

HONOURING MÉTIS WEEK NOVEMBER 12-17 2018

IN COMMEMORATION OF

Louis Riel
(Oct. 22, 1844 - Nov 16, 1885)



Louis Riel was a Métis political and spiritual leader who dedicated his life to justice and strongly advocated for the affirmation of Métis' inherent rights. At 25 years old, Riel led the first Métis Resistance (1869-1870) and opposed foreign land surveys that encroached west into Métis and First Nations territory without the authority to do so. The resistance led to promises being made by Canada to Métis, but these promises were not kept. As a result of the 1869-1870 Resistance, the province of Manitoba was led into Confederation. The bill of rights created by Riel is still used today and this is why he is known as the Founding Father of Manitoba.

During the 1885 Métis Resistance, Riel emerged again for the People. Despite valiant efforts, the Resistance ended in defeat for the Métis. Riel was tried for treason and sentenced to be executed, a decision opposed by many.

Since then, Canada has acknowledged that Riel's sentence was wrong and he is now commemorated as the Founding Father of Manitoba. With thanks for his efforts and sacrifices, Métis continue to assert their rights as an Indigenous Peoples of Canada today and forever more.

Each year on November 16, people across Canada pay tribute to the Right Honourable Louis Riel by holding a commemorative ceremony on the date of his execution. In Alberta, the week surrounding November 16 is coined as Métis Week.

Expand your knowledge!

- National Anthem
- Learn Michif
- Red River Jig
- Red River carts
- Listen to *Métis Hands* by Andrea Menard



The **Métis Sash** was traditionally used as a tool for various tasks (i.e., to carry things, as an emergency sewing kit). How many more ways can you think of?



The **Métis flag** is a symbol of nationhood. It is older than Canada's maple leaf flag by about 150 years.



Michif is one of the languages of the Métis people, with linguistic influences from the French and nehiyaw (Cree) languages.



York boats were an innovation by Métis people. These powerful modes of transportation were instrumental during the fur trade.



The **Métis capote** is a hooded knee-length jacket made from a Hudson Bay blanket. It is often tied with a traditional Métis sash.



Métis fiddle music is unique and has a distinct rhythm and sound.



The Métis are known as the **Flower Beadwork People**. Why do you think this is?



The **cariole**, a sleigh pulled by a horse or dog team, was commonly used for transportation in the winter.

"Deeds are not accomplished in a few days, or in a few hours. A century is only a spoke in the wheel of everlasting time." -Louis Riel

More Métis Week Events



www.rupertsland.org

