

Métis Centre Exploring Ideas of Community

What does community mean? What does identity mean? These are complex questions, particularly in the Canadian Aboriginal context. For Métis, these questions are even more complex because of a history of dispossession and denial of their existence by Canadian society. The identity of Métis people in Canada and the strength of Métis communities have historically been under attack in Canada.

The Métis Centre is undertaking a project which seeks to understand the meaning of community and identity as understood by Métis peoples. This project is taking place in Manitoba and will involve conducting narrative interviews this spring and summer to collect stories from Manitoba Métis. Project methodology will ensure that efforts are made to include the perspectives of youth, adults and Elders, a range of socio-economic levels, and an even gender split.


The objective of this project is to highlight the diverse nature of Métis communities and identities in a positive way, adding to current legal-based definitions now emerging from court battles for Métis rights. A paper and a report will be available at the end of the project.

For more information, contact Devin Dietrich at ddietrich@naho.ca.

Métis Centre launches a series of fact sheets about Métis health

- Respiratory Health
- Arthritis/Rheumatism
- Principles of Ethical Métis Research


Keep checking back at www.naho.ca/metis/publications/fact-sheets/ for new factsheets to come.



Arthritis/rheumatism among Métis adults: Findings from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Key Points:

- Arthritis and rheumatism are common chronic conditions that affect many Métis adults.
- Prevalence of arthritis was higher among Métis adults than non-Aboriginal adults.
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- Prevalence of arthritis was higher among Métis adults than non-Aboriginal adults.



Respiratory Health of Métis Adults: Findings from the 2006 Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Key Points:

- Respiratory health is an important aspect of overall health.
- Prevalence of respiratory conditions was higher among Métis adults than non-Aboriginal adults.
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Principles of Ethical Métis Research

Key Points:

- Ethical research is essential for understanding Métis communities.
- Research should be conducted in a way that respects Métis values and traditions.
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Staff Profiles

Catherine Graham

Director of the Métis Centre, Catherine has two undergraduate degrees and a Master's in Legal Studies from Carleton University, with a focus on issues related



to Aboriginal Peoples and the law, and violence against women. Her research interests include the social determinants of health, culturally relevant gender-based analysis, mental health, Aboriginal identity, and Indigenous governance. Catherine has worked with Aboriginal organizations at the national and

local levels for more than 15 years on issues related to inclusion and equity. She has also worked as a consultant on various social issues.

Jack Palmer

Jack is the Operations Officer with the Métis Centre. He has held a number of positions at NAHO since joining the organization in 2005. Jack takes care



of all finances, travel and logistics for the Centre. In his spare time, he enjoys biking and swimming.

Celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21!

A day to celebrate the rich contributions Aboriginal Peoples have made to Canada. Check with your local friendship centre, Métis local, or the events listings in your community for information about celebrations and activities near you.

Get ready for Back to Batoche Days 2011

Come celebrate the Métis Nation the third weekend in July near the historic site of Batoche in Saskatchewan.

Fiddling and jigging contests, bannock baking, slow-pitch ball tournaments, chuck wagon and chariot races, square dancing, arts and crafts, educational seminars, Mr. and Mrs. Batoche, children's activities, a Métis Idol singing contest, an exciting line-up for the main stage, and much more!

For event information contact Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (www.mn-s.ca) or visit www.backtobatoche.org/.



Do you know a Métis couple who have made a significant contribution to Métis culture and/or heritage?

Nominate them for Mr. and Mrs. Batoche 2011. For information and the nomination form, visit www.backtobatoche.org/mr-and-mrs-batoche.php.

Métis and Respiratory Health Initiatives

The Métis Centre, the First Nations Centre and the Inuit Tutturvingat of the National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO) have collaborated on a report about respiratory health initiatives for Aboriginal people. The report contains case studies of initiatives specific to each population.

Read the report here:

www.naho.ca/documents/naho/english/2011_04_Lung-Health-E-Scan.pdf

Or visit www.naho.ca/publications for a listing of all recent publications from NAHO.

