

SERIES

One liner description (120 characters):

Michif Country explores the unique landscape, culture and language of the michif community of St-Laurent, MB.

Short description (260 characters):

The amazing St-Laurent, MB serves as the backdrop for Indigenous celebrities to embark on a series of traditional hunting, trapping and fishing expeditions with the locals. The end result is an inspiring exchange of culture and knowledge between nations.

Long description (4000 characters):

Michif Country is a documentary series that explores the unique landscape, culture and language of the michif community of St-Laurent, Manitoba. This amazing place serves as the backdrop for Indigenous celebrities to embark on a series of traditional hunting, trapping and fishing expeditions with the locals. The end result is a comedic, exhilarating and inspiring exchange of culture and knowledge between nations. Through the curiosity and perspective of the invited celebrities, we enter a unique world where a life of subsistence isn't just talked about in history books, it's a way of life.

The Michif of St-Laurent have invented a big word which perfectly sums up one of the defining parts of their identity; they call it « la chasse-trappe-pêche » (“hunt-trap-fish”). When someone in St-Laurent answers the question, what do you do for a living or what do you do to keep yourself busy, they say “je fait de la chasse-trappe-pêche” without even taking a breath in between the words. These words are inextricably connected in St-Laurent; always have been and always will be, for they are deeply ingrained in the community's DNA. This is what makes St-Laurent one of the most timeless and unique Indigenous communities on the face of the planet.

Of course, they live in the 21st century with modern day accoutrements. They have cell phones (when the signal comes in!). They drive pick-up trucks and ski-doo's, but there is a part of them that's remained authentic, just like when their ancestors first came to settle on the shores of Lake Manitoba two hundred years ago. The Michifs of St-Laurent are larger than life, something to behold. They are the largest Métis community in the world as recognized by the Smithsonian Museum. As in the past, they hunt, trap, fish. They pick berries and grow their gardens. They are almost completely self-sufficient. They eat the game they catch, trap the shikaak (skunk), the foutreau (mink) and the rat-muské (muskrat). They consume their brains and sell their furs. Their lives are punctuated by the seasons. Just like their ancestors, they pride themselves on living life just like “les hommes libres”; free and independent from the trappings of the mainstream. They embrace their traditions and still prefer doing things their way. Of course, they have to deal with modern times, pay their bills and adapt, but in spite of this, they have retained a very strong connection to their traditional ways. They take the 21st century with a

grain of salt because in their head and in their heart, they are elsewhere, in a timeless country, in the swamp, in the forest, on the lake, somewhere in nature. And it's a dream opportunity for television viewers everywhere to discover them in the documentary series Michif Country.

SEASON

One liner description (120 characters):

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EPISODE 301 – Leonard Sumner

One liner description (120 characters):

Michif Country will be hunting with prominent Indigenous singer/songwriter Leonard Sumner!

Short description (260 characters):

Local Michif elder Earl St. Goddard and several of his young family members will be hosting Leonard Sumner and showing him how to hunt for deer in the untouched forest area near St. Laurent.

Long description (4000 characters):

In this episode of Michif Country, we will be white tail deer hunting, connecting back to nature and being inspired by returning to the bush with local musician Leonard Sumner. Local Michif elder Earl St. Goddard and several of his young family members will be hosting Leonard and showing him how to hunt for deer in the untouched forest area near St. Laurent. Leonard is an Indigenous singer and songwriter and is always open to meeting new people, it's one of his favorite things when he's on tour, stating that his music is best enjoyed in person and meeting listeners lets him see first-hand how his music connects with others. He hopes to continue this exchange in learning how to hunt with the Michif and perhaps sharing a song with them when they feast.

EPISODE 302 – Christian Pilon

One liner description (120 characters):

In this episode of Michif Country we are welcoming TV personality and proud Michif, Christian Pilon.

Short description (260 characters):

Christian will be hosted by an unlikely fishing duo of Roger Chartrand and Earl St Goddard. These two Michif men have never fished together before, but unique circumstances have brought them together. There's over 100 years of fishing experience between them!

