

ELCC ADVISORS' NEWSLETTER

February 2026

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](#)



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.

Click here for the online reimbursement application.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Virtual Presentations

The 'Métis Like Me' Presentation

Join the ELCC Advisors for an introduction to 'Métis Like Me' Story Bag. This presentation will build on the educator's confidence to use Métis-specific cultural items from 'Métis Like Me' Story Bag in their early learning and childcare settings.

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

[CLICK HERE](#)



Toddlers and Land-Based Learning

This workshop will discuss the importance of "play schemas" and the benefits of intentionally planning based on an understanding of key child development principles. Participants will engage with thinking about land-based learning and the importance of getting toddlers outdoors to develop their curiosity, understand the interconnectedness of all living things, and use this as a key strategy to ensure positive mental health.

Participants will receive a free copy of The Art of Land-Based Learning Vol 1 by Sophie Anne Edwards, subject to availability.

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

[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/programs across Ontario and strengthening relationships with regional municipalities.

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Wednesday, February 25, is Pink Shirt Day!

Read *When You Are Kind* by Monique Gray Smith with the children in your learning environment to explore the importance of everyday kindness. This story highlights meaningful but straightforward moments that inspire children to notice, celebrate, and practice kindness in their daily lives. As you read together, encourage children to reflect on how it feels to offer kindness and to receive it, helping them build empathy, confidence, and emotional awareness.

After reading, invite children to share examples of kind actions they have experienced or offered to others. You might also support this learning through dramatic play, collaborative art experiences, or kindness challenges that promote cooperation and connection. These hands-on opportunities help children understand that kindness strengthens relationships and builds a caring classroom community.



For additional extension ideas that support play-based learning, check out the **Advisors Book Club** review and explore creative activities that connect story themes to meaningful early learning experiences.



**When We Are Kind
Advisor Book Club
Review**



[CLICK HERE](#)

Métis Nation
of Ontario 