



Dr. Laura Forsythe
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Participant Recruitment Letter

Taanishi Kiya,

My name is Dr. Laura Forsythe, a Métis scholar at the University of Winnipeg in the Faculty of Education and co-founder of the Métis Thinkers Network Non-profit Organization. My research focus is on Métis-specific contributions to the academy, Métis inclusion efforts, and educational sovereignty. Scholarly contributions include seven edited collections, numerous peer-reviewed publications, and the co-creation of two Indigenous academic journals. My kinship ties include the Huppe, Ward, Berard, Morin, Lavallee, and Cyr lines. My ancestors worked for the Northwest and Hudson's Bay Companies, fought in the Victory of Frog Plain, and owned Lot 31, the site of a contemporary Métis space called Pakan Town.

I am doing a research project bringing together Métis community members, students, emerging and established scholars to evaluate the Métis Thinkers Network contributions to community thus far. Our goal is to enhance opportunities available through the network, support both in-person and virtual gathering spaces for network members, and to collaborate with other Métis thinkers across institutions. This research project will give the community a chance to provide meaningful input into the reception of the network's offerings so far and shape the collective future of the network.

Would you be interested in being interviewed as part of this research project?

Below is a longer description of the project and some of the sample interview questions.

If you are willing to be interviewed, please carefully review the attached consent form and send any questions or completed forms to metisthinkersresearch@gmail.com. This research has been approved by the Research Ethics Board at the University of Winnipeg. Should you have any concerns, you may contact the board at ethics@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-474-7122 or contact me at l.forsythe@uwinnipeg.ca or 204-698-7479.

Kishchee tey mo'yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn (Proud to be Métis)
Laura Forsythe B.A, B.Ed, M.A, Ph.D
Associate Professor
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Purpose of the Study

The proposed research aims to assess the Métis community's feedback on the Métis Thinkers Network's offerings thus far. With the launch of the Métis Thinkers Network digital infrastructure in June 2026, a series of community knowledge production, mentorship, and social events will be available to the community leading up to September 2026's knowledge mobilization event. To continue to shape our network through community feedback, this research aims to analyze thoughts, feelings, and suggestions for the Métis Thinkers Network thus far and vision the future of the network.

Sample Interview Questions

The interviews will be done in a kitchen table conversation style, where up to 10 participants will be seated at one table, answering the interview questions by having conversations surrounding the topics provided. The event will happen in-person at Deerfoot Inn in Calgary, Alberta on September 20, 2026, with the interview portion lasting up to one-hour in length. Participating in this research project will be totally opt-in and offered to the Métis Thinkers Network community which is made up of students, scholars both emerging and established, and community members.

- How have you been participating in the network?
 - o If you have participated, how was your experience (ex: of belonging)?
 - o If you didn't, why not?
 - o How is it affecting your sense of belonging and self-worth in the academy?
- Have you met anyone new?
- What do you hope to see for the future of the Network?

Compensation

Participants will receive a complimentary dinner at Deerfoot Inn Conference Centre as well as an honorarium gift of cultural artwork.