

# ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

December 2025

## An Evening with Sarah Spethmann

Sarah Spethmann invites educators to explore Métis ways of knowing through the joyful lens of play. Sarah will offer accessible ways to respectfully incorporate Métis understandings through stories, music, movement, and games into early learning environments. Participants will experience how traditional and contemporary Métis play can foster young children's appreciation, inclusion, and curiosity. Rooted in joy and community, this session invites participants of all backgrounds to experience Métis ways of knowing as something living, evolving, and accessible.

Click on the registration link or scan the QR code to register.



[CLICK HERE](#)



## December and January Holiday Closures

Please note the Métis Nation of Ontario is **closed from December 22, 2025, to January 2, 2026.**

The Advisor Team would like to wish you all "HAPPY HOLIDAYS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR".

## Featured Report: Building Brighter Futures for Métis Children



Discover how the Métis Nation of Ontario is transforming early learning through culturally grounded infrastructure, educator support, and community partnerships.

Read the Full 2024-2025 Impact Report. You can download the Early Learning and Child Care (Infrastructure and Partnerships) - Impact Report (2024-25):

Click on the link or scan the QR code to view this document.

[CLICK HERE](#)



## MNO ELCC Resources Available for Purchase!

Did you know that Wintergreen Learning Materials now offers Métis-centered resources developed by the MNO ELCC Advisory Team?

### Now Available:

- The Giving Tree Story Bag Kit
- Christmas Mittens Story Bag Kit.
- Ways to Carry a Métis Baby Story Bag Kit.

These kits are sold at cost to ensure Métis children and their families can see their history and traditions reflected in their learning environments. Wintergreen and the MNO do not profit from the sale of these resources.



### ELCC Infrastructure And Partnership Advisor Team

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

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## CULTURE CORNER

Celebrating the Holidays



A holiday favourite - Gingersnap cookies bring warmth to the home and the heart!

### Gingersnap Cookies

#### Ingredients:

- 3/4 cup margarine
- 4 tbsp. molasses
- 1 egg
- 1 cup white sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. cloves
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 tsp. ginger

#### Instructions:

Mix all ingredients and roll into balls. Approximately 1 tbsp of dough per cookie and then dip in sugar. Bake at 350F for 10 minutes.



### Winter Travel

Métis people of the past had a deep understanding of their environment. They used various modes of transportation to travel during the winter, depending on the distance and purpose of their journey. During the winter months, there were a few ways for the Métis people to travel.

When travelling short distances for hunting or trapping, they would often travel by foot using snowshoes to navigate through the deep snow. Snowshoes allowed them to spread their weight across a larger surface area, making walking on top of the snow easier without sinking. There were a variety of styles and shapes based on the terrain of the land. Long, wide styles could be used in an open area, and small, narrower snowshoes would be used when moving through a treed or forest area.

For longer distances, the Métis people would use toboggans, sleds, or carioles pulled by dogs or horses. A Cariole (dog sled) was a type of sled commonly used by the Métis people during the winter. It was designed to be pulled by dogs or horses and was used to transport mail, small amounts of goods, or a person. The cariole resembles a dog sled, but the construction resembles a wooden toboggan with a wooden frame covered with canvas. The canvas protected the passengers and supplies from the harsh winter elements.

The Métis people's ability to navigate the harsh and unpredictable winter landscape enabled them to hunt, trade, and maintain connections with other communities, ensuring their survival and sense of community.

By: Nicole D. & Sarah S.

For more winter holiday-inspired activities, visit the Tiny Tribune newsletter! Click the link or scan the QR code.

CLICK HERE



### Registered Early Childhood Educator Support Program

Are you an MNO citizen and a Registered Early Childhood Educator (RECE)? If so, there are supports to help offset costs associated with continuous professional learning. To learn more, reach out to our team at: [elccpartnerships@metisnation.org](mailto:elccpartnerships@metisnation.org).

Click here for the online reimbursement application.

CLICK HERE