Long description (4000 characters):

In this episode of Michif Country we are welcoming TV personality and proud Michif, Christian Pilon. Christian is a Michif from northern Ontario who has moved to the north of Ottawa. He spends most of his days immersed in Michif culture and also practices many of the traditional activities of his First Nation's relatives, including traditional medicine, spirituality, and most notably, he builds birch bark canoes. Not only does he build them, but he teaches this process to others and uses the craft as a type of exercise where each process has its own lesson.

Christian will be hosted by an unlikely fishing duo of Roger Chartrand and Earl St Goddard. These two Michif men have never fished together before, but unique circumstances have brought them together. Last year, Earl was dealing with some major injuries that prevented him from commercial fishing as much as he would have liked, so his old fishing partner has since moved on. For Roger, his fishing partner was his wife, who sadly passed away last year. There's over 100 years of fishing experience between these two Michif men, making them a great team to bring Christian out on the ice.

EPISODE 303 – Drezus

One liner description (120 characters):

Fishing season is winding down in Michif Country, and the mad dash has begun to finish off the year on a strong note.

Short description (260 characters):

The crew will be adding a couple new crew members to help with the big job that lies ahead. Rapper Drezus has been drafted onto the crew to assist with the daunting task of pulling up dozens of nets and processing what should prove to be a big haul of pickerel

Long description (4000 characters):

Fishing season is winding down in Michif Country, and the mad dash has begun to finish off the year on a strong note. The commercial fishing outfit made up of Norbert Langelier, Rene Coutu and Ryan Cavane have had a good season with about 80 nets in the water. We're midway through the final month of the commercial fishing season and as temperatures heat up, so does fishing activity. It's critical this time of year to pull up all of the nets before the ice breaks-up, but you don't want to do it too soon and risk losing out on the bounty of the late season rush. The crew will be adding a couple new crew members to help with the big job that lies ahead. Rapper Drezus has been drafted onto the crew to assist with the daunting task of pulling up dozens of nets and processing what should prove to be a great haul of fresh, Lake Manitoba pickerel. Drezus, who is originally from treaty four in Saskatchewan, has never been commercial ice fishing before, but this large man is up to the task.

EPISODE 404 – Cody McCormick

One liner description (120 characters):

As the Michifs hang their fishing nets to dry, the sounds of water fowl passing overhead marks the start of duck season!

Short description (260 characters):

Joining a trio of Michif duck hunters is former NHL hockey player and tough guy, Cody McCormick. Cody has had a successful career in professional hockey, most of it in the NHL with teams like the Colorado Avalanche, and the Buffalo Sabers.

Long description (4000 characters):

After another successful fishing season, the Michif of St Laurent have parked their Bombardiers until next season. As they pack away their fishing tools and hang their nets to dry, the sounds of water fowl passing overhead marks the start of spring duck and geese hunting.

Laurent “La Bite” Dumont is from St Laurent but has spent the last 20 years working in the city. He recently retired from his city job and he and his wife moved back to the place where his heart lives. Now that he is back in his hometown and with extra time on his hands, he can take part in all of the luxuries that the Michif community can provide, and this time of year, that luxury is duck hunting.

Ivan and Lance Lambert are two young Michif hunters who have a similar story to the elder, La Bite. They are both from St Laurent, but moved away to find work. Even with their busy work schedules, they take every chance they get to return back home to hunt, fish, or trap and the prospect of spring duck hunting always gets them excited. Having hunted for ducks in the area the previous few seasons, they have scouted a spot that is a favorable location for hunting ducks.

Joining the trio of Michif duck hunters is former NHL hockey player and tough guy, Cody McCormick. Cody has had a successful career in professional hockey, most of it in the NHL with teams like the Colorado Avalanche, and the Buffalo Sabers. An avid hunter, Cody has spent many early mornings in tree blinds, but he has never been duck hunting.

EPISODE 305 – Geneviève Toupin**One liner description (120 characters):**

The ice has finally melted on Lake Manitoba and the spring sun has begun, kicking off the carp fishing season!

Short description (260 characters):

Joining Julien on this carp fishing adventure is Metis artist Geneviève Toupin. Genevieve is a native Manitoban who has lived in Montreal for the better part of the last decade writing music and performing.

