



Clasp Purse Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship.

MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language are pleased to present the Clasp Purse Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship, facilitated by Métis artist **Lisa Shepherd**. Over three months of virtual workshops, participants will be taught how to create their own clasp purse in a small group mentorship setting. Skilled Métis artists will be required to **bead their purses**. This mentorship will discuss specific heritage techniques including two needle beading, beading with small beads, and beading on high pile velvet. At the end of the mentorship, the purses will be featured in a temporary exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute in Surrey, B.C.

*The mentorship opportunity is open to nine **B.C.-based MNBC Citizens**. The mentorship workshops will start in January, 2026 and run until April, 2026. All workshops will be held virtually. This is a [level 4 mentorship](#) which requires intermediate to advanced skill.*

Participants must commit to attending all workshops.

***Please make sure to carefully read and complete all eight pages of this application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**



ABOUT THE ARTIST.

Lisa Shepherd – biography

Lisa Shepherd is a celebrated artist and highly respected cultural ambassador and knowledge carrier for the Métis Nation, evidenced by the growth of her artist business, vast number of communities she has empowered through workshop facilitation, number of youth she has mentored, and by the acquisition of her culturally inspired art displayed across the nation and internationally. Lisa has employed her skill in interpreting contemporary Métis perspectives and ancestral histories into artistic works to create space for Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to learn about Métis culture. In doing so, she has revitalized culture and increased the visibility of Métis people across the homeland. You can visit some of Lisa's original works on display as part of the permanent collection of the Amelia Douglas Institute (ADI.)

Originally from Treaty 6 Territory and within the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta, Lisa now resides in British Columbia, as a citizen of Métis Nation BC, on the unceded shared territory of Katzie and Kwantlen First Nations. Her ancestors fought in the Victory of Frog Plain, founded the Laboucan Settlement (now Duhamel) and created beadwork that are identity pieces, containing stories that are cherished today.

WORKSHOP MATERIALS.

Materials Provided:

- Paper pattern pieces
- 62cm x 40cm velvet
- 13cm wide (5") metal rounded kiss lock clasp
- Brown bag paper to line beading panel
- Fine beading needles (#12 sharps)
- 34cm box link chain, to match clasp
- 2 split rings (approx. 1 cm)
- 40cm split strand of artificial sinew
- 2 appetizer skewers
- E6000 glue
- \$50 honoraria for purchasing additional adornment materials

The following required items will be the responsibility of the artist to provide:

- 52cm x 40cm of lining fabric
- 13/0 beads
- Beading thread
- Sewing machine
- Sewing machine thread (to match velvet)
- Glue stick
- Focal bead for tassel
- 1m embroidery floss, silk is best, but cotton also works
- Scissors

ELIGIBILITY.

To be eligible for the Clasp Purse Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship, participants must:

- Be an MNBC citizen
- Be a resident of British Columbia
- Be able to source your own beads and other required materials not provided (see list on the workshop overview)
- Be able to commit 40-80 hours over a span of three months to constructing a clasp purse outside of the regular workshop hours
- Commit to attending all six virtual workshops on Thursday evenings starting at **6:00 pm PST**
- Able and to learn and participate in a virtual setting*
- Intermediate to advanced skill level in beading with experience in hand sewing and finishing.
- Have a sewing machine and basic machine sewing skills.
- Commit to completing a clasp purse by April 16, 2026.
- Agree to having their purse displayed in an exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute in Surrey, B.C. from May to August 2026.

*Active participation is required as this mentorship operates like a sharing circle. You will be expected to come off mute and have your camera on while sharing (unless excused due to illness or other circumstances). Being in circle on camera facilitates a safe space for sharing and brings us together. These workshops are intended for learning, community and connection!

APPLICATION.

**Mandatory fields*

*Full Name:

*Full Shipping Address:

Socials (if applicable):

Website (If applicable):

*E-mail:

*Phone:

1. *Are you a resident of B.C.?

Yes or No

2. MNBC Citizenship Number:

3. *Please indicate your Métis heritage arts skill level:

This is a [level 4 mentorship](#) which requires intermediate to advanced skill. Novice and beginner applications will not be considered.

Level 1 Novice

- *Has not completed any Métis heritage arts projects/No experience.*

Level 2 Beginner

- *New artist – can do and finish basic small projects, individual flowers or earrings*

Level 3 Intermediate

- *Experienced – has completed some intricate projects including larger compositions, some finishing skills including hand sewing and leatherwork*

Level 4 Advanced

- *Very experienced – completed many large or intricate projects, large compositions, advanced finishing skills including hand sewing and leatherwork*

4. Describe the most recent intermediate to advanced Métis heritage arts project you have completed.

5. *Why do you want to make a clasp purse? (150 word limit)

5. *Do you have experience teaching Métis heritage art practices to other artists?

Yes No

6. *Upon completing this class, would you be open to teaching others within your local Métis community how to create a clasp purse

Yes No

AGREEMENT: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

In submitting this application, I acknowledge and agree that:

- I have reviewed and I meet the eligibility criteria. If chosen, I will be able to dedicate the time needed (40-80 hours) to complete my clasp purse by April 16, 2026.
- I am able to supply my own beads and other required materials for this project.
- I am able to successfully finish projects with virtual and written instructions.
- I will attend every workshop class. I will let the MNBC Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language know if I am unable to attend a class due to extenuating circumstances.
- If chosen as a participant, and my circumstances change so that I am no longer able to participate in the workshop before it begins, I will notify the MNBC Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language team so that they can offer my spot to someone else. I will also return any materials that may have been shipped to me, and \$50 honoraria at my own expense.
- If chosen, I agree to have my clasp purse featured in an exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute from May – August 2026.
- I understand that these workshop series receive a lot of applications and spaces are limited. I will be responsible for beading and sewing on my own time outside of classes and holding myself accountable to meet the workshop series schedule.
- I am confident and can commit to dedicating the time required to complete this project and attend the workshops in the given time frame. I acknowledge that participants who drop out or do not finish the workshop during the workshop series may not be considered for future workshop series offered by the Ministry.
- I understand that the workshop will be delivered over Zoom. I agree to participate and learn in a virtual setting which includes participating in sharing circles which require me to be on-camera.

Submit your application.

Please submit your Clasp Purse Heritage Arts Mentorship application and supporting documents by **December 1, 2025, at 12:00 pm PST**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified by December 12, 2025.

Include three photographs of **recently completed beadwork projects that best showcase your Métis heritage arts skills**. These pieces should highlight your commitment to the arts and ability to complete a time-intensive project which includes hand sewing and finishing work.

Please email your application and supporting documents to: chl@mNBC.ca

Signature:

Date: