

MÉTISBC



NATION

Métis Sash

There are many traditions in the Métis culture, some of which are fiddle playing, folk songs and tales, crafts such as beading and the Métis Sash. The sash served as a temporary tumpline, key holder, first aid kit, washcloth, towel and at times an emergency bridle or saddle blanket. It became a sewing kit at times during a buffalo hunt. This sash was particularly familiar to those who settled in the Red River area and is still an integral part of Métis celebrations today.

Meaning of its Colors:

- » Red - Is for the blood of the Métis that was shed through the years while fighting for our rights.
- » Blue - Is for the depth of our spirits.
- » Green - Is for the fertility of a great nation.
- » White - Is for our connection to the earth and our creator.
- » Yellow - Is for the prospect of prosperity.
- » Black - Is for the dark period of the suppression and dispossession of Métis land.



Order of the Sash

The “Order of the Sash” is a short ceremony (no more than a few minutes) that the Métis Nation British Columbia utilizes to recognize extraordinary/exceptional work that supports Métis citizens. The ceremony involves the Métis Nation leadership (usually the President) who presents the Order at a specific forum/event to ensure there are witnesses from the Métis community.

The Order of the Sash ceremony is the presentation of the ceremonial sash (the cultural icon for the Métis citizens). The ceremonial Order of the Sash has been specifically designed as a very distinct Sash and involves all of the traditional colors recognized by the Métis. The Order of the Sash is a distinct award provided by Métis leadership to honor important work by an individual. The Métis Nation only recognizes special work that supports the Métis Nation and any individual who receives this prestigious award should feel quite honored.