

Questions for a Nystwayr

(The name Jill is used in place of the child/youth's name)

Note: All questions can be adjusted to be asked of all family/paraantii members. All questions are only suggestions, go through them, highlight ones that will work for you and your youth and add some others that might not be below.

Questions for the Youth

- What do you know about your family/family tree?
- Who are the significant people in your family that are important to you? (try to get an interview with these people).
- What questions would you have for those people?
- What are the significant Métis traditions that are important to you and your family.
- Do you know the meaning and significance and why your family practices those traditions/spiritual beliefs?
- What are some of the questions that you have for your mom and dad or anyone else in your paraantii? Mooshums, kookums, Aunties and Uncles?
- What do you know and/or what do you want to know about why you came into care?
- What has your family told you about that time or anything else that led to the struggles?
- Do you know what they tried to do to get their lives on track or get you back in their care?
- When you think about all the people who have loved and cared for you, what was the most significant part of that for you?
- What difference did that caregiver make for you?

Questions for Bio Mom/Bio Father (along with good questions for others)

- What made you fall in love with Jill's father/mother?
- Jill would like to know why you left when she was so young.
- What do you think Jill would like to know?
- What do you admire most about Jill?
- What do you think Jill thinks, about why she is in foster care?
- Why couldn't Jill live with you?
- Can you tell us about the day Jill was born?
- Jill would like to know what happened around the addictions (mom/dad) (maybe there is a trauma history she doesn't know about?)
- Jill would like to know what was really hard about trying to stay away from the drugs/alcohol and what you tried to do to get away from it?
- Jill would like to know what she did to make the people in her life, go away.



- Jill would like to know, what was happening in your life specifically at that time that you could not care for Jill?
- How did you choose Jill's name/
- What did you like to do together when Jill was little?
- What are some of the traditions in Jill's family?
- Where did you live when Jill was born?
- What were some of his funny early childhood stories?
- What are your best hopes for Jill?
- What's the first happy memory you have of Jill?
- What was Jill's favorite toy, song, game, people, etc., as a child?
- What is one thing you would like Jill to know about her resiliency?
- What are some of the most important aspects of being a strong Metis youth that you want her to know about?
- What were your hopes for Jill when she was born?
- Tell me about how Jill came into care?
- What do you think the social worker was most worried about for Jill?
- When you think about these hard times, how have you been able to overcome some of these, and what words of advice would you have for Jill, when she is struggling with the same issues?
- What are your best hopes for Jill?
- Even though you haven't been able to parent Jill, what are the ways you still stay connected and what are the most important stories and teachings you have for Jill?
- What do you hope are the most significant lessons Jill will take into her adulthood from family?
- What do you want her to know about her family that will help her be a proud Métis women?

Questions for Bio Grandparent and/or bio siblings:

- Can you tell us some impactful stories about Jill when she was little?
- What is one thing that you would like Jill to know?
- What are some of the Metis traditions or other traditions in your family?
- Do you have memories and stories of Jill when she was a little girl?
- What are some wonderful memories that you have of Jill's (mother/father) when they were little?
- What do you think made it hard for Jill's parents to care for her in the ways she needed?



- What are some wonderful memories that you have of when you were a little girl/boy with your parents and/or grandparents?
- What are your best hopes for Jill?
- What's the first happy memory you have of Jill?
- What do you think are Jill's best traits that will help her reach her goals?

Questions for Professionals in Child/Youth's life

- What are your best hopes for Jill?
- When you think of Jill, what greatest quality stands out to you?

Questions for Métis Community

- What important teachings do you think our youth need to know about being a Métis citizen as they grow into adulthood?
- What are the most important teachings around family, belonging, identity etc.?
- What language do you think is important to include in this story for this Metis child?

