</i>	<i>kaskitîwoshâwâw</i>
Black	<i>linwârr</i>	<i>kaskitîsiw</i>	<i>kaskitîwâw</i>
Purple	<i>L’viyolâ</i>	<i>sîpihkomihkosiw</i>	<i>sîpihkomihkwâw</i>

My favourite colour is...  
*Mâwaci nimiyonîn ... kâ-itasinâstîk.*

What colour is your shirt?  
*Tânsi itasinâstîw ta shmîsh?*

What colour is your parents' car?  
*Tânsi itasinâsiw tî parrâñ osihkihpaysa*

The colours of the rainbow are...  
*Pîsimwîyâpiy \_\_\_\_\_ itasinâstîw.*

## **XVI. Greetings**

Hello! – *Tânsi!*

How are you? – *Tân'si kiya?*

Where are you from? – *Tânitî ohci kiya?*

How old are you? – *Tânihtopiponîyan kiya?*

How many people are in your family? – *Tânihtasîyîk kiyawâw ki piyakoskâniwâw?*

What is your favourite thing to do? – *Kîkway mâna kê takahkihtamîk ta isiyihcikîyîk?*

What is your name? – *Tânsi î isiyihkâsoyan?*

## **XVII. Sayings**

I am proud to be Métis.  
*Nimamihtisin niya li Métis.*

Do you speak Michif?  
*Ki pîkiskwân cî Michif?*

How do you say that in Michif?  
*Tân'si êkwânima ta-itwîyan Michif isi?*

My grandmother taught me how to dance the “Red River Jig.”  
*Nohkom nikî-kiskinwahamâk tânsi ta isi nîmihitoyân Red River nîmihitôwin.*

Michif is important to me because...  
*Michif kistêyihâtâkwan niya kici osâm...*

It's the language of my ancestors.  
*Niwahkômâkanak opikiswêwinâwa.*

I am a proud Métis.  
*Nikistêyimon lî Métis niya.*

It's a very unique language.  
*Piyakwâyik poko pîkiskwêwin.*

The Métis are a special people because...  
*Miyo ayisîniwak lî Métis osâm...*

They are Aboriginal.  
*Nihîyawak wiyawâw.*

The Métis are a unique mix of First Nations and French Canadians and Europeans.  
*Oskâyi-ayisiyiniwak kâ-kî-nihtâwikicik mâmawi nihîyawak, mistikôsiwak êkwa  
Opîtâtowîwimôniyawak ohci.*

They have contributed to the building of Canada.  
*Mâmawi î-atoskâtahkik kitaskîkaw.*

They are a Founding People of Manitoba and the rest of Western Canada.  
*Oskâyi-ayisiyiniwak Manitobânohk asici kahkiyaw itēsi Kânata Pâhkisimonohk.*

Many people once looked down upon Michif.  
*Mihcât ayisînôwak piyakwâw kî atawîhtamwak Michif.*

Michif was wrongly considered to be bad French or bad Cree.  
*Michif î-kî-naspâcitihcikâtik osâm mâyi-mistikosîmowin êkwa mâyi-nihîyawîwin.*

Michif is a beautiful language.  
*Miyohâtqwan Michif isi-pîkiskwêwin.*

The Métis were known as the “people who owned themselves.”  
*Lî Métis kî nistawîmâwak omisi, “âysînowak kâ tipîmisocik.”*

### **XVIII. The Métis National Anthem**

In the forest on the river,  
And across the western plain,  
As the white man journeyed westward,  
To the land of the Indian,  
A new race was created,  
A new Nation rose up strong.  
Hardship as its destiny,  
And its curse to not belong.

In the land from which they came,  
In the land they helped to build.  
They found themselves the alien,  
Found their vision unfulfilled.  
And despite their valiant effort,  
To defend what they believed,  
When at last the battle ended,  
They were only left to grieve.

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

*ohcimihk , sîpîhk  
paskwâhk pâhkisimonohk isi,  
mōniyâw kî-pimōtihow,  
nihîyaw askîhk isi,  
oskâyi-ayisiyiniwak nihtâwikiwak,  
oskâyayisiyiniwak î-sôhkitêhîcik.  
ohcitâw âyimisiwinîhk,  
âtawêyimâwak.*

*âta wiyawâw otaskîwâw,  
ihtâwina î-kî-wîcihowîcik ta-osihtâcik.  
pîtos kî-isi-pamihâwak,  
wawânêyihtamwak.  
âta sohki-kî-kocihtâwak,  
ta-kakwî-nâtamâsocik,  
êkwa ispî kâ-pōni-nōtinikâniwik,  
mosci mihtâtamwak.*

*nikihcêyihtînan –î-âpihtawikosisâniyâhk  
kihtwâm mîna kawâpaminân ta-sôhkitêhîyâhk,  
namōya kihtwâm nika-wanikiskistotâkawinân,  
ôta ohci kanâta ayisiyiniwak niyanân.*

Far across the plain they travelled,  
From Red River to the Peace,  
Looking for their own homeland,  
That would help them to replace,  
All the land that had been taken,  
And the dreams that had been dashed,  
Their brave heroes now called traitors,  
And courageous deeds now past.

But their spirit was not broken,  
And their dreams had never died.  
Their determination strengthened,  
Even while the people cried.  
As they waited for salvation,  
That would end their years of pain.  
And the final bloodless battle,  
When the Nation rose again.

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

For the newest generation,  
And the future ones to come,  
With the past to motivate us,  
It will help to keep us strong.  
As we build the Métis Nation,  
As we watch it rise again,  
Our past loss is motivation,  
To inspire our future gain.

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

*wahyaw paskwāhk kāpē-ohci-pimōtihocik,  
mihkwākamīw-sīpiy ohci takosinwak,  
ī-nitonahkwāw piyahtakīyimowin,  
ī-kīwītōtāhkwāw wīkiwāw kākī-maskamihcik,  
anima kākī-pakosēyimocik,  
onīkānimiwāwa mayahkamikihkīwiya  
miyāskipayinwa omiyo-tōtamowiniwāwa.*

*māka namōya takī-pōmīmāwak,  
namōya wihkāc ta-pōni-kocihtāwak,  
awasimī ati-ahkamēyimowak.  
nahpo ayisiyiniwa ī-mātoyit,  
ī-pīhoyit tapwē-wīcihihcik,  
ta-pōni-kitimahihcik.  
ēkwa ta-pōni-nōtintonāniwik,  
ispī kihtwām ayisiyiniwak ta-sōhkitēhīcik.*

*nikihcēyihīnān ī-āpihtawikosisāniyāhk  
kihtwām mīna kawāpaminān ta-sōhkitēhīyāhk  
namōya kihtwām nika- wanikiskistotākawinān,  
ōta ohci kanāta ayisiyiniwak niyanān.*

*oskāyak anohc,  
ēkwa mīna ōki niyāk,  
ta-kiskisiwak kākī-itahkamikahk,  
ta-sōhkitēhīskākwak.  
āpihtawikosisānak ta-māmawi-atoskīwak,  
kihtwām kika-maskawisānaw,  
kihtwām kika-sihkimitonaw.*

*nikihcēyihīnān ī-āpihtawikosisāniyāhk,  
kihtwām mīna kawāpaminān ta-sōhkitēhīyāhk,  
namōya kihtwām nika-wanikiskistotākawinān,  
ōta ohci kanāta ayisiyiniwak niyanān.*

**Transliteration: (pronunciation key)**

â – is like **a** in **father**

î – is like **ee** in **beet**

ô – is like **oo** in **boo**

ê – is like **ay** in **say**

â – is like **a** in **apple**

õ – is like **o** in **octopus**

ñ – is not stressed – nasal sound (usually at the end of the word)

j – is like **s** in **illusion**

c – is like **ts** in **cats** or the **ch** in **chalk**

p – is like the **p** in **spot**

t – is like the **t** in **stop**

k – can sound like the **k** or the **g**. example: *kisikaw* – the first k is a k sound and the second k is a g sound.

