

Article details: 2020-0018	
Title	Exploring Métis health, spirituality, and wellbeing using a qualitative structured survey: a patient-oriented community-based study with the Métis Nation of Alberta — Region 3
Authors	Carla S. Ginn RN PhD, Craig W.C. Ginn BA MA PhD, Lawrence Gervais, Judy Gentes, Doreen Dumont, Vaness Bergum, Noelle Rees, Travis Ronald, Tom Doupé, Ashley Camponi
Reviewer 1	Dr. Heather J.A. Foulds
Institution	College of Kinesiology, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Sask.
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>This manuscript provides interesting information regarding the importance of culture, spirituality and identity among Métis. Some further clarification is needed in a few places and some ideas could be better connected to the core results of the paragraph.</p> <p>1. Introduction: your historical background of Métis, identifying underlying experiences of colonization focuses only on Louis Riel and the Battle of Batoche. While only about 20 Métis families were fighting with Louis Riel, the trauma of colonization and the intergenerational impacts of the experiences of the Métis at this time were experienced by the larger Nation of Métis. The experience of hiding Métis identity and withholding culture over the past 150 years has been experienced by many Métis families. The marginalizing of Métis people is also exemplified by the lack of Government acknowledgement of land rights and the formation, and disbanding in many provinces, of Road Allowance communities. The following references may be useful in expanding this experience. Richardson, C.L. <i>Becoming Metis: The Relationship Between the Sense of Metis Self and Cultural Stories</i>. School of Child and Youth Care, University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C. Shore, F. 2001. <i>The Emergence of the Métis Nation in Manitoba</i>. In <i>Métis Legacy: A Métis Historiographical and Annotated Bibliography</i>. Edited by L.J. Barkwell, L. Dorion, and D.R. Préfontaine. Pemmican Publications, Winnipeg, MB. Thanks for these references and suggestions. We have added Richardson, and, Teillet's 2019, "The Northwest is our Mother," to our manuscript. So much more could be written but necessary word counts are limiting.</p> <p>2. Please consider capitalizing "Indigenous" throughout the manuscript Thanks, we have done so.</p> <p>3. You have highlighted the completion rate as the response rate for surveys administered. Are you able to report the response rate (how many people attended these mixers and were eligible to compete the surveys compared to how many requested surveys)? Unfortunately, we did not record how many people attended the mixers. We had initially left out this completion rate of 29 out of 31 surveys (94%) and sure will take it out again if needed. There are 14,000 MNA-Region 3 members, and 6,300 live in Calgary and area (not including those who self-identify). Approximately 50 to 100 people regularly attend monthly mixers, so it is difficult to determine response rates. It may be easier to determine in each smaller community when we engage with them for survey distribution.</p> <p>4. Did you have any inclusion criteria? Were all attendees members of MNA-</p>

	<p>Region 3? Or were their spouses in attendance who are not Métis? If so, were they eligible to complete a survey? Did all members who requested surveys meet a minimum age requirement? Was there a minimum age requirement?</p> <p>Attendees and guests were in attendance at the mixers. All MNA -Region 3 members receive email invitations to monthly mixers. Spouses and families are welcome. Members over 18 were invited to participate in survey completion. We have clarified this in the manuscript.</p> <p>5. I am assuming the consent process was covered through the explanation of the study at the mixers and implicit in participants requesting surveys. Please clarify more explicitly how/if informed consent was obtained.</p> <p>Yes, the research was described along with the process of consent. CHREB – approved consent forms (paper copies) were also reviewed and signed by each participant.</p> <p>6. Page 7, line 45, please capitalize “Nation”</p> <p>Thanks!</p> <p>7. Interpretation 2nd paragraph. You describe Métis spiritual connections being challenged by “white passing”, then refer to a challenge in the child welfare system of a lack of knowledge about Métis by child welfare authorities. Please expand to draw the links between these sentences and the subsequent descriptions of spirituality, trauma etc. Right now, the sentence of child welfare seems out of place, though I believe this could be an important contributor for some Métis. Similarly, the final sentence about Métis governance agreements with the Government of Canada needs to be better linked into the paragraph – how does this fit into the core messages of the paragraph?</p> <p>Thanks, we have expanded this paragraph and included more literature surrounding these issues.</p> <p>8. There are some minor grammar corrections to make: consistency of the reference placement in relation to final word and period and spacing around the reference; indentation of paragraphs, etc. that will likely be corrected in printing.</p> <p>Thanks for your thorough review, we have edited throughout.</p>
Reviewer 2	Dr. Janet Gunderson
Institution	Patient reviewer
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>This article is clearly written and is a good example of patient oriented research and using the IAP2, participation spectrum. The research team has included several community members who helped create the survey. They also took part in distributing the surveys as well as gathering and participating in the analysis of the surveys. Elders and leaders in the community participated in the survey as well as other community members.</p> <p>The authors acknowledge that this was a small sample size. The authors had clear recommendations about how to further this research. The top three priorities were clearly listed.</p> <p>I found the quotes from community members very powerful. The past history was stated clearly. The quotes from Métis people really expressed the findings of this research. I found the article very interesting.</p>
Reviewer 3	Ms. Janice Linton

