The concept of memory is integral to theorizations of both displacement and placelessness, especially when a sense of place exists only in memory or imagination for members of dispersed communities. Collective memories deployed to restore, re-establish, repatriate territory and reconnect a people with its original homeland reveal the symbolic significance embedded within place, as well as the value of collective memory as a strategy of resistance and viable political tool. The challenge is to find ways that enable aboriginal communities to document, share and reflect on their place-based memories and knowledge, and in doing so re-establish identity, culture, and language, which in turn will facilitate the re-appropriation of contested places. Geographic Information Technologies (GITs) are increasingly pervasive in aboriginal communities in documenting aboriginal knowledge and land use and occupancy information. Many communities use GITs for a range of purposes, including land-use planning, cultural documentation and territorial claims. The Geoweb is the GIT platform for Web 2.0 digital social networking applications. In its current state, the Geoweb is a tool for spatial representation rather than a platform for spatial analysis as with traditional GIS. Because of the interactive capability and ease of use of Geoweb technologies, they offer great potential for storing, managing and communicating land-related knowledge to both decision-makers and community members themselves. The Geoweb’s ability to compile and mash-up photographs, audio and video through a map interface gives it great potential for presenting place-based memories and knowledge, including
toponyms, oral histories and stories. This presentation reports on a community-based Geoweb project with the Metis Nation of British Columbia, a distinct Aboriginal group in Canada. It specifically examines the potential for Geoweb technologies to capture, communicate and comment on community memories in this dispersed community and how the Geoweb medium alters information flow and the nature of the knowledge being shared.

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Outline

1. Memory
2. Place and placelessness
3. Geographic Information Technologies
4. The Métis in British Columbia
5. The Métis Historical Document Database
6. Discussion
Here collective memory and history are intertwined
This observation is shared by people writing the the field of the ‘invention of tradition’ history
Though for us, unlike many scholars working in this area, this is a constitutive and not contrived process. In other words we do not see this as a false or fiction process, rather an intrinsic component of the formation and reimagining of community

We will make this case through this paper by using the case of the Métis Nation of BC
He furthers that “collective memory is not an inert and passive thing, but a field of activity in which past events are selected, reconstructed, maintained, modified and endowed with political meaning” (Said 2000, 165).
Said (2000, 182-184) argues that memory is increasingly called on to support subaltern groups struggles to reestablish identity, culture, and language, and, above all, to appropriate historically contested places. Especially in the case of displacement and diaspora, the challenge is to find ways that enable aboriginal communities to document, share and reflect on their place-based memories and knowledge, and in doing so reestablish identity, culture, and language, which will facilitate the re-appropriation of contested places and appropriate historically expropriated territories and contemporarily contested places.
Geographic Information Technologies

• GITs in past have focused on geometric space and its quantitative analysis
• Less capable of representing the qualitative realities of place which is imbued with human memories and experience
• The Web 2.0, and specifically the Geospatial Web has changed this.
The Geoweb is the GIT platform for Web 2.0 digital social networking applications. In its current state, the Geoweb is a tool for spatial representation rather than a platform for spatial analysis as with traditional GIS. Because of the interactive capability and ease of use of Geoweb technologies, they offer great potential for storing, managing and communicating land-related knowledge to both decision-makers and community members themselves. The Geoweb’s ability to compile and mash-up photographs, audio and video through a map interface gives it great potential for presenting place-based memories and knowledge, including toponyms, oral histories and stories. For community based work, especially in the context of dispersion and diaspora, crowdsourcing is key!
Crowdsourcing is the act of outsourcing tasks, traditionally performed by an employee or contractor, to a large group of people or community (a crowd), through an open call. The term has become popular with businesses, authors, and journalists as shorthand for the trend of leveraging the mass collaboration enabled by Web 2.0 technologies to achieve business goals. However, both the term and its underlying business models have attracted controversy and criticisms. The term "crowdsourcing" is a neologistic portmanteau of "crowd" and "outsourcing," first coined by Jeff Howe in a June 2006 Wired magazine article "The Rise of Crowdsourcing". Howe explains that because technological advances have allowed for cheap consumer electronics, the gap between professionals and amateurs has been diminished. Companies are then able to take advantage of the talent of the public, and Howe states that "It’s not outsourcing; it’s crowdsourcing.”
Movie Map not accessible:

Brief historical focus on:
- HISTORY
- SCALE (NUMBER OF CITIZENS AND THEIR RANGE)
- SCOPE
- RESOURCES
- EMBEDDED IN PLACE
- GEOGRAPHIC CONNECTIVITY THROUGH TRADING NETWORKS AND INTER-MARRIAGE
- RESISTANCE AND SUPPRESSION BY THE CANADIAN STATE
After Batoche a Dispersed society became a diasporic one ....
Develop the capacity to create and share historic and present-day Métis BC community information using Google Maps
Locate and display information through a Google map interface

By geolocating documents and creating an interactive index...
Locate and display information through a map interface
Allow community members to geo-locate and upload their own materials
Volunteered by community members

including digital video and images

Managed and checked by a human being

Before being incorporated into the map
Some statistics...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statistics as of Aug 2010</th>
<th>Public page visits (All users not including Research Team)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Documents</td>
<td>15,556</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accessible Documents</td>
<td>7,829</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indexed Documents</td>
<td>7,062</td>
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<tr>
<td>Place Indices</td>
<td>6,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Both groups are motivated to use and populate the database, but are motivated by completely different reasons.

Métis government see the need to identify the location of memories in order to assert rights around lands and resources

Yet individuals are motivated to use of the DB to support their own purposes mainly proving genealogical links to prove citizenship.
As well perhaps as crafting that map to their own likeness.

They see the process of sharing information using the DB as a way of staking a claim over their citizenship – literally putting themselves onto the Métis map.
There is an interesting comparison here to the MNC database

There is an intersection here with MNBC citizenship processes which are very carefully validated, but the database is open, as is its possible uses.

Discussion
...geoweb

• This process of crowdsourcing is a unique way of enabling individuals to both research their family genealogies and share their information with others.
There is an interesting comparison here to the MNC database

http://tomcat.sunsite.ualberta.ca/MNC/index.jsp

The MNC database is a highly structured one, based on a restricted range of documents which reflect a highly structured and institutionalized approach to authorizing data. While a useful resource for people, the database is has no element of crowd-sourcing.
Sites of Interest:
http://document.bcmetiscitizen.ca/
Metis History DVD:
http://ubc.bcmetis.ca/dvd/
# MNBC and UBC Okanagan Collaborative Research Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator</td>
<td>Mike Evans</td>
<td>Gary Ducommun (MNBC Staff)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-Investigator</td>
<td>Jon Corbett</td>
<td>Dean Tremblay (MNBC Staff)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Investigator</td>
<td>Stephen Foster</td>
<td>Laurel Katernick (MNBC Registrar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>Erin Dolmage</td>
<td>Kasondra White (Research Associate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>Zach Romano</td>
<td>Gabrielle Legault (Research Associate)</td>
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