

A Journey of Generations

The Brunelle Family

Métis Nation
of Ontario 

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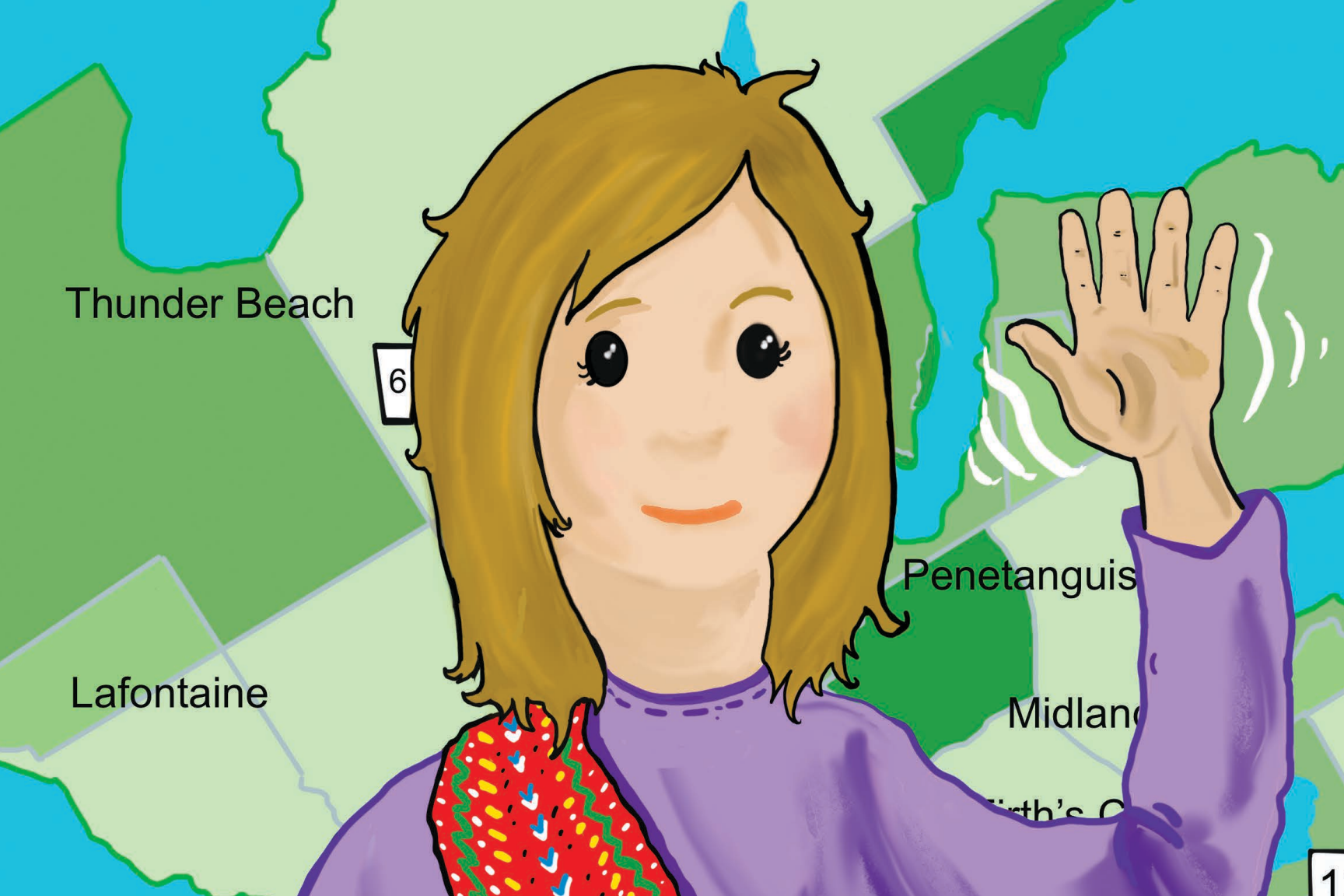
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Métis Nation
of Ontario 

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Thunder Beach

6

Lafontaine

Penetanguishen

Midland

Birch's Bay

1

Join Rachelle Brunelle and her family in their heartwarming adventures in Lafontaine, Ontario, as they connect with their Métis roots. Together, the Brunelle family inspires us to honour the past while looking forward to the future.