Institution	Neil John Maclean Health Sciences Library, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Man.
General comments (author response in bold)	<p>I would like to begin this review with thanking you for your submission. This is a valuable contribution to the literature on health in Canada. My apologies for being delayed in sending my comments, due to many changes during this COVID-19 outbreak in the spring of 2020. Please see the attached file for more detailed comments.</p> <p>I appreciate that the work was carried out primarily and collaboratively by members of the Métis Nation of Alberta, as stated by the Métis co-authors. As a reviewer, I am grateful for this opportunity to provide comments and suggestions to help readers to get the most out of the description of your work and the findings. I am a non-Indigenous health researcher who has worked with and learned from Métis people for over 20 years.</p> <p>This article is interesting and presents information and perspective not often shared in a major medical journal in Canada. The article is clearly written, free from unnecessary jargon, and provides sufficient detail in the description of the methods to serve as a useful guide to others interested in carrying out participatory action research. The results section was particularly engaging featuring a good selection of quotes under each theme. This work will serve to fill a gap in the medical literature. It will help to inform non-Indigenous clinicians and health researchers about the perspectives, experiences, and cultural connectedness of Métis peoples.</p> <p>As a reviewer, I would like to suggest some minor issues which might benefit from re-examination and perhaps revision, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In the keywords section, please include the phrase ‘Indigenous health’. This will help more researchers to discover the article. Thanks for this suggestion, the keywords are selected from an existing list, therefore we are unable to add Indigenous health. 2. I believe the word ‘Indigenous’ should always be capitalized Thanks, we capitalized throughout. 3. <i>CMAJ</i> might consider including suggestions from Greg Younging’s ‘Elements of Indigenous Style’ in the instructions for authors Great idea! Thanks for this recommendation. 4. Line 52 – should spell out CHREB and include the information that it is the university’s ethics approval board (this is important since some jurisdictions also have an Indigenous ethics approval or protocol) Thanks we have updated. 5. Although the writing is clear and concise, it is a bit awkward in a few places. Have revised throughout. 6. e.g. Line 23 “discussed ways to go about the study”, could be revised to state “discussed ways to carry out the study” Thanks, we reworded this section.

7. e.g. Lines 38-40 -- I don't believe one can end a sentence with "included the following" followed by a period. This section might benefit from a bit of reworking, including punctuation.

We have reworded and reworked.

8. Overall, I appreciated the tone of the work, as revealed in the findings, which was shared through a strengths-based, positive lens. The quotes on racism against Métis people are particularly important to share with non-Indigenous people in Canada. It was enlightening to use that issue to emphasize the importance of connection to Métis ancestry for Métis people.

Thanks so much, I have learned so much from this insightful group.

9. The final suggestion I wish to make is about using the term 'Half-breed'. I believe it would benefit from having a footnote or statement embedded in the text that contextualizes the term more fully for non-Métis readers. MNA webpages or scholarly books could be referenced. See sources such as <https://www.baclac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/metis/Pages/metis-genealogy.aspx>

<https://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/metis-scrip/005005-4000-e.html>

I believe it is more often spelled as 'Half-Breed' or 'half-breed'. I don't think it would hurt to add a paragraph or two to indicate that the term is dated and considered to be offensive.

We have removed the term from the manuscript as even a couple of paragraphs would not suffice to contextualize the term more fully.