

Métis Identity

Norman Meade, Métis Elder: The first thing that they should know is that we are a land-based people, we're a water based people. We get our strength from there. We get spiritual strength from there and that's what makes us who we are today. It makes us strong because we get our spirit right from creation. That's all part of your culture, your upbringing, your lifestyle and a lot times non-indigenous people don't understand that. But I know when I meet non-Indigenous people today, and we do have a lot of immigrants a lot of newcomers to Canada, they always get the wrong message when they first come because history has been taught so poorly about who we are not only – not only as Métis but as First Nations. As Métis they don't know anything who we are. I find that out where I work at the university. And when start talking about who we are as Métis, mixed blood people, it doesn't take very long before they start realizing there's a strong race of people here that we didn't know about. We always thought that everyone was Indian, or what we say First Nation. Well, we're relatives but we're not First Nations. We get called Indians and that's fine, I am good with that term. Our family always knew we were Indians because the government kind of defined us. We're ok with that as a family, that's who we are. But more importantly, we are people of the land, we're people of the water, we're people of creation and that's who we are.