

**Gilbert Pelletier, Norman Fleury, Sherry Farrell-Racette**

**Video 2**

**Start: 9:25.51.12 SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - I wonder when, when do you think people started speaking Michif? How old do you think it is?

**NORMAN FLEURY** - Well if you look at the language itself, for instance, my Mom's gonna be 102. Her parents were born in 1873, they spoke it. And her Grandparents were born in 1840 spoke it. So that tells you right there that it's a very old language.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - It was around for awhile.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** – It's been around for awhile.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - You know, and a hundred years is a long time, even if you just look at a hundred years.

**58.7 GILBERT PELLETIER** - And you know that, well they used to be, we used to be known as Half-breeds. You know, but our Métis, or our Métis today they were just, they knew each other as Michif, not Métis, they were not Métis, they were not Half-breeds, they were Michif.

**SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - That's what they called themselves.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - And they'd say well, you know, **(Speaks Michif)**. You know, we'll go visit these Michif out there. But they all called themselves Michif and they ask them what they, what language they speak, Michif.

**(Video Time: 9:26.53.18) 59.3 NORMAN FLEURY - (Speaks Michif)**  
and **GILBERT PELLETIER (Answers in Michif 59.3 – 59.9)**.

**NORMAN FLUERY** - We speak Michif but now and more and more it's, it's, you relate your language with your nationality.

**GILBERT PELLETIER** - Yeah, yeah, with your nationality.

**NORMAN FLEURY** - And that's Michif you see, and that's how that became about. And there's another person actually, her name is Nicole Rosen, she's from Winnipeg and it's the first time ever in the history of Canada that somebody other than another country has taken time to do their PhD on Michif. And I'm her consultant, and she goes to the University of Toronto, she's in Ottawa right now and she's doing her PhD on Michif and she's a Canadian so, that's another way, another milestone in history for the, for the Michif language. So there's a lot of people that are interested, especially the scholars and a lot of people, the historians, and more and more our Canadian heritage is starting to realize that this Nation, that we never did much or had much to do with, have very much to offer and they're part of the, the Canadian, you know, the flag and being Canadians. They were here, they'd been here, they did this, these are their contributions and, and now they want to know. And it makes me happy to know that I'm one of those people that had that rich culture and rich history in the language.

**(Video Time: 9:28.49.07) 61.3 SHERRY FARRELL-RACETTE** - What I find is that so much of the, like, just listening to you over the last little while, so much of the, you can really see when people talk about how the culture is in the language. Cause in the stories and just, just in the, like the ways that language was used every day, how you would refer to other people, it's like the important values. You can really, you know, you can really see that, how much this was passed on in terms of how you conduct yourself, what is considered good and bad, what is considered a good life or a bad life in a way, social control but also respect, and just everything was, was passed on through the language, when you start moving away from that...

**62.0 NORMAN FLEURY** - And they also had a governmental structure. You know, like similar like to what they had with Louis Riel and his government. And that remained with our people, they had a structure and it was, and it was passed on from the laws of the hunt and just the laws of government, and that remained in the homes. Like there was respect in the homes and people were, took pride in who they were years ago.

**End: 9:29.59.03**