Métis Nation of Ontario Early Learning & Child Care

ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

November 2026

What is Michif?

Language is an important part of culture, identity, connection and belonging. Métis languages carry connections to family, community and generations of Métis knowledge.

Michif is a term commonly used to describe the traditional languages of the Métis people. There are three distinct traditional Métis languages: Southern Michif, Northern Michif and Michif French. Michif-Fransè is the variety of Michif French found in Ontario.

Like many Indigenous languages, Métis languages have been impacted by colonization and the suppression of Indigenous languages. Today, Métis communities continue important work to reclaim, revitalize and strengthen their languages for future generations.

Language revitalization is an important part of reconciliation. TRC Call to Action #14 recognizes the importance of preserving and revitalizing Indigenous languages, while the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care Framework (2018) recognizes language, culture and knowledge as important to children's identity and well-being.

Learning with Respect

Bringing Michif-Fransè into your learning environment is an opportunity to engage with Métis culture through appreciation, not appropriation. Start with trusted Métis-created resources and let Métis voices guide your learning.Not sure where to start? Explore the MNO Métis Languages Learning Resources,
where educators can find trilingual word lists, greetings, stories, activities and other resources to support language learning. The Learn Michif-Fransè app can also help educators listen to and practise words and phrases before introducing them to children.

You do not need to be fluent to begin. Learn alongside the children, choose a few words and find meaningful opportunities to bring them naturally into your day.

Discover and Learn Michif - Fransè
Download the appp today!

Apple App Store

Google Play Store

Check out these learning resrouce documents

CLICK HERE

Bringing Michif-Fransè into Your Early Learning Environment

Young children learn language through relationships, repetition and meaningful experiences. Start small with one or two words or phrases and look for natural opportunities to use them throughout the day.

Everyday routines: Introduce words during greetings, mealtimes, transitions or getting ready to go outdoors.

- Follow children's interests: Connect language to what children are exploring, such as family, animals, food, music or nature.
- Take language outdoors: Explore words connected to plants, animals, water, weather and the seasons.
- Make it visible and heard: Add Michif-Fransè to meaningful documentation and learning spaces while using the language during conversations and play.

Start small. Listen. Practise. Repeat. Build.

Remembering Together November 11, 2026

November 8 – National Indigenous Veterans Day
November 11 – Remembrance Day

Métis people have a long history of military service, including service during both World Wars and other conflicts. These days provide an opportunity to honour and remember Métis veterans alongside all those who have served.

For young children, remembrance can be explored through developmentally appropriate concepts such as peace, gratitude, caring and remembering.

Loose Parts Poppy Invitation

Provide photographs of poppies alongside a variety of loose parts and invite children to create their own representations.
Consider offering:

- Red and black fabric, felt or paper
- Buttons, stones or wood cookies
- Red leaves and other natural materials
- Age-appropriate sensory materials
- Photographs of poppies
- Trays or mirrors for creating

For infants and toddlers, offer safe materials to explore alongside photographs of poppies and simple conversations about caring and remembering

Remembrance Day in Michif

Continue the learning by watching Remembrance Day in Michif with Mon Oncle Samson, providing children with an opportunity to hear Métis language while learning about remembrance.

CLICK HERE

Métis Christmas Mittens Presentation

Joins us for our virtual presentaiton at one of the two times below

- December 2, 2026, at 10:00 am – 11:00 am EST
- December 2, 2026, at 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm EST

Featuring Leah Marie Dorion's Métis Christmas Mittens, this interactive presentation will explore meaningful ways to bring Métis culture and perspectives into early learning environments throughout the winter season. Educators will discover how the Story Bag can support storytelling and explore themes of family, generosity, traditions and community through hands-on, culturally grounded learning experiences.

Register Here

Click the link or scan the QR code to register.

CLICK HERE!

The Métis Christmas Mittens Story Bag is available for purchase through Wintergreen Learning Materials.

ELCC Infrastructure And Partnership Advisor Team

The ELCC Advisor Team at the Métis Nation of Ontario is dedicated to enhancing relationships with existing early learning centers/programs across Ontario and strengthening ties with regional municipalities.

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