



Métis Kohkom Mary Colouring Book

RLI Indigenous Language Experiences

Métis Nation of Alberta Region 6



Publisher: Rupert's Institute

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

<https://www.rupert'sland.org/>

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Métis Kokum Mary

Reflection from the Coordinator, Melanie Lapp

Métis language and culture are living traditions that are alive and well in Alberta, thanks to the maintenance of the critical role of the Métis Language and Cultural Carrier (MLCC).

My first step was to contact the MLCC that I am inherently connected to and request a meeting. I explained the meaning and purpose of this project to ensure that she was informed about how her knowledge would be used, and to get her approval. She shared her experience as a young girl living in northern Alberta with her family in the early 1940's, in an area that was not yet forced to succumb to the domination of colonization. This MLCC shared how her experience has shaped her cultural identity. From this meeting, I compiled a list of questions to ask her for our next conversation.

At our next meeting, she went further into details about the environment, survival skills, family roles, kinship ties, traditional stories, and descriptions about her close connection to nature and the land. From the topics that the MLCC shared, I selected specific points of interest and translated her story in sequential order and documented it into written format. I hired a graphic artist who designed images from this content, wherein I inscribed the script, and converted into a coloring book. The coloring book is appropriate for school age children at the elementary level.

The coloring book is meant to be used as a learning tool to support the learning of language and culture and transference of Métis knowledge. It does not necessarily represent the experience or worldview of other Métis Language and Culture Carriers.

Related Video:

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