

Speaking Michif-French Series  
Louis Riel Institute

# Aine Bel Gros Gornoyl

A Nice Big Frog



Written By Patricia Millar

## A Louis Riel Institute Book

Thank you to the families who provided photos for this book. Without your help this project would not be possible.

Thank you to the St. Laurent Aboriginal Headstart for providing the beautiful site to film, gathering the volunteer families, and being incredibly helpful.

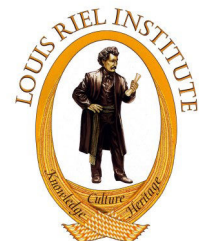
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## **Choosing a Spelling System for the Michif-French language**

Michif is historically an oral language and as a result there is no standardized spelling for either the Michif-Cree or the Michif-French languages. Michif speaker and teacher Patricia Millar took on this project to create a teaching resource in her beloved Michif-French, however she has had the difficult task of deciding how the language should be spelled.

A group of local women, all fluent speakers, convened to help with the decision making. They chose to make the spelling phonetic to aid with pronunciation. They also tried to get rid of 'unnecessary' silent letters. The phonics they used are English for two reasons; 1 to help English speakers to decode the language, 2. To differentiate it from the French. Michif-French is a dialect of French but has different pronunciation, many shortened words and uses some vocabulary not common in today's French language.

This is the first project of its kind for the Michif-French language, and as a result the spelling system used here is just a start and will likely be refined in future projects before it is standardized. Please make use of the DVD to hear the language and learn the pronunciation.



**Anaka port aine bel gros gornoyl.**

Anaka is holding a beautiful big frog.



**Y'a tout nitwayi li pat di gornoyl.**

They cleaned all the frog legs.



**Mmmm, son tot kuy pi sa l'on d'layr bon.**

Mmmm, they are all cooked and they look good.



**Anaka y l'em sa manji li pat di gornoyl.**

Anaka likes eating frog legs.



**Beau ito y l'em sa manji li pat di gornoyl.**

Beau also likes to eat frog legs.





**Jane la mere di Anaka ipi Beau pi lu tante Nicole sa l'em sa ito li gornoyl.**

Their mom Jane and Aunty Nicole also like frogs.

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Art by Deborah Lavallee



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