Métis Centre Values

- Building collaborative relationships with all Métis people and other stakeholders.
- Supporting capacity enhancement with Métis people and other stakeholders.
- Creating accessible plain language knowledge-based products.
- Using innovative, community and constituency-driven approaches.

Staff Profiles

Devin Dietrich



Devin is from Winnipeg, Manitoba. A Research Officer with the Métis Centre, he has a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Winnipeg and a Master's in City Planning from the University of Manitoba. He has experience with Aboriginal research methodologies, research ethics, and qualitative research methodologies. Devin also has international research experience engaging Indigenous Peoples in New Zealand and the northern circumpolar countries. His research interests include food security and urban Aboriginal identity. Devin is an outdoor enthusiast with an interest in mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking and canoeing.

Anna Burnstein



Communications Officer with the Métis Centre, Anna has a BA in History and Hispanic Studies from Trent University and a Master's in Journalism from Carleton University. Originally from Ottawa, Anna has lived in Central America working in community development and popular education. In her spare time she enjoys reading fiction, travel, crafts, and spending time outdoors.

MNO Signs Collaboration Agreement with Northern Ontario School of Medicine

This May, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) signed an agreement with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) committing both organizations to working towards the provision of education that is responsive to Métis communities of Northern Ontario. Both MNO and NOSM are actively engaged in addressing the needs of their communities in northern Ontario, and the agreement is a commitment to sharing resources and objectives with respect to research, education, and expertise.

Areas identified for possible collaboration as outlined in the agreement include:

- Identifying opportunities for beneficial collaboration in the development of new medical courses, academic programs, and innovative research initiatives.
- Actively recruiting potential Métis medical students, and improving the provision of medical programming that is culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- Developing communications intended to increase the visibility and success of the Métis in medicine in Ontario.
- Increasing Métis participation in and access to current and future NOSM programs and services.
- Increasing real and meaningful Métis input to NOSM policy development.

“A significant component of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine’s social accountability mandate is to build and cultivate relationships with Aboriginal communities across Northern Ontario, and to facilitate common goals,” said Dr. Roger Strasser, NOSM Dean. “This collaboration agreement between the school and the Métis Nation of Ontario will allow us to pursue opportunities that maximize the positive impact our organizations are having in the North,” he said.

MNO President Gary Lipinski said: “from day one the Métis Nation of Ontario has supported the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. The MNO is entering into this collaborative agreement with NOSM to facilitate more Métis students pursuing medical careers in the North. Having more students graduate in the North will dramatically increase the potential of them returning to their communities, where their skills as doctors and nurses are very much needed.”

NOSM is a joint initiative of Lakehead University and Laurentian University with main campuses in Thunder Bay and Sudbury, and multiple teaching and research sites distributed across Northern Ontario.

Staff Profiles

Sonia Wesche



Senior Research Officer with the Métis Centre, Sonia has a background in environmental studies, human geography, and community health sciences. Sonia has studied at the University of Ottawa, Imperial College

London, Wilfrid Laurier University, and most recently, the University of Northern British Columbia for her postdoctoral research. She has experience working with Indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and with First Nations and Métis communities in Canada’s North. Dedicated to engaging in meaningful research relationships with local communities, Sonia’s interests include environmental change, adaptive capacity, food security, and the social determinants of health.

Jennifer Rankin



Jennifer is a Junior Research Officer with the Métis Centre. Jennifer is a fourth year student at the University of Ottawa working towards a BA in Aboriginal Studies with a minor in Philosophy. With

Ojibwa roots from Sault Ste. Marie’s Batchewana First Nation, Jennifer is passionate about addressing the issues that face Aboriginal Peoples through awareness and prevention. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys reading, cooking, outdoor activities, walking her two dogs, and spending time with friends and family.

Mohan Kumar



A Research Officer with the Métis Centre, Mohan has a Master’s in Public Health. His main research interests are epidemiology, biostatistics and health systems management. Mohan’s long-term goal is to

work with Aboriginal communities to address health disparities and inequities, particularly when it comes to chronic diseases. In his spare time Mohan enjoys photography and squash.