## Michif–French – Guy Lavallée

### I. Articles

A/An (Masculine/Feminine) *in/enne*

The (Masculine/ feminine) *li/la*

The (Plural) *li*

It was a beautiful day. *Citait enne belle journie.*

The table is made of wood. *La table li faite en boua.*

The Elders are wise. *Li Vius soun sages.*

### II. Pronouns

I – *mouin/Ji*

Her – *elle*

Me – *mouin*

It – *I/çi/ça*

You – *touais/ti*

We – *oun/nou zouttes*

He – *loui/lui/i*

Us – *zouettes*

Him – *loui/lui*

They – *u zouettes*

She – *elle/a*

Them – *u zouettes/li*

I am talking to them. *Ji t'après li parli.*

She is good at fingerweaving. *A li bonne à fèrre li tressage.*

It is beside the table. *I/çi/ta couti di la table.*

You cannot go to the movies! *Ti pu pa alli oo shoo!*

We are learning Michif. *Oun I après apprende li Michif.*

### III. Nouns

Artwork – *dessin*

Hockey Stick- *hocki*

Toque – *tchuque*

Ball – *balle/plotte*

House – *mainzoun*

Tractor – *tracteur*

Beadwork – *travailli li rassages*

Internet – *l'internet*

Truck – *trok*

Bed – *litte/li*

Language – *langue*

Van – *van*

Book – *live*

Leggings – *jambières*

Water – *loo*

Boots – *bottes*

Moccasins – *moccassins*

York Boat – *Batou di York*

Brush – *brosse*

Pants – *kilottes*

Car – *outou*

People – *li mounde*

Chair – *chèse/chèje*

Pemmican – *pemmican*

City – *ville*

Pen – *plume*

Coat – *capou*

Pencil – *criyon*

Couch – *soufa*

Red River Cart – *charret di la*

Country – *campagne*

*Rivière-Rouge*

Computer – *n/a*

Sash – *ceintchure flèchie*

Desk – *pupitte/birou*

Shawl – *shawlle*

Food – *nourritchure*

Shirt – *sh'mise/shmi'je*

Friend – *ami/assacii*

Shoes – *souyiis*

Game – *ju*

Shorts – *kiloettes*

Gloves – *gans*

Socks – *bas*

Hat – *chapu*

Table – *table*

Hockey Puck – *puck*

Telephone – *tèlèphone*

The Internet is a good way to preserve Michif.  
*L'internet i tenne bonne manière pour gardi/priservi li Michif.*

Métis women wear shawls.  
*Li fammes Michisses portent di shawlles.*

My best friend has beadwork on his coat.  
*Moun milleure ami a di rassades sur soun capou.*

The Métis Homeland is in two countries: Canada and the United States.  
*Li Pays di Michifs, ça s'trouve dans du pays: li Canada pi li Itats-Unis.*

Winnipeg is the city in which most Métis live.  
*Winnipeg si la ville ivou la plupar di Michifs sa vi.*

At Back to Batoche Days, I wear a sash and moccasins.  
*Quand ji ya ou Jourins R'tour à Batoche, ji porte enne ceintchure flèchie pi di moocassins.*

#### **IV. Verbs**

Ask – <i>dimandi</i>	Ride – <i>s'promni</i>
Attack – <i>attaqui</i>	Ring – <i>sonni</i>
Begin – <i>coummenci</i>	Rise – <i>si l'vi</i>
Blow – <i>soufli</i>	Run – <i>courir</i>
Break – <i>cassi</i>	See – <i>wouyaire</i>
Bring – <i>apporte/amène</i>	Saw – <i>a vu</i>
Choose – <i>chouèsir</i>	Shake – <i>sicoui</i>
Come – <i>v'nir</i>	Shrink – <i>rap'chissi</i>
Do – <i>fère</i>	Sing – <i>chante</i>
Drag – <i>hauli/tchiri</i>	Sink – <i>renfounçi</i>
Draw – <i>dissini</i>	Sit – <i>assis</i>
Drink – <i>bouère</i>	Speak – <i>parle</i>
Drive – <i>coundjuire/m'ni</i>	Spin – <i>tournailli</i>
Drown – <i>nouaiyi/nèyi</i>	Spit – <i>crachi</i>
Eat – <i>manji</i>	Spring – <i>fère souti</i>
Fall – <i>toumbi</i>	Steal – <i>voli</i>
Fly – <i>voli</i>	Stink – <i>ça pu</i>
Freeze – <i>jili</i>	Study – <i>ichudjii</i>
Get – <i>charchi</i>	Swear – <i>sacri</i>
Give – <i>denni</i>	Swim – <i>bègni</i>
Go – <i>va</i>	Swing – <i>balanci</i>
Grow – <i>grandjir</i>	Take – <i>prende</i>
Happen – <i>arrivi</i>	Tear – <i>dichiri</i>
Know – <i>connète/sayouaire</i>	Throw – <i>garochi</i>
Lay – <i>itendju</i>	Wake – <i>riveilli/veilli li cor</i>
Lead – <i>mounte li ch'min/va t'en en avant</i>	Walk – <i>marchi</i>
Lose – <i>parde/perde</i>	Wear – <i>porti/uzi</i>
Pay – <i>pèyi</i>	Wring – <i>torde</i>
	Write – <i>icrire</i>

My grandmother asked me a question.  
*Ma granmère/mèmère m'a dimandi enne quessechoun.*

I am learning to write Michif.  
*Ji t'après apprend à icirire li Michif.*

I eat traditional Métis food.  
*Ji mange li manji/la nourritchure qui li Michifs mangeaient dans l'temps cayoche. (traditional)*

He threw the football.  
*I a garrochi la balle.*

She rides horses during the summer.  
*A s'promène à ch'fal / à joual pendant l'iti.*

The telephone is ringing.  
*Moun telephone sonne.*

My great-uncle can speak several languages including Michif, Cree, English, and French.  
*Moun grand-ouuncle i capable di parli plusieurs langues coumme li Michif, li Cris, L'Anglès, pi li Françès.*

## **V. Conjunctions**

After – <i>après</i>	Nor – <i>ni</i>
Although – <i>meme si</i>	Or – <i>ou</i>
And – <i>I</i>	Since – <i>dipu/dipui</i>
Because – <i>à couze</i>	So – <i>ça fait que</i>
Before – <i>avant</i>	Until – <i>jusqu'à</i>
But – <i>mi</i>	When – <i>quand</i>
For – <i>pour</i>	While – <i>pendant qui</i>
Neither – <i>ni l'enne/ni l'oute</i>	Yet – <i>encoure</i>

We are going to eat after we finish our homework.  
*Oun va manji après qu'oun aura fini nous dèvouaires.*

I like Métis jigging and fiddling.  
*J'aime la jigue Michif pi la musique avec li vièloun Michif.*

Since I was young, I enjoyed my grandfather's stories.  
*Dipi j'itais jenne, j'aimais li histouaires di moun grand-père/pèpère.*

I am proud to be Métis because I love my people.  
*Chu fière dette Michif parci qui j'aime moun mounde.*

They will stay at the dance until midnight.  
*I voun resti à la dansse jusqu'à maunuit.*

Water and food are essential for life.  
*Loo pi la nourritchure/li manji soun nècessaires pour la vie.*

## VI. Prepositions

About – *a pu près*  
Above – *oudissu*  
Across – *en travèrè*  
After – *après*  
Against – *counte*  
Along – *li loun di*  
Among – *parmi*  
Around – *alentour*  
At – *shi*  
Before – *avant*  
Behind – *en arrièrè*  
Below – *en bas*  
Beneath – *en d'sour*  
Beside – *à couti*  
Between – *entte*  
Beyond – *plu louin*  
But – *mi*  
By – *à couti*  
Despite – *malgri*  
Down – *en bas*  
During – *pendant*  
Except – *à parre*  
For – *pour*  
From – *di*  
In – *dans*

Into – *didans*  
Like – *pareille*  
Near – *proche*  
Of – *di*  
Off – *en-dessa*  
On – *sur*  
Onto – *dissu*  
Out – *en dohors*  
Outside – *dohors*  
Over – *pardissu*  
Past – *passi*  
Since – *dipu/dipui*  
Through – *à travers*  
Throughout – *partou*  
Till – *jussqu'à*  
To – *shi*  
Toward – *dju couti di*  
Under – *end'ssour*  
Underneath – *end'ssour*  
Until – *jussequ'a*  
Up Upon – *en hoo*  
With – *avec*  
Within – *endidans*  
Without – *di dohor*

The Métis sash is on the table.  
*La ceintchure flèchie I sur la table.*

My book is under the table.  
*Moun live I t'end'ssour d'la table.*

They wore their Métis sashes to school.  
*I portaient leur ceintchure flèchie à l'icolle.*

Her dog is outside and is between the fence and the house.  
*Soun chien I dohor pi li entte la clitchure pi la mainzoun.*

