The Canadian eParfleche Project: ePortfolio for First Nations Communities

Dr. Kathryn Barker
Director, Learning Innovations Forum
Parfleche

- A leather portfolio or carrying case
- Used largely by mobile prairie tribes
- Decorated to personalize
- Originally a French word
- Meaning “to deflect” – a shield
- Carrying prized possessions
eParfleche

**ePortfolio attributes**
- Learning – KSA (content)
- Reflective learning (process)
- Digital storytelling
- Community (and individuals)
- Shared / web-based

**eParfleche attributes**
- Wisdom of the elders (not in writing)
- Shared reflection and healing
- Fables and oral traditions
- Facilitated storytelling
- Modern ICT
- Archiving culture
eParfleche Project Processes (proposed)

- Communities manage with ePortfolio experts
- Youth as apprentices in digital storytelling processes
- Elders to tell their stories in own languages
- Youth and elders to extrapolate learning
- Translation and production in 3 languages
- Interactive eLearning materials
- eParfleche web portal
Project Outcomes

- **Products**
  - Individual and community ePortfolios
  - Prototype for use by others
  - eParfleche portal
  - Related eLearning materials

- **Services**
  - Languages and wisdom captured
  - Youth “trained” to create ePortfolios
  - Method for valuing traditional Aboriginal KSA
  - Assistance through “lessons learned”
eParfleche Benefits

- Value traditional learning
- Transfer “value” from elders to youth
  - Preserving languages and learning
- Youth with skills to create and maintain own eParfleche
  - For cultural and career purposes
- Tight links between traditional culture and learning culture for KBE
  - Using one artifact to store another
To become involved…

- Join LIfIA [www.LIfIA.ca](http://www.LIfIA.ca)
- Update at upcoming Forum in Vancouver, April 18-20, 2005