Long description (4000 characters):

The ice has finally melted on Lake Manitoba and the spring sun has begun warming the countryside. St Laurent and the whole province of Manitoba saw record snowfall over the winter and lake levels are higher than in previous years. In spring, most Michif fishermen find work where they can, many work in construction and other blue collar jobs. A select few will submit their names for a unique fishing draw that would punch their ticket to a spring carp fishing opportunity. This year, that draw was won by Michif fisherman Julien Chartrand and he couldn't be happier about it.

Joining Julien on this fishing adventure is Metis artist Geneviève Toupin. Genevieve is a native Manitoban who has lived in Montreal for the better part of the last decade writing music and performing. Geneviève is from the small community of St Claude and is no stranger to harvesting, but has never been commercial fishing before. Like most people in Manitoba, she has no knowledge of the effects carp have on the ecosystem in Lake Manitoba and it's surrounding marshes

EPISODE 306 – Janelle Niles**One liner description (120 characters):**

In this episode of Michif Country we will be immersing guest Janelle Niles into the Michif summer spirit!

Short description (260 characters):

In this episode of Michif Country we will be immersing guest Janelle Niles into the Michif summer spirit, harvesting traditional medicines.

Long description (4000 characters):

When the summer sun and rain are feeding all of the plants in and around Michif Country, it's important to be cultivating, growing food, and harvesting natural elements that can be used for medicine and other important resources to make surviving the cold and brutal winter a little easier.

In this episode of Michif Country we will be immersing guest Janelle Niles into the Michif summer spirit, harvesting traditional medicines. Janelle is a comedian originally hailing from Truro, Nova Scotia. She is of Afro Indigenous descent and speaks proudly of being two-spirit.

Janelle's host for her time in Michif Country is Laurent Dumont, a proud Michif Man who was born and raised in St Laurent

EPISODE 307 – Desiree Dorion

One liner description (120 characters):

The dog days of summer are behind them, and the Michif of St Laurent are noticing a vast migration of birds overhead.

Short description (260 characters):

Michif Hunters Ivan Lambert and Laurent Dumont have been hunting ducks since they were kids. This year, they'll be taking Dauphin, Manitoba, based country music artist, Desiree Dorion along for the hunt.

Long description (4000 characters):

The dog days of summer are behind them, and the Michif of St Laurent are starting to notice a vast migration of birds overhead and that includes ducks and geese. Water fowl have always been a staple protein of the Michif diet, and the fall duck hunt is something that they look forward to every year.

Michif Hunters Ivan Lambert and Laurent Dumont have been hunting ducks since they were kids. To them, the best consolation prize for the end of summer is the fall hunt, and this year they'll be taking Dauphin Manitoba based country music artist, Desiree Dorion along for the hunt.

Desiree Dorion isn't just a country music artist, she's also a lawyer and a proud mother.

EPISODE 308 – JR LaRose

One liner description (120 characters):

In this episode, we are joined by retired CFL player and motivational speaker JR Larose in Michif Country.

Short description (260 characters):

In this episode, we are joined by retired CFL player and motivational speaker JR Larose in Michif Country. JR is a proud member of One Arrow First Nation and is a Grey Cup winning football player originally from Alberta.

Long description (4000 characters):

In this episode, we are joined by retired CFL player and motivational speaker JR Larose in Michif Country. JR is a proud member of One Arrow First Nation and is a Grey Cup winning football player originally from Alberta. Together with Michif trappers Earl St Goddard, his son Craig, and

old pal Rene Coutu, JR will attempt to step out of his comfort zone and go trapping for the first time!

EPISODE 309 – Blair Atcheynum

One liner description (120 characters):

Michif Country is welcoming former professional hockey player Blair Atcheynum for a special deer hunting expedition!

Short description (260 characters):

Michif Country is welcoming former professional hockey player Blair Atcheynum for a special deer hunting expedition! Laurent Dumont and Charles Langelier are seasoned hunters and are confident in the upcoming hunt.

Long description (4000 characters):

Michif Country is welcoming former professional hockey player Blair Atcheynum for a special deer hunting expedition! Laurent Dumont and Charles Langelier are seasoned hunters and are confident in the upcoming hunt.

Blair is a former NHL player with a career story that is unlike any other. Having made it to the NHL undrafted and then leaving the NHL to play with a seniors team, Blair worked hard and found his way back to the NHL to play several more seasons.

Blair originally hails from North Battleford, Saskatchewan and is a member of Sweet Grass First Nation.