## VII. People

Ancestors – *li arrières-parents*  
Brother – *frère*  
Canadian – *Canadjien*  
Caucasians – *li Blancs*  
Cousin – *cousin*  
Elders – *li vius*  
European – *li mounde di vius pays*  
Father – *père*

First Nations – *li sauvages/li Premières Nations*  
Friend – *ami/aasacii*  
Grandfather – *grandpère*  
Grandmother – *grandmère*  
Immigrants – *li immigrants*  
Labourer – *li travailleur avec li pic pi la pelle*  
Mother – *mère*  
Non-Aboriginal People – *li blancs*  
Office Worker – *in travailleur dans l'office*  
Police Officer – *polisse*  
Priest – *père*  
Sister – *soeur*  
Teacher – *metresse*

My cousin is my aunt's son and my father's nephew.  
*Moun cousin si ma tante soun garçoun pi moun père soun nivu.*

The Métis are a bicultural people with First Nations and European ancestry.  
*Li Michifs soun dju mounde avec du cultchures, li Premières Nations pi li mounde di viu pays.*

A mix of First Nations and White People. They are their own people.  
*In mélange di Premières Nations pi di Blancs. Si dju mounde qui s' dirige uzouttes même.*

Miss/Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ is my favourite teacher.  
*Mademoiselle/Missiu \_\_\_\_\_ si ma metresse/moun mète d'icole favori.*

### **VIII. Days and Months**

Monday – <i>lundji</i>	January – <i>janvii</i>	Winter – <i>ivère</i>
Tuesday – <i>mardji</i>	February – <i>fèvrii</i>	Spring – <i>pritemps</i>
Wednesday – <i>mecedji</i>	March – <i>mars</i>	Summer – <i>iti</i>
Thursday – <i>judji</i>	April – <i>avril</i>	Fall – <i>outonne</i>
Friday – <i>vendridji</i>	May – <i>mi</i>	
Saturday – <i>samdji</i>	June – <i>juin</i>	
Sunday – <i>djimanche</i>	July – <i>juyiette</i>	
	August – <i>ou</i>	
Saturday is my favourite day. <i>Samdji si ma journi favorite.</i>	September – <i>septembe</i>	
	October – <i>octobe</i>	
	November – <i>novembe</i>	
Christmas is on December 25. <i>Nouel si li vin-cinq dicembe.</i>	December – <i>dicembe</i>	

Back to Batoche Days are held in July.  
*Li Journis R'tour à Batoche s'trouvent ou mois di juyiette.*

Traditionally, fall was a busy season for the Métis.  
*Dans li temps cayoche, l'outonne itait enne sèsoun occupie pour li Michifs.*

## IX. Numbers

1 – <i>enne</i>	47 – <i>quarante sette</i>	93 – <i>quatra vin tréze</i>
2 – <i>du</i>	48 – <i>quarante, huitte</i>	94 – <i>quatra vin quatorze</i>
3 – <i>trois</i>	49 – <i>quarante neuf</i>	95 – <i>quatra vin quinze,</i>
4 – <i>quatte</i>	50 – <i>cinquante</i>	96 – <i>quatra vin séze</i>
5 – <i>cing</i>	51 – <i>cinquante ti un</i>	97 – <i>quatra vin djisse sette</i>
6 – <i>sisse</i>	52 – <i>cinquante du</i>	98 – <i>quatra vin djize huitte</i>
7 – <i>sette</i>	53 – <i>cinquante trios</i>	99 – <i>quatra vin djize neuf</i>
8 – <i>huitte</i>	54 – <i>cinquante quatte</i>	100 – <i>cent</i>
9 – <i>neuf</i>	55 – <i>cinquante cing</i>	
10 – <i>djisse</i>	56 – <i>cinquante sisse</i>	
11 – <i>ounze</i>	57 – <i>cinquante sette</i>	
12 – <i>douze</i>	58 – <i>cinquante huitte</i>	
13 – <i>tréze</i>	59 – <i>cinquante neuf</i>	
14 – <i>quatorze</i>	60 – <i>soissante</i>	
15 – <i>quinze</i>	61 – <i>soissante ti un</i>	
16 – <i>séze</i>	62 – <i>soissante ti du</i>	
17 – <i>djisse-sette</i>	63 – <i>soissante ti trios</i>	
18 – <i>djize-huitte</i>	64 – <i>soissante ti quatte</i>	
19 – <i>djize-neuf</i>	65 – <i>soissante ti cing</i>	
20 – <i>vin</i>	66 – <i>soissante ti sisse</i>	
21 – <i>vin ti un</i>	67 – <i>soissante ti sette</i>	
22 – <i>vint du</i>	68 – <i>soissante ti huitte</i>	
23 – <i>vint trios</i>	69 – <i>soissante ti neuf</i>	
24 – <i>vint quatte</i>	70 – <i>soissanti djisse</i>	
25 – <i>vint cing</i>	71 – <i>soissanti ounze</i>	
26 – <i>vint sisse</i>	72 – <i>soissanti douze</i>	
27 – <i>vint sette</i>	73 – <i>soissanti tréze</i>	
28 – <i>vint huitte</i>	74 – <i>soissanti quatorze</i>	
29 – <i>vint neuf</i>	75 – <i>soissanti quinze</i>	
30 – <i>trente</i>	76 – <i>soissanti séze</i>	
31 – <i>trente ti un</i>	77 – <i>soissant djisse sette</i>	
32 – <i>trent du</i>	78 – <i>soissanti djize huitte</i>	
33 – <i>trent trios</i>	79 – <i>soissanti djize neuf</i>	
34 – <i>trent quatte</i>	80 – <i>quatra vin</i>	
35 – <i>trent cing</i>	81 – <i>quatra vin un</i>	
36 – <i>trent sisse</i>	82 – <i>quatra vin du</i>	
37 – <i>trent sette</i>	83 – <i>quatra vin trios</i>	
38 – <i>trent huitte</i>	84 – <i>quatra vin quatte</i>	
39 – <i>trent neuf</i>	85 – <i>quatra vin cing</i>	
40 – <i>quarante</i>	86 – <i>quatra vin sisse</i>	
41 – <i>quadrant ti un</i>	87 – <i>quatra vin sette</i>	
42 – <i>quarante du</i>	88 – <i>quatra vin huitte</i>	
43 – <i>quarante trios</i>	89 – <i>quatra vin neuf</i>	
44 – <i>quarante quatte</i>	90 – <i>quatra vin djisse</i>	
45 – <i>quarante cing</i>	91 – <i>quatra vin ounze</i>	
46 – <i>quarante sisse</i>	92 – <i>quatra vin douze</i>	

Andrea Menard has released two CDs.

*Andrea Menard a faite du SI-DIs.*

Maria Campbell was born in 1940.

*Maria Campbell i ni en mil-neuf cent quarante.*

Bryan Trottier's number was 19.

*Li numèrou di Bryan Trottier itait djize neuf.*

Theo Fleury's number is 14.

*Li numèrou di Theo Fleury si quatorze.*

Sheldon Souray's number is 44.

*Li numèrous de Sheldon Souray's si quarante quatte.*

We eat lunch at 12:00 PM.

*Oun djinne à midji.*

Supper is at 6:00 PM.

*Li soupi I à sis heures.*

The two main Métis resistances occurred in 1869-70 and 1885.

*Li du principales risistances di Michifs sountaient en mil huit cent soissanti neuf pi mil huit cent quatra vin cinq.*

## **X. Holidays and Celebrations**

Canada Day – *Journi-dju-Canada*

Christmas – *Nouel*

Easter – *Pâques*

Halloween – *Halloween*

Labour Day – *Journi di travailleurs*

Louis Riel Day – *Journi Louis Riel*

National Aboriginal Day – *Journi Nationale di Autochtones*

New Year's – *Jour di l'An*

Remembrance Day – *Journi dju Souv'nir*

St. Patrick's Day – *Journi St-Patrice*

Thanksgiving – *Journi di l'Action d' Grâces*

Valentine's Day – *La St-Valentin*

Victoria Day – *La journi di la reine*

The main traditional holiday for the Métis was New Year's Day.

*La plu grande Fêtes di Michifs, citait le jour di l'An.*

For Christmas, Santa Claus gave me two video games.

*Pour Nouel, Santa Clouze, m'a denné du jus vidios.*

National Aboriginal Day is held every June 21.

