



## **Kishchee tey mo'yawn aen li Michif wi'yawn (Proud to be Métis)**

### **Curriculum and Cultural Integration**

Fern and Mark Perkins present Métis education, history and culture, to learners of all ages. Fern is an Annishnaabe/Salish/Métis great-great-great Granddaughter of Scottish Hudson Bay Company Chief Trader, Charles Ross, and his Saulteau wife, Isabella Mainville. A 6th generation Victorian, Fern has been a professional educator in Victoria, Saskatchewan and Idaho during the past 45 years. She also formerly wrote online curriculum for Indigenous youth in BC, with the Provincial Health Services Authority.

Mark, a retired Battalion Chief with the Victoria Fire Department, discovered his mother was a Cree/Shoshone/Métis descendant of Peter Skene Ogden. His mother was born at the Kitsumkalum First Nation. Mark is in the process of retracing his family's journey and all their relations.

Together, Fern and Mark teach about the often invisible and forgotten Indigenous people that helped build Canada, especially the Métis of BC.

### **ROSS BAY CEMETERY TOURS**

As volunteer members with the Old Cemeteries Society, Fern and Mark Perkins also conduct historical tours at Ross Bay Cemetery, focusing on local Indigenous Peoples who are buried there, including the Ross family, some Ogden descendants, and other Métis families that came to live in the Fort, like Douglas, McNeill, Tod, McKay, and Helmcken. Songhees and N'sga Chiefs, Tsimshian Elders, unrecognized First Nations residential school survivors and early Victoria Métis citizens, such as Rachel Marsden and 'Wash Mary', and the first known Indigenous Victoria Fire Chief may also be included. Stories of interactions with the settler community include some well-known colonial people, such as Emily Carr and Bishop Cridge.