English: **Inspire**
French: **Inspirer**
Michif: **Inspiré**



Hi, I'm Rachelle! This is my family: my dad, Vic, my mom, Elaine, and my brothers, Gilles and Claude. We're proud to be a Métis family. We love the land, the traditions, and, most of all, each other.



English: **Proud**

French: **Fier**

Michif: **Fyèr**



Autumn was always the start of the hunting season. Together, we would gather our hunting gear: comfy sleeping bags, lucky fishing rods, favourite fluorescent clothes and camouflage jackets waited on the lawn, ready to be packed. Packing the truck wasn't just a chore; it was the start of our family's yearly adventure.



English: **Adventure**

French: **Aventure**

Michif: **Avantsur**



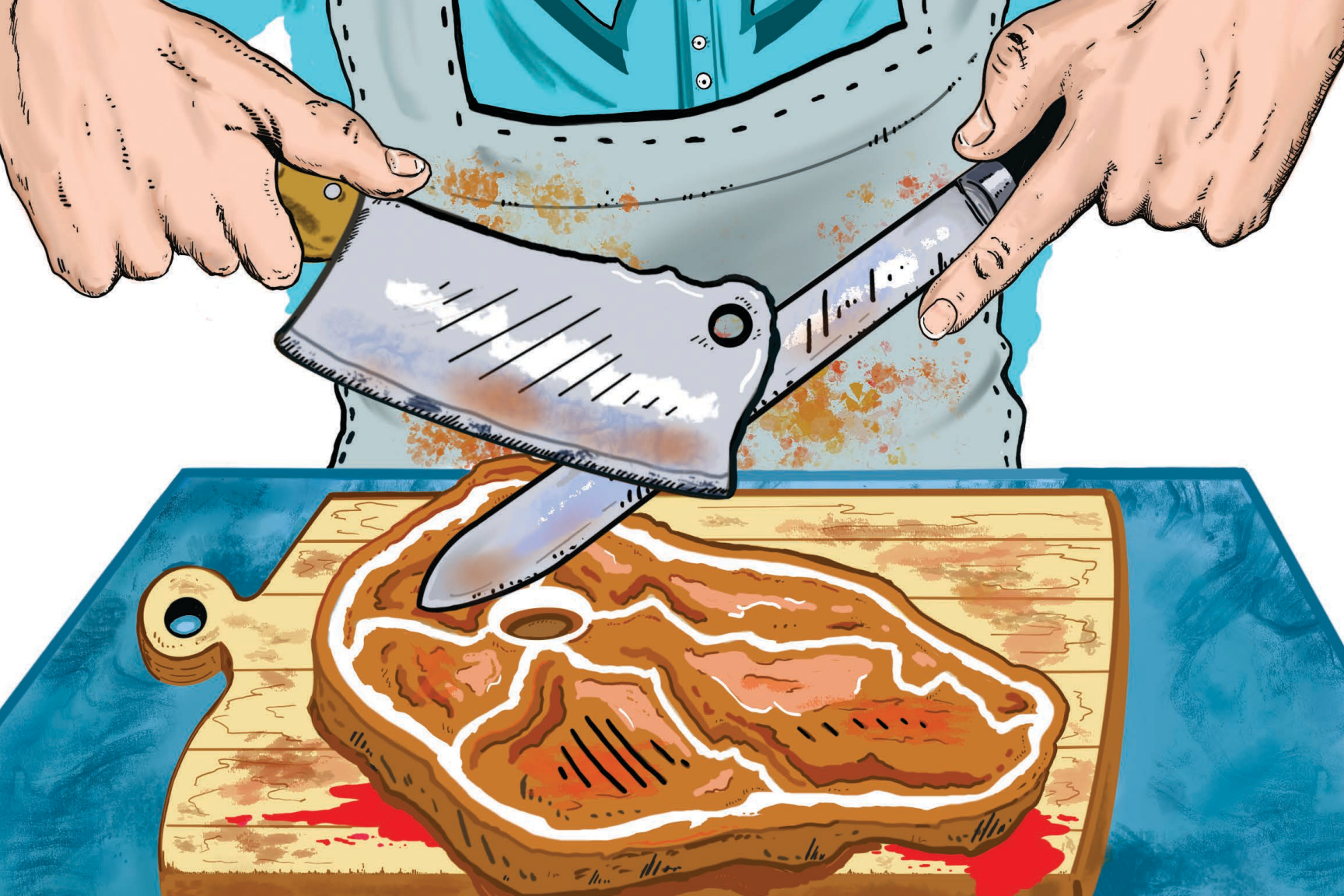
After a long, successful week of hunting, the men would return with bearded faces, and the smell of campfire would cling to my mom and I. These opportunities and experiences on the land reminded me that I was connected to a community with an important past.