*La Journi Nationale di Autochtones si à toutes li vin ti un juin.*

On November 16, Louis Riel Day is observed by the Métis.

*Li Séze Novembre, li Michifs cilèbent la Journi Louis Riel.*

Halloween is an exciting day for children because they are given lots of candy.

*Halloween i tenne journi excitante pour li enfants, parci qu'ils reçouèvent en masse li kendi.*

## **XI. Food**

Bannock – *galette*

Bison burgers – *burger di buff'loo*

Cake – *gâtou*

Chinese Food – *manji chinouais*

Chokecherries – *li c'risés à grappe*

Fish – *pouaïsson*

Meatballs – *boulettes*

Pizza – *pizza*

Potato – *patate*

Saskatoon berries – *pouaires*

Tacos – *tacos*

Turkey – *dinde*

Vegetables – *ligûmes*

Wild game – *la viande savage*

What's your favourite food?

*Qu'ossait ta nourritchure favorite?*

I like to eat...

*J'aime à manji...*

My grandmother makes me \_\_\_\_\_ to eat.

*Ma Gran-mère m'fait \_\_\_\_\_ manji.*

## **XII. Lifeways**

Beading – *travailli avec li rassades*

Canning – *li cannage*

Cooking – *la cook'rie*

Fishing – *la péche*

Gathering – *rencounte*

Hunting – *la chasse*

Sewing – *coude*

Tanning – *tannage*

Trapping – *trappi*

Working – *travailli*

Weaving – *tressage*

In St. Laurent, Manitoba, many Métis make a living by fishing.  
*À St-Laurent, Manitoua, plusieurs Michifs fount leur vie en fèsant la pêche.*

With the Powley Ruling, the Métis have more hunting rights.  
*Avec le Jugement Powley, li Michifs ount plus di drouès à la chasse.*

Trapping is important to Métis living in the North.  
*La trappe I importante pour li Michifs qui vivent dans li nord.*

My grandmother was good at tanning hides.  
*Ma grand-mère a l'itait bonne à tanni li pou d'animou.*

Canning was an important way to preserve food for Métis families.  
*Li cannage itait enne manière importante pour gardi/priservi la nourritchure pour li familles Michifs.*

### **XIII. Folklore / Spirituality Oral Tradition**

Cannibal Spirit – *n/a*

Culture – *cultchure*

Devil – *Djiable*

God – *Djieu*

Holy water – *l'oo binitte*

Lent – *Carème*

Little John – *Tchi Jean*

Oral Tradition – *si server di notte langue pour faire connette/passi notte cultchure di giniration en giniration*

Rosary – *chap'lè*

Sage – *li vii*

Saint – *saint*

Stories – *li histouaires*

Sweet Grass – *fouin d'odeur*

Tobacco – *tabac*

Tricksters – *in fèseur di trik*

Werewolf – *lou-garou*

During Lent, the Elders told children stories in order to make them behave.  
*Pendant li Carème, les Vius racountaient di histouaires oo enfants pour quisse s'coundjuisent coumme i foo.*

The Métis werewolf can be either a man or a woman.  
*Li lou-garou Michif pu ette in home ou enne femme.*

My grandmother told me those stories.  
*Ma mèmère/grandmère m'a raconti si histouaires.*

This story means this...  
*Citte histouaire vu djire...*

Leaving tobacco when taking from nature shows respect for the Creator.  
*Laissi li tabac quand qu'oun l'prend di la natchure, ça mountre dju respect pour li Boun Djieu.*

Elders are the keepers of Métis history and culture.

*Li Vius sount li gardjiens di l'histouaire pi d'la culchure di Michifs.*

The Métis patron saint is Saint Joseph.

*Li Saint-Patroun di Michifs, ci St. Jouseph.*

Our Elders tell us that Michif is a God-given language.

*Nouns Vius nou djisent qui li Michif ci enne langue qui li Boun Djieu nous a dennée.*

#### **XIV. Animals**

Antelope – *antchilope*

Bison – *buff'loo*

Bobcat – *cha savage*

Cat – *cha*

Chicken – *poule*

Cow – *vache*

Coyote – *cayoute*

Deer – *chevru*

Dog – *chien*

Duck – *canord*

Eagle – *égle*

Elk – *serf*

Falcon – *falkoun*

Goose – *outarde*

Jack fish – *brochais*

Jackrabbit – *liève di champs*

Moose – *arignal*

Muskrat – *rat d'oo*

Owl – *hibou*

Pickerel – *dori*

Pig – *cochoun*

Prairie Chicken – *poule di prairie*

Turkey – *dinde*

Wolf – *lou*

The Métis hunted many bison in the 1800s.

*Li Michifs chassaient plusieurs buffl'oos dans li diz-huitte-cent.*

My cat's name is...

*Li noum di moun cha ci...*

Her dog is called...

*Li noum di soun chien ci...*

My favourite animal is...

*Moun animal favori ci...*

#### **XV. Colours**

Red – *rouge*

White – *blanc*

Blue – *blu*

Yellow – *joune*

Orange – *orange*

Green – *vère*

Brown – *brun*

Black – *nouaire*

Purple – *violète*

My favourite colour is...

*Ma couleur favorite ci...*

What colour is your shirt?

*Quelle couleur I ta ch'mise/ch'mije?*

What colour is your parents' car?

*Quelle couleur qui li, li char/lootoo di ti parents?*

The colours of the rainbow are...

*Li couleurs di l'arc-en-ciel soun...*

## **XVI. Greetings**

Hello! – *Bounjour!*

How are you? – *Coumment ça va?*

Where are you from? – *D'ivou titte viens?*

Who old are you? – *Quel âge t'a?*

How many people are in your family? – *Coumbien di personnes dans ta famille?*

What is your favourite thing to do? – *Qu'ossait t'aimes fèrre li plusse?*

What is your name? – *Qu'ossait toun noum?/Coumment ti t'appelles?*

## **XVII. Sayings**

I am proud to be Métis.

*Chu fièrre dette Michif.*

Do you speak Michif?

*Ti parle-chi li Michif?*

How do you say that in Michif?

*Coumment ti dji ça en Michif?*

My grandmother taught me how to dance the “Red River Jig.”

*Ma granmère/mèmère ma mountri coumment dansi la “jigue di la Rivière-Rouge.”*

Michif is important to me because...

*Michif i important pour mouin, parci qui...*

It's the language of my ancestors.

*Ci la langue di mi arrières-parents.*

I am a proud Métis.

*Ji t'in Michif fier.*

It's a very unique language.

*Ci enne langue pas coumme li outres.*

The Métis are a special people because...

*Li Michif soun in people special parci qui...*

They are Aboriginal.

*I sount di Autochtones.*

The Métis are a unique mix of First Nations and French Canadians and Europeans.

*Sount in mélange pas coumme li outres, I vienne di Premières Nassions pi di canayens-françès pi du mounde di vius pays.*

They have contributed to the building of Canada.

*Yount fait en masse/boo coo pour div'loppi li Canada.*

They are a Founding People of Manitoba and the rest of Western Canada.

*Soun in people Foundateur dju Manitouba pi di tout L'Ouesse Canadjien.*

Many people once looked down upon Michif.

*Yavait in temps, yavait ben dju mounde qui misprisait la langue Michif.*

Michif was wrongly considered to be bad French or bad Cree.

*Michif itait mal vu pi mal coumpris coumme itant li mauvais françès ou ben li mauvais cris.*

Michif is a beautiful language.

*Michif i tenne belle langue.*

The Métis were known as the “people who owned themselves.”

*Li Michifs sountaient connus dju “mounde qui sountaien leur propres chefs.”*

### **XVIII. The Métis National Anthem**

In the forest on the river,  
And across the western plain,  
As the white man journeyed westward,  
To the land of the Indian,  
A new race was created,  
A new Nation rose up strong.  
Hardship as its destiny,  
And its curse to not belong.

*Dans li boua sur li bord di la rivière,  
Pi à travère li plaines di l'ouesse,  
Coumme l'homme blanc contchinquait soun voyage vers l'ouesse,  
Ou pays di Indjiens.  
Enne nouvelle race a coummensi,  
Enne Nouvelle Nassion si l'vi avec boo coo d'force.  
Leure av'nir, citait la misère/la souffrance,  
Pi leur malheur citait di ni pas appartenir à parsonne.*

In the land from which they came,  
In the land they helped to build.  
They found themselves the alien,  
Found their vision unfulfilled.  
And despite their valiant effort,  
To defend what they believed,  
When at last the battle ended,  
They were only left to grieve.

