Li Raw D’o
Muskrats

Written By Patricia Millar
A Louis Riel Institute Book

Thank you to the families who provided photos for this book. Without your help this project would not be possible.

Thank you to the St. Laurent Aboriginal Headstart for providing the beautiful site to film, gathering the volunteer families, and being incredibly helpful.

Thank you to Heritage Canada, Aboriginal Languages Initiative for funding this project.
Choosing a Spelling System for the Michif-French language

Michif is historically an oral language and as a result there is no standardized spelling for either the Michif-Cree or the Michif-French languages. Michif speaker and teacher Patricia Millar took on this project to create a teaching resource in her beloved Michif-French, however she has had the difficult task of deciding how the language should be spelled.

A group of local women, all fluent speakers, convened to help with the decision making. They chose to make the spelling phonetic to aid with pronunciation. They also tried to get rid of ‘unnecessary’ silent letters. The phonics they used are English for two reasons; 1 to help English speakers to decode the language, 2. To differentiate it from the French. Michif-French is a dialect of French but has different pronunciation, many shortened words and uses some vocabulary not common in today’s French language.

This is the first project of its kind for the Michif-French language, and as a result the spelling system used here is just a start and will likely be refined in future projects before it is standardized. Please make use of the DVD to hear the language and learn the pronunciation.
Sit aine loge di raw d’o.

This is a muskrat house.
Didan aine mayson di raw d’o.

Inside of the muskrat house.
Si di bibi dan la loge di raw d’o.

These are babies in the muskrat house.
Ain raw d’o mang li rasin di plant d’o.

A muskrat eating the roots of water plants.
A muskrat is eating reeds.

Ain raw d’o manj li rozo.

A muskrat is eating reeds.
Leon it apray plemi ain raw d’o.

Leon is skinning a muskrat.
Keon mot la po ki li dija sech parir pour alli l’vend.

Keon is showing the other children the muskrat skin.
Leon puts the skin on a stretcher to dry.
Keon is showing them a muskrat skin that is already dry and ready for market.
A Louis Riel Institute Book

Thank you to the families who provided photos for this book. Without your help this project would not be possible.

Painting by Deborah Lavallee

Canadian Heritage Patrimoine canadien

Louis Riel Institute
103-150 Henry Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 0J7