English: **Campfire**

French: **Feu de camp**

Michif: **Feu dkan**



Once we got home, it was time to prepare the meat! My brothers and I eagerly waited in the shop while Dad cleaned the game. It was my job to bring him his skinning knife, while my brothers helped package the meat. These responsibilities taught me that everyone in the family has an essential role in the harvest.



English: **Harvest**
French: **Récolte**
Michif: **Rékawlt**



We also loved to fish! The biggest fish were caught in the early morning when bugs skimmed across the cool, calm waters. The pinks and oranges of the sunrise were always breathtaking as we watched from the dock. Even today when I see a sunrise, it reminds me to cherish those memories, and the importance of family.



English: **Cherish**

French: **Chérir**

Michif: **Aprésyé**



Harvesting was a way of life for my Métis family, and it still is today. Fishing and hunting were ways we honoured and respected those traditions. Connection to the land and nature is in our hearts.



English: **Respect**

French: **Respecter**

Michif: **Rèspèkté**



Conservation is a huge part of who we are as Métis; it plays a significant role in our harvesting heritage. We must hunt and fish responsibly to protect nature and provide food for our families. This means only taking what we'll use, sharing the rest with others and using all of the animal so little goes to waste.



English: **Conservation**
French: **Conservation**
Michif: **Konsarvé**



A feast was meant more as a time for family and friends than it was about the food. Celebrations like these have been enjoyed by our family for generations. At these gatherings, we ate until our bellies were full, danced until we were out of breath, and heard endless stories. These traditions connected us together and created some of my fondest memories.



English: **Food**

French: **Nourriture**

Michif: **Manjé**



In 2005, something wonderful happened: The first-ever Rendezvous! A Rendezvous is a special event where Métis families gather and celebrate. While our parents played cards and told stories, my cousins and I played and danced. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious fish fry prepared and shared by the Lepage Family. That day, I felt proud to be Métis.



English: **Stories**

French: **Histoire**

Michif: **Istwér**

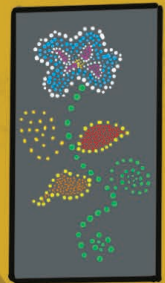
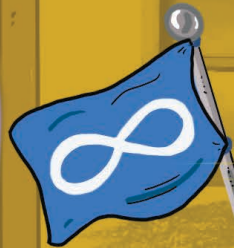
WE ASPIRE



WE WANT YOU



FOR RIEL



During the Rendezvous, the stories of our families seemed to come to life. I heard folk tales, songs, and jokes I'll never forget. It is never too early to learn the Métis way of life. We are keepers of our culture, and together, we hope to ensure that the next generation understands the beauty of our roots.



English: **Culture**

French: **Culture**

Michif: **Kultsur**



One thing I know for sure: I love being Métis! It is very special to me.



English: **Love**
French: **Amour**
Michif: **Amour**

Acknowledgments:

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Métis Rendezvous '10

by Rachelle Brunelle-McColl

My family and I have been involved with the *Métis Rendezvous* from its first year and it has become a tradition. It has made us even more proud of who we are and our culture. It represents living and loving everything about being Métis. The music and dancing have always been in our blood and when the season starts to play our feet just move.

My children have also learned wonderful things by being at *Métis Rendezvous*—more than just respecting the culture. They are able to say they are Métis. My fast son, Camden, was 10 weeks old when he first came to the 2006 and experienced it. It was a beautiful memory that he sleeps for almost a month as well (not sure what all that tobacco was spiced with.)

His second year he was dressed to impress with his woyager shirt made by our friend Ruth Quesselle and his sash given to him by Scott Carpenter. That year he sat on top of his popper's shoulders (Victor Brunelle) and wandered the grounds of the *Rendezvous* in amazement at everything he could see, hear, and smell. It was his first real



Nathan Thomas McColl takes in the view from the top of the mountain, Rachelle Brunelle-McColl





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The logo for the Métis Nation of Ontario, featuring a stylized infinity symbol or a similar geometric design within a square border.