*Dans li pays d'ivousse qui d'v'naient,  
Dans li pays qui ount aidi à counstruire,  
I shount trouvis coumme di itrangis,  
Leurre manière di youaire leur av'nir pas encoure faite.  
Pi malgri leurs braves efforts,  
Pour difende qu'ossait i croiyaient,  
À la fin, quand la bataille a fini,  
I sount trouvis rien qu'avec boo coo d'peine.*

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our Nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

*Oun I fière dette Michif,  
Youaire la Nassion si l'vi encoure,  
Jamais plu in mounde oublii,  
Oun i li vrais Canadjiens.*

Far across the plain they travelled,  
From Red River to the Peace,  
Looking for their own homeland,  
That would help them to replace,  
All the land that had been taken,  
And the dreams that had been dashed,  
Their brave heroes now called traitors,  
And courageous deeds now past.

But their spirit was not broken  
And their dreams had never died.  
Their determination strengthened  
Even while the people cried.  
As they waited for salvation  
That would end their years of pain.  
And the final bloodless battle  
When the Nation rose again.

We are proud to be Métis  
Watch our Nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

For this newest generation  
And the future ones to come,  
With the past to motivate us,  
It will help to keep us strong.  
As we build the Métis Nation,  
As we watch it rise again,  
Our past loss is motivation,  
To inspire our future gain.

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our Nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

*Louin à travèrre li plaines, I ount vouyagi,  
Di la Rivière-Rouge à la Paix,  
Charshant pour leur patrie,  
Qui li aid'rait à remplaci,  
Toute li errain qui leur avait iti pri,  
Pi leurs rêves qui avaient iti abatchus,  
Leurs braves soldats, appl'is aateur di trêtes,  
Pi leurs bonnes actions oubliis.*

*Mi leur coeur n'a pas iti affecti  
Pi leurs rêves soun jamais disparus.  
Leur courage renforci  
Même pendant qui leur mounde pleurait.  
Pendant qu'ils attendaient li refort  
Qui finira leur temps di douleur.  
Pi la dernière bataille sans sang  
Quand la Nassion si lévra encoure.*

*Oun I fière dette Michif  
Vouaire la Nassion si l'vi encoure,  
Jamais plu in mounde oublii,  
Oun i li vrais Canadjens*

*Pour la nouvelle génération  
Pi li porchaines à v'nir,  
Avec li passi qui va nous encouragis,  
I nouns aide à resti forts.  
Pendant qu'oun bâtchi la Nassion Michif,  
Pendant qu'oun li r'garde si l'vi encoure,  
Notte perte dju passi si notte courage,  
Pour dirigi nouns progrès di l'av'nir.*

*Oun I fière dette Michif.  
Vouaire la Nassion si l'vi encoure,  
Jamais plu in mounde oublii,  
Oun i li vrais Canadjens.*

## Michif-Cree, Norman Fleury

### I. Articles

A/An (Masculine/Feminine) – *Aen/Enn*

The (Masculine/Feminine) *L'/li/la*

The (Plural) – *Lii*

It was a beautiful day.

*Kii myeukiishikow anoosh.*

The table is made of wood.

*La tabb an bwaa ooshchikatew.*

The Elders are wise.

*Lii Vyeu nipwakawuk.*

### II. Pronouns

I – *niiya*

Me – *niiya*

You – *kiiya*

He – *wiiya*

Him – *wiiya*

She – *wiiya*

Her – *wiiya*

It – *anima*

We – *kiiyanaan/niiyanaan*

Us – *kiiyanaan/niiyanaan*

They – *wiiyawow*

Them – *wiiyawow*

I am talking to them.

*Gitootawuk wiiyawow.*

She is good at fingerweaving.

*Niita oushitow lii saenchur flayshii.*

It is beside the table.

*Ara la tabb ashtew.*

You cannot go to the movies!

*Ni moo ka iitotaan li pikchur shoo!*

We are learning Michif.

*Neu kishkaytaynaan chi piikishkwayaak li Michif.*

### III. Nouns

Artwork – <i>aen li paenchuriik</i>	Internet – <i>l'internet</i>
Ball – <i>enn plut</i>	Language – <i>laangaazh</i>
Beadwork – <i>la gaarnichur</i>	Leggings – <i>lii mitaas</i>
Bed – <i>aen lii</i>	Moccasins – <i>lii sooyii moo</i>
Book – <i>aen liivr</i>	Pants – <i>lii kiilot</i>
Boots – <i>lii groo sooyii</i>	Pemmican – <i>li tooroo</i>
Brush – <i>enn bruss</i>	Pen – <i>enn plumm</i>
Car – <i>aen karr/enn aatoomoobil/enn voychur</i>	Pencil – <i>aen kriiyoon</i>
Chair – <i>enn shayz</i>	People – <i>li moond</i>
City – <i>enn graand vill</i>	Telephone – <i>enn phoon</i>
Coat – <i>aen kaapoo</i>	Red River Cart – <i>enn shaarett</i>
Country – <i>la kaanpayn/Payii</i>	Sash – <i>saenchur flayshii</i>
Couch – <i>kouch/soofa</i>	Shawl – <i>aen shaal</i>
Computer – <i>li komputerr</i>	Shirt – <i>enn shmiizh</i>
Desk – <i>li buroo</i>	Shoes – <i>lii sooyii</i>
Food – <i>li maangii</i>	Shorts – <i>lii pchit kilutt koor</i>
Friend – <i>moon amii/moon fraynd</i>	Socks – <i>lii baa</i>
Game – <i>enn gaym/aen zhoo</i>	Table – <i>la taab</i>
Gloves – <i>lii gaand</i>	Tractor – <i>aen traktur</i>
Hat – <i>aen shapoh</i>	Truck – <i>aen truckk</i>
Hockey Puck – <i>la pukk di hawkii</i>	Van – <i>enn vann</i>
Hockey Stick – <i>li bwaw di hawkii</i>	Water – <i>diloo</i>
House – <i>maezoon/mayzoon</i>	York Boat – <i>aen groo batoo</i>

The Internet is a good way to preserve Michif.  
*Li internet si tenn bonn manyar chi kanwaytamihk li Michif.*

Métis women wear shawls.  
*Lii faam Michif lii shaal ki kishkawaywuk.*

My best friend has beadwork on his coat.  
*Moon namii lii rasaad daan soon capoo ayow.*

The Métis Homeland is in two countries: Canada and the United States.  
*Lii Michif daan deu payii wiikiwuk: li Canada pi lii Zitaa.*

Winnipeg is the city in which most Métis live.  
*Winnipeg iita nawut lii Michif ka wiikichik.*

At Back to Batoche Days, I wear a sash and moccasins.  
*Batoche ka iitootayan enn saenchur flayshii gishkawow pi lii sooyii moo.*

#### IV. Verbs

Ask – *kwaychim*  
Attack – *mooshkiishchikay*  
Begin – *machista*  
Blow – *pootata*  
Break – *piikoona*  
Bring – *payta*  
Choose – *kaykina*  
Come – *aashtum*  
Do – *ooshita*  
Drag – *wootapay*  
Draw – *maashinipayha*  
Drink – *minikway*  
Drown – *nistapawew*  
Eat – *miitishoo*  
Fall – *pakishinn*  
Fly – *pimihaa*  
Freeze – *ahkwatinn*  
Get – *naata*  
Give – *mayki*  
Go – *niyaan*

Grow – *ahkikii*  
Happen – *aen ishpayihk*  
Know – *kishkaytakwunn*  
Lay – *pimbishini*  
Lead – *niikanii*  
Lose – *wanishchikayk*  
Pay – *tipayikayk*  
Ride – *taytapi*  
Ring – *shaywew*  
Rise – *niipawi*  
Run – *pimbataa*  
See – *waapata*  
Saw – *waapamew*  
Shake – *naniihkinaa*  
Shrink – *oochipayin*  
Sing – *nakamoo*  
Sink – *kookipayik*  
Sit – *apihk*  
Speak – *piikishkwayk*  
Spin – *waashakapayihk*

