



Emcee Bios



MICHAEL ROY DENNY, Eskasoni Mi'kmaw Nation is a well-respected young person and knowledge keeper. He is a fluent speaker of the Mi'kmaq language and an avid supporter of the Mi'kmaq culture. He is an active volunteer in his home community of Eskasoni, especially with the community powwow and cultural events. He is a singer and dancer of the traditional Mi'kmaq dance, Ko'jua. He is also a respected Powwow singer and dancer. Since 2002, Michael R. has been the drum keeper and lead singer for one of Atlantic Canada's premier singing groups, Stoney Bear Singers. As a drum keeper, he upholds the most respect and honour the drums' teachings by staying sober and attending traditional ceremonies. Michael provides services such as cultural sensitivity training, cultural workshops, organizing cultural events, powwow singing/dancing, Ji'kmaqnn making, traditional songs, dance workshops (Ko'jua), and emceeing events within Cape Breton, and the Atlantic Provinces. He is a well-known powwow MC in the Atlantic Provinces. In 2010, he started working with Indian Residential School survivors as a Resolution Health Support Worker. This position is very dear to his heart as his father is an Indian Residential School Survivor, along with his aunts. This ties in to the cultural revival that he is teaching, because the culture that they lost through those schools, Michael has been teaching many other Mi'kmaq youth through-out Mi'kma'ki. When he isn't travelling to powwows or working, Michael enjoys fishing, hiking, hunting and exploring Cape Breton Island.



ḥaasʔaʔuk – JOHN RAMPANEN is of nuučaaḥuʔ (Nuu-chah-nulth) ancestry along the western coast of Vancouver Island. His lineage stems from ʕaḥuusʔaḥ and qitcmaʔaḥ roots. ḥaasʔaʔuk is a trained linguist and language/culture revitalization advocate. He is fluent in the nuučaaḥuʔ language and is involved in curriculum development, design and delivery for language and cultural learning environments. ḥaasʔaʔuk is an Art of Hosting and Appreciative Inquiry practitioner that facilitates with a uniquely indigenous approach. He is also a father of eight beautiful children and enjoys composing and playing music.



MONA BUORS For over 25 years has held several volunteer positions within the Métis Nation. Her professional career has been as an educator with the Manitoba Teachers' Society and the BC Teachers' Federation. Throughout her 35 year career she had the pleasure to teach all grades kindergarten to Grade 12. For the last 20 years of her teaching career she taught in the metis Community of St. Laurent where culture and language was always part of the curriculum and utmost importance to this Metis community. Completely bilingual, she is also a translator for many literary books. She has been married for 42 years and has two children and three grandsons who are proud to live their culture and heritage. She has passed down her oral traditions of language, culture and spirituality to her grandsons, daughter and son.



DESIREE GILLESPIE is a Metis woman from the Interlake Region of Manitoba and is proud of her roots in St. Laurent, MB. Desiree has worked in HR for 18 Years and currently works as Director of the Metis Child and Family Community Institute and service specialist social worker. She's an author of Children books and a graduate of the University of Manitoba faculty of social work (2013) and was on the Dean's Honor Role as the first every Metis cohort. Desiree volunteers as the Chairperson of the Stonewall and Area Metis Local for the past ten (10) years and has been appointed as a Metis Commissioner to the Manitoba Police Commission for the last three (3) years.