

Jo-Ina Young



*“My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake,
it will be the artists who give them their spirit back.”*

Louis Riel, July 4, 1885

Jo-Ina Young is the Cultural Director for the Metis Nation of Greater Victoria and sits on the board of the Island Metis Child and Family Services. She is an active and respected Elder, Knowledge Keeper and Metis artist.

Jo-Ina has been a Metis role model in local schools since 2013. A captivating story teller, she brings a diverse range of cultural awareness to the classroom. In age/grade specific presentations Jo-Ina crosses a number of topics through a range of cultural activities including handcraft, language and dance. Her passion and personality mix the gamut of honour, humour, knowledge and reclamation.

In a typical presentation Jo-Ina will engage students with a range of topics including Metis origins and history. Introduction to Michif language, explanation of traditional practice, and involvement through hands-on activities will be shared through a number of methods including discussion, interaction, and sensory experience. Students will learn about cultural symbols and their origins, enjoy exploring artifacts such as furs and textiles, learn to dance a jig, and create their own Metis objects through one of her many craft projects.

Jo-Ina participates and facilitates a number of community activities throughout the Greater Victoria area. She can be found with the Ribbon Skirt Dancers, Westcoast Jiggers, Learning Michif While Beading, Royal Roads National Indigenous Peoples Day, as well as the Aboriginal Education Council in SD62. Her artwork has been shown in a numerous venues, including the Sooke Fine Arts Show.