Spit – *shiihkoohk*  
Spring – *shiishikutch*  
Steal – *kimootihk*  
Stink – *wiishchaykuhk*  
Study – *chi kishkaytamihk*  
Swear – *machiitwayk*  
Swim – *pimaatakaak*  
Swing – *waawaypishook*  
Take – *ootinamihk*  
Tear – *aayikipitamihk*  
Throw – *kwaashchwaypinamihk*  
Wake – *kooshkoopayihk*  
Walk – *pimootayk*  
Wear – *kishkamihk*  
Wring – *piimikway*  
Write – *ooshipayhaa*

My grandmother asked me a question.  
*Kaykway nookoom gii kaakwaychimihk.*

I'm learning to write Michif.  
*Gakway kishkayten chi ooshipayikayan an Michif.*

I eat traditional Métis food.  
*Taapishkoot kaayash ni miichin li maangii di Michif.*

He threw the football.  
*La football kii pooshinew.*

She rides horses during the summer.  
*An nitii lii zhvoo taytapew.*

The telephone is ringing.  
*La phoon shaywew.*

My great-uncle can speak several languages including Michif, Cree, English, and French.  
*Moon graan nook mishchayt lii laang piikishkwew, li Michif, li krie, laanglay, pi li fraansay.*

## V. Conjunctions

After – *apray*

Although – *aata*

And – *pi/aakwa*

Because – *akooz*

Before – *avaan*

But – *maaka*

For – *poor*

Neither – *noo/namoo*

Nor – *namoo/noo/pi noo*

Or – *oo baen/abaendoon*

Since – *aashpinaen ekooshpii*

So – *oomshiishi/oo baen*

Until – *zheusk/zheusk a taan*

When – *taanshpü/ishpii*

While – *li taant/maykwaat*

Yet – *miina/kiiyapit*

We are going to eat after we finish our homework.  
*Apray pooyooyakoo nutr oovraag dikol ka miitshoonaan.*

I like Métis jigging and fiddling.  
*Ni miiyayten la jigg di Michif pi li vyayloon.*

Since I was young, I enjoyed my grandfather's stories.  
*Aashpinaen ka li zhenwiyaan ni miiyayten ni mooshoom si zistwayr.*

I'm proud to be Métis because I love my people.  
*Ni kishchiitaymoon aen li Michif wooyaan akooz moon moond aen shakiihakiik.*

They will stay at the dance until midnight.  
*Daan la daans ka ayawuk jheuk a mainwii.*

Water and food are essential for life.  
*Diloo pi li maangii kishchi chi pimaatishik.*

## VI. Prepositions

About – *naandow*

Above – *aan layr*

Across – *loot bor*

After – *apray*

Against – *pakwatem*

Along – *loondr*

Among – *avek/paarmii*

Around – *alaantoor*

At – *naytay*

Before – *avaan*

Behind – *an aaryayr*

Below – *an baa*

Beneath – *an soor/disoor*

Beside – *akootii/o bor*

Between – *antorde/shaykwashtew*

Beyond – *kwashchipayin/kwashtaykamik*

But – *maaka*

By – *araa/ita*

Despite – *aata*

Down – *an baa*

During – *maykwat/paandaan*

Except – *yaenk/pikoo*

For – *poor*

From – *ooshchi*

In – *an daan/di daan/ashiwatew*

Inside – *didaan piichii ayow*

Into – *andaan tayhkay/piichipayin*

Like – *miiyaymow*

Near – *araa/namoo waahyow*

Of – *ooshchi*

Off – *kaychikoona/oot*

On – *taytaashta/disseu*

Onto – *disseu*

Out – *kichii*

Outside – *daho/an dahor*

Over – *kiitwaam/miina/ankor*

Past – *passii/aasha/kaayash*

Since – *aashpinae/aykooshpii*

Through – *shaapoo*

Throughout – *noochikooyitay*

Till – *zheusk/zheuskataan*

To – *tootaan*

Toward – *taykay/poor*

Under – *aantsoor/disoor*

Underneath – *aantsoor/disoor*

Until – *zheushk ataan*

Upon – *aantseu/tayhtashta*

With – *avek*

Within – *aandaan/didaan*

Without – *saan noo poo*

The Métis sash is on the table.

*La saenchur flayshii di Michif disseu la tab ashtew.*

My book is under the table.

*Moon livr antsoor la tab ashtew.*

They wore their Métis sashes to school.

*Kii kishkumwuk leu saenchur flayshii tootaychik l'ikol.*

Her dog is outside, and is between the fence and the house.

*Soon shien dahor ayow aantor li par pi la mayzoon.*

## **VII. People**

Ancestors – *ma vyay paraantii*

Brother – *frayr*

Canadian – *kanayaen/aen zhaand Canada*

Caucasians – *lii blaen*

Cousin – *koozaen*

Elders – *lii vyeu*

European – *lii zhaan lootr bor*

Father – *paapa*

First Nations – *lii pramyayr naasyoon*

Grandparents – *lii graan paraan*

Grandfather – *mooshoom*

Grandmother – *nookoom*

Immigrants – *lii immigraan*

Labourer – *ka atooshkayt/aen travayaan*

Mother – *maamaan*

Non-Aboriginal – *pahkaan ayishinew*

Office Worker – *daan l'offis atooshkew*

People – *li moond*

Police Officer – *enn pollis*

Priest – *aen payr/aen prett*

Sister – *enn soer*

Teacher (male) – *aen metr d'ikol*

Teacher (female) – *enn mitress d'ikol*

My cousin is my aunt's son and my father's nephew.

*Ma taant soon gaarsoon awa moon koozin pi paapa soon neuveu.*

The Métis are a bicultural people with First Nations and European ancestry.

*Lii Michif lii praamyayr naansyoon pi lii zhaand lootr bor waakoomaywuk pi nishtohtawaywuk.*

A mix of First Nations and white people. They are their own people.

*Maenlii lii praamyayr naansyoon pi lii blaen. Wiyawow paakaan aen nootr moond.*

Miss \_\_\_ is my favourite teacher.

Mr. \_\_\_ is my favourite teacher.

*Madimoyzelle \_\_\_ ma maytress ka shakihaahk.*

*Misyeu \_\_\_ moon maytr d'ikol aen shakihaahk.*

## **VIII. Days and Months**

Monday – *Laenjii*

Tuesday – *Morjii*

Wednesday – *Mikarjii*

Thursday – *Jhwijii*

Friday – *Vaandarjii*

Saturday – *Samjii*

Sunday – *Jimaansh*

January – *Zhaanvyii*

February – *Fevriyii*

March – *Maar*

April – *Avrii*

May – *Mii*

June – *Jwaen*

July – *Jooyet*

August – *Aahoo*

September – *Septaambr*

October – *Oktobr*

November – *Noovaambr*

December – *Disaambr*

Winter – *l'ivayr*

Spring – *praentaan*

Summer – *l'itii*

Fall – *latonn*

Saturday is my favourite day.

*Li Samjii ni miyeuten.*

Christmas is on December 25.

*Li vinsaenk di Disaambr la jhoornii di Krismas.*

Back to Batoche Days are held in July.

*Lii jhoornii di Batoche daan mwaa di Jooyet maachipayinwa.*

Traditionally, fall was a busy season for the Métis.

*Taand kaayash lii Michifkii taapitow aakamaymowuk daan latonn.*

## IX. Numbers

1 – <i>hen/payek</i>	40 – <i>karaant</i>	79 – <i>swasaant jhisneuf</i>
2 – <i>deu</i>	41 – <i>karaant yaen</i>	80 – <i>kaatrvaen</i>
3 – <i>trwaa</i>	42 – <i>karaant deu</i>	81 – <i>kaatrvaen hen</i>
4 – <i>kaatr</i>	43 – <i>karaant trwaa</i>	82 – <i>kaatrvaen deu</i>
5 – <i>saenk</i>	44 – <i>karaant kaatr</i>	83 – <i>kaatrvaen trwaa</i>
6 – <i>sis</i>	45 – <i>karaant saenk</i>	84 – <i>kaatrvaen kaatr</i>
7 – <i>set</i>	46 – <i>karaant sis</i>	85 – <i>kaatrvaen saenk</i>
8 – <i>wit</i>	47 – <i>karaant set</i>	86 – <i>kaatrvaen sis</i>
9 – <i>neuf</i>	48 – <i>karaant wit</i>	87 – <i>kaatrvaen set</i>
10 – <i>jis</i>	49 – <i>karaant neuf</i>	88 – <i>kaatrvaen wit</i>
11 – <i>oonz</i>	50 – <i>saenkaant</i>	89 – <i>kaatrvaen neuf</i>
12 – <i>dooz</i>	51 – <i>saenkaant yaen</i>	90 – <i>kaatrvaen jis</i>
13 – <i>trayz</i>	52 – <i>saenkaant deu</i>	91 – <i>kaatrvaen oonz</i>
14 – <i>katorz</i>	53 – <i>saenkaant trwaa</i>	92 – <i>kaatrvaen dooz</i>
15 – <i>kaynz</i>	54 – <i>saenkaant kaatr</i>	93 – <i>kaatrvaen trayz</i>
16 – <i>sayz</i>	55 – <i>saenkaant saenk</i>	94 – <i>kaatrvaen kaatorz</i>
17 – <i>jhiset</i>	56 – <i>saenkaant sis</i>	95 – <i>kaatrvaen kaenz</i>
18 – <i>jhiswit</i>	57 – <i>saenkaant set</i>	96 – <i>kaatrvaen sayz</i>
19 – <i>jhisneuf</i>	58 – <i>saenkaant wit</i>	97 – <i>kaatrvaen jhiset</i>
20 – <i>vaen</i>	59 – <i>saenkaant neuf</i>	98 – <i>kaatrvaen jhiswit</i>
21 – <i>vaenyaen</i>	60 – <i>swasaant</i>	99 – <i>kaatrvaen jhisneuf</i>
22 – <i>vaen deu</i>	61 – <i>swasaant yaen</i>	100 – <i>saan</i>
23 – <i>vaen trwaa</i>	62 – <i>swasaant deu</i>	
24 – <i>vaen kaatr</i>	63 – <i>swasaant trwaa</i>	
25 – <i>vaen saenk</i>	64 – <i>swasaant kaatr</i>	
26 – <i>vaen sis</i>	65 – <i>swasaant saenk</i>	
27 – <i>vaen set</i>	66 – <i>swasaant sis</i>	
28 – <i>vaen wit</i>	67 – <i>swasaant set</i>	
29 – <i>vaen neuf</i>	68 – <i>swasaant wit</i>	
30 – <i>traant</i>	69 – <i>swasaant neuf</i>	
31 – <i>traant yaen</i>	70 – <i>swasaant jis</i>	
32 – <i>traant deu</i>	71 – <i>swasaant oonz</i>	
33 – <i>traant trwaa</i>	72 – <i>swasaant dooz</i>	
34 – <i>traant kaatr</i>	73 – <i>swasaant trayz</i>	
35 – <i>traant saenk</i>	74 – <i>swasaant kaatorz</i>	
36 – <i>traant sis</i>	75 – <i>swasaant kaenz</i>	
37 – <i>traant set</i>	76 – <i>swasaant sayz</i>	
38 – <i>traant wit</i>	77 – <i>swasaant jhiset</i>	
39 – <i>traant neuf</i>	78 – <i>swasaant jhiswit</i>	

Andrea Menard has released two CDs.  
*Andrea Menard deu lii CD kii ooshitow.*

Maria Campbell was born in 1940.  
*Maria Campbell kii nitawakew an jhisneuf saan karaant.*

Bryan Trottier's number was 19.  
*Bryan Trottier soon noombr si jhisneuf.*

Theo Fleury's number is 14.  
*Theo Fleury soon noombr si kaatorz.*

Sheldon Souray's number is 44.  
*Sheldon Souray soon noombr si kaaraant kaatr.*

We eat lunch at 12:00 p.m.  
*Ni miichishoonaan a mijii.*

Supper is at 6:00 p.m.  
*Li soopii a sis zheur.*

The two main Métis resistances occurred in 1869-70 and 1885.  
*Lii zannii lii Michif ka notinikaychik an jhishuit saan swasaant neuf-swasaant jis pi jhishuit saan kaatrvaen saenk.*

## **X. Holidays and Celebrations**

Canada Day – *La jhoornii di Canada*  
Christmas – *Li Krismas/lii jhoor di Niwell*  
Easter – *Li jhoor di Paak*  
Halloween – *Li Hallawiin*  
Labour Day – *La jhoornii poor lii travayaan*  
Louis Riel Day – *La jhoornii poor Louis Riel*  
National Aboriginal Day – *La jhoornii poor lii atoktonn*  
New Year's – *Li jhoor di laan*  
Remembrance Day – *La jhoornii ka kiskishik nutr soldaa*  
St. Patrick's Day – *La jhoornii poor saent Patrick*  
Thanksgiving – *La jhoornii maarsii aen itwayhk*  
Valentine's Day – *La jhoornii di koer*  
Victoria Day – *La jhoornii di Viktwayr*

The main traditional holiday for the Métis is New Year's Day.  
*Kaayash ooschi lii Michif moochikanitawuk li jhoor di l'aan.*

For Christmas, Santa Claus gave me two video games.  
*Poor li Krismas, jhoor di Niwell Santa Kloos deu game di video gii miyyik.*

National Aboriginal Day is held every June 21.

*La jhoornii poor lii Atoktonn toot lii vaen yaen di jwaen iitakwun.*

On November 16, Louis Riel Day is observed by the Métis.

*Li sayz di Noovaambr lii Michif kishkishiwuk Louis Riel.*

Halloween is an exciting day for children because they are given lots of candy.

*Lii zaanfaan chiikaytamuk li Hallawiin ka takoopayik akooz lii kaandii mishchet miikashoowuk.*

## **XI. Food**

Bannock – *la galett*

Bison burgers – *lii hamburgur di buffloo*

Cake – *li kake/li gattoo*

Chinese Food – *li maagii di shiinway*

Chokecherries – *takwahiminana*

Fish – *li pwasoon*

Fruit – *lii fruii*

Meatballs – *lii boolett*

Pizza – *li pizza*

Potato – *lii potaak*

Saskatoon berries – *lii pwayr*

Tacos – *lii takoo*

Turkey – *la daend*

Vegetables – *lii zhaarginazh*

Wild game – *la vyaand*

What's your favourite food?

*Kaykway kishchi ka nootay miichiyenn?*

I like to eat...

*Ni miiyeutyen aen miichishooyaan...*

My grandmother makes me \_\_\_\_\_ to eat.

*Noohkoom niwiichihik aen \_\_\_\_\_ miichishooyaan.*

## **XII. Lifeways**

Beading – *la gaarnichur*

Canning – *aen li kaniihk*

Cooking – *aen kiishitaypoohk*

Fishing – *kwaashkwaypichikayk*

Gathering – *mooshoohk*

Hunting – *aen maachiikh*

Sewing – *kaashkikwashoohk*

Trapping – *tashoochikayk*

Working – *atooshkyahk*

Weaving – *lii saenchur flayshii aen ooshitahk*

In St. Laurent, Manitoba, many Métis make a living by fishing.

*A St. Laurent, Manitoba, mishchet lii Michif kwaashkwaypichikaywuhk chi pimachihoochihk.*

With the Powley Ruling, the Métis have more hunting rights.

*Aashpinay Powley Ka paashkiyakayt nawutch lii Michif lii dirway ayaawuk chi maachiichik.*

Trapping is important to Métis living in the North.

*Aen tashoochikayk kishchi ahkihtew poor lii Michif.*

My grandmother was good at tanning hides.

*Kii mamiyoo noohkoom kamatahamiha lii poo.*

Canning was an important way to preserve food for Métis families.

*Aen li kanniichihk lii Michif leu maangiyyow kinwaysh ki kwanaytamuhk.*

### **XIII. Folklore / Spirituality Oral Tradition**

Cannibal Spirit – *kaamoowachik*

Culture – *aen ishipimatishiyahk*

Devil – *li jiyaab*

God – *li Boon Jeu*

Holy water – *l'ood binitt*

Lent – *li karaym*

Little John – *chi Jean*

Oral Tradition – *ataayoohkayhk*

Rosary – *shaaplay*

Sage – *l'aarbsaent*

Saint – *aen saen*

Stories – *lii zistwayr*

Sweet Grass – *li twayr chi ayamihahk*

Tobacco – *lii tabaa*

Trickster – *atayookanaak*

Werewolf – *roogaroo*

During Lent, the Elders told children stories in order to make them behave.

*Li karaym li Vyeu lii zistwayr.*

The Métis werewolf can be either a man or a woman.

*Lii roogaroo ka la faamiwiwuk obaen lii zomm.*

My grandmother told me those stories.

*Noohkoom gii achimooshtak anihin lii zistwayr.*

This story means this...

*Ooma l'istwayr awn itwak...*

Leaving tobacco when taking from nature shows respect for the Creator.

*Ka ootinamun kaykway daan la tayr ooshchi lii tabaa ka nakatuht ki kishiitaymow li Kriiatear.*

Elders are the keepers of Métis history and culture.

*Lii Vyeu ka kaahwaytakihk lii zistwayr li taand kayash pi taanshi ka pimatishichik lii Michif.*

The Métis patron saint is Saint Joseph.

*Ka kishchi kanawapamiht li saent Patroon di Michif nutr Saen Joseph.*

Our Elders tell us that Michif is a God-given language.

*Lii Vyeu itwaywuk nutr laang li Michif li Boon Jeu gii miikoonaan.*

#### **XIV. Animals**

Antelope – *kaabrii*  
Bison – *aen buffloo*  
Bobcat – *aen pishoo*  
Cat – *minoosh*  
Chicken – *enn poul*  
Cow – *enn vaash*  
Coyote – *aen pchi loo di prayrii*  
Deer – *aen shoovre*  
Dog – *aen shyaen*  
Duck – *aen kanaar*  
Eagle – *l'igr/l'aygl*  
Elk – *enn bish*

Falcon – *aen falkoon*  
Goose – *aen zway*  
Jack fish – *aen broshay*  
Jackrabbit – *aen lyayvr di prayrii*  
Moose – *aen nariyanl*  
Muskrat – *aen raadoo*  
Owl – *aen yiiboo*  
Pickerel – *enn kaarp*  
Pig – *aen kwashoon*  
Prairie Chicken – *aen fezaan di prayrii*  
Turkey – *enn daend*  
Wolf – *aen loo dii bwaa*

The Métis hunted many bison in the 1800s.

*Lii Michif ki mishinoochin haywuk lii buffloo daan lii zaanii jiswisaan.*

My cat's name is...

*Moon shaa (minoosh) \_\_\_\_\_ shinikashoo.*

Her dog is called...

*Soon shyaen \_\_\_\_\_ shinikashooyew.*

My favourite animal is...

*Aen zhwaal akwaana kishchi ka miyeyimuk laanimal...*

#### **XV. Colours**

Red – *roozh*  
White – *blaan*  
Blue – *bleu*  
Yellow – *zhoon*  
Orange – *oraanzh*  
Green – *verte*  
Brown – *brun*  
Black – *nwaenr*  
Purple – *vyalet nwaenr*

My favourite colour is...

*La kooleur kishchi ka miyaytamaan...*

What colour is your shirt?

*Kel kooleur ta shmiizh?*

What colour is your parents' car?

*Kel kooleur tii paraan leu shaar (atamoobil)?*

The colours of the rainbow are...

*Lii kooleur d'aark an syel...*

## XVI. Greetings

Hello! – *Taanshi!*

How are you? – *Taanshi kiiya?*

Where are you from? – *Taanday ooshchiiyenn?*

How old are you? – *Taanshi shpiishchishiyen?/Taanshi tapoonayenn?*

How many people are in your family? – *Taamayikoohk aen taskiiyahk daan vutr famii?*

What is your favourite thing to do? – *Kaykwy kishchi aen miieutamun aen ooshitayenn?*

What is your name? – *Taanshi shinikashooyenn?*

## XVII. Sayings

I am proud to be Métis.

*Ni kishchiitaymoon aen li Michif wiyaan.*

Do you speak Michif?

*Aan Michif chiin ki piikishkwaan?*

How do you say that in Michif?

*Taanshi anima aenytwayhk aan Michif?*

My grandmother taught me how to dance the “Red River Jig.”

*Noohkoom gii kishkinahamahk chi niimiyaan la jig.*

Michif is important to me because...

*Li Michif mishchet akihtew ayish kaayash ma...*

It's the language of my ancestors.

*Li Michif mishchet akihtew ayish kaayash ma paraantii leu laangywow.*

I am a proud Métis.

*Li Michif mishchet akihtew ayish ni kishchiitayimoon aen li michifwiyaan.*

It's a very unique language.

*Li Michif mishchet akihtew ayish li boon jeu nutr laang li Michif gii miikoonaan pi niyanaan piko lii Michif ka tipaytamak.*

The Métis are a special people because...

*Lii Michif kischi akishoowuk akooz wi yawow ka waakoomachik lii pramyayr nasyoon...*

The Métis are a unique mix of First Nations and French Canadians and Europeans.

*Lii Michif kishchi akishoowuk akooz soon maenlii avik lii pramyayr nasyoon, lii kanayaen fraansay pi lii zhaan lootr bor.*

They have contributed to the building of Canada.

*Lii Michif kishchi akishoowuk akooz ki wiichiiwaywuk li Canada aen ooshitaahk.*

Are a Founding People of Manitoba and the rest of Western Canada.

*Lii Michif kishchi akishoowuk akooz wiiyawow ka kii piitikwatachik li Manitoba pi miina li Canada li west.*

Many people once looked down upon Michif.

*Mishchet maana awiia kii machayimew lii Michif.*

Michif was wrongly considered to be bad French or bad Cree.

*Li Michif ki itwaaniwan ayka li boon krie pi li boon fraansay.*

Michif is a beautiful language.

*Li Michif mitooni katawashishin.*

The Métis were known as the “people who owned themselves.”

*Lii Michif kii wapamikashoowuk, li moond aen tipaymiishoonchik.*

### **XVIII. The Métis National Anthem**

### **Lyrics Captured in Essence**

In the forest on the river,  
And across the western plain,  
As the white man journeyed westward,  
To the land of the Indian,  
A new race was created,  
A new Nation rose up strong.  
Hardship as its destiny,  
And its curse to not belong.

*Kaayash nimamananik lii pramyayr naasyoon pi ni  
papananik lootr borr la merr ooshchi ki  
nakishkatowuk pi akoota niyanaan enn novell  
naasyoon ka ooshchiyaak.*

In the land from which they came,  
In the land they helped to build.  
They found themselves the alien,  
Found their vision unfulfilled.  
And despite their valiant effort,  
To defend what they believed,  
When at last the battle ended,  
They were only left to grieve.

*Lii Michif ki ootataywuk ooma li payii ooshi pi kii  
wiichiiwaywuk aen ooshitachik.*

Far across the plain they travelled,  
From Red River to the Peace,  
Looking for their own homeland,  
That would help them to replace,  
All the land that had been taken,  
And the dreams that had been dashed,  
Their brave heroes now called traitors,  
And courageous deeds now past.

*Ahpoo aen ishi totakoyakoohk gii nashkoonan pi  
kiyapit gii kishchiitaymonaan, gii naashkoonaan pi  
noo drway gii kwanaytaynaan.*

But their spirit was not broken  
And their dreams had never died.  
Their determination strengthened  
Even while the people cried.  
As they waited for salvation  
That would end their years of pain.  
And the final bloodless battle  
When the Nation rose again.

For this newest generation  
And the future ones to come,  
With the past to motivate us,  
It will help to keep us strong.  
As we build the Métis Nation,  
As we watch it rise again,  
Our past loss is motivation,  
To inspire our future gain.

We are proud to be Métis,  
Watch our Nation rise again,  
Never more forgotten people,  
We're the true Canadian.

*Nutr terr kii ootinikatew, no brav ki li koondaa-  
niiwuk maaka nowiikaat gii waanitanaan aen  
kishchiitaymooyakk*

*Ashipinaen kayaah ka ooshchi shookishiyaak  
pi mina ni wiichiikonaik nutr paraantii kayaash  
ooshehi avik leu sacrifiss. Leu kooraag mina  
gii wiichiikonaan nutr nasyoon di Michif aen  
ooshitayaak*

*Ni kishchiitaymonaan aen li Michif wiiyaak.  
Miina nutr naasyoon ka shookaan nimoo awi-  
iyak ka waniikayshtakonaan. Lii vray kanady-  
aen niyanaan.*



**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 Aboriginal languages in the school system. Laura feels that the preservation of her Michif language is of vital importance not only for herself but to 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. through the University of Alberta.



**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 Michif Language Program Director. Married with two children, he farms southwest of Virden, Manitoba in the small community of Woodnorth.



**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.

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This unique resource, the first of its kind, contains biographies and photographs of Michif speakers as well as a comprehensive list of words and phrases in Michif-Cree, Île-à-la-Crosse Michif and Michif-French. Norman Fleury, Laura Burnouf and Guy Lavallée provide translations.



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