

**Glossary of Terms used in the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture - Leah Dorion, Todd Paquin and Darren R. Préfontaine**

**A**

**Aboriginal:** The descendents of the original peoples of a geographic region.

**Aboriginal Peoples Survey:** A study prepared by Statistics Canada of the country's Aboriginal population after every census year. Information included in each profile would be use of aboriginal languages, income and education levels among the various Aboriginal people.

**Acculturation:** The socio-cultural changes that occur whenever members of two cultural traditions come into contact.

**Act:** A document that is enacted by a legislature or group. The document outlines the law. The Act governs the actions, events or functions of a society of group of individuals. The Act is designed to carry out a particular action or serve a distinctive purpose. *The Indian Act* and *The Manitoba Act* are two examples of legislation that have greatly affected Aboriginal peoples.

**Act of Contrition:** A prayer recited asking God for forgiveness for wrongdoings in order to prepare the soul for entrance into heaven, according to Christian belief. This is commonly said when a person is sick or dying, or when a person is about to engage in dangerous activities.

**Activism:** The practice based on direct action to effect changes in social conditions, government etc.

**Activist:** A person who lobbies government and informs the general public about a cause they are advocating.

**Accord:** A document or statement that shows consent and harmony or permission between parties.

**Adaptation:** Process by which organisms develop physical and behavioural characteristics allowing them to survive and reproduce in their habitats.

**Administration:** The formal management of public affairs or business. Administrators are people who oversee the direction and development of an organization.

**Affinal:** An anthropological term for relatives through marriage, not genetics.

**Aggregating Centre:** A term commonly used in archaeology for a place where Aboriginal groups gathered on a regular, often annual, basis for economic activities, ceremonies, and celebrations. This often involved small family-based groups gathering together to form a larger group when resources were plentiful enough to support many people in one area. Aggregating centres are also called rendezvous and gathering centres. Example: family groups joining together in late winter/early spring to harvest returning migratory waterfowl and catch spawning fish along rivers in areas where the ice first broke.

**Agrarian:** Relating to the land or its cultivation. Is another word for farmer or agriculturalist. The word is used most often when referring to the Agrarian movement, which tried to have farmer's grievances aired in Ottawa.

**À la façon du pays:** A French phrase, which means "in the custom of the country". This term was commonly applied to or associated with a marriage custom during fur trade days, which was based on Indian marriage or cohabitation traditions.

**Alliance:** Union agreement to cooperate. For example, the Métis cemented fur trade alliances by encouraging intermarriage between Métis women and European fur traders.

**Allotment:** Is the amount of something granted to a specific individual for services rendered or something given outright to an individual. In the context of Métis history, allotment means the amount of scrip, in either land or money, granted to each Métis person by the federal government.

**Amalgamation:** The action of combining into one uniform whole.

**Amphibious:** Adapted to life both in the water and on land. For instance, beavers are amphibious mammals because they have webbed hind feet and a paddle-like tail, which help to

propel them through the water, but have limbs adapted to walking on land.

**Ancestry:** Belonging to or inherited from descendants of ones' father or mother.

**Annexation:** To incorporate one territory of another into ones own territory. Take without right.

**Annuity:** A yearly allowance or income. For example, yearly treaty annuities of five dollars were given to Treaty Indians.

**Anthropology:** The comprehensive study of the human species from biological, social, and cultural perspectives. In North America, it includes the sub-disciplines of physical anthropology, archaeology, and cultural anthropology.

**Archaeology:** The study of human culture through the analysis of material remains recovered through systematic collection and excavation. The aim of archaeology is to order and describe past events and explain the meaning of those events.

**Archives:** Institutions or organizations that collect documents, photos and other forms of media, such as newspapers and protect them from destruction. Archives preserve the memories, personal journals, correspondence and letters written by people.

**Art:** Art is any activity that serves to enhance the ordinary, to make circumstances more beautiful, or heighten the pleasure one takes in one's surroundings. All cultures produce art.

**Artifact:** Any object used, modified, or made by humans. Archaeologists study artifacts; an archaeologist studying pre-European contact North American Aboriginal cultures might analyze stone projectile points, butchered bone, antler carvings, pottery, and metal cutting implements.

**Assimilation:** The often forceful and deliberate merging of the members of one socio-cultural system into another with

the consequent abandonment of the former group's customs and beliefs.

**Athapaskan:** A language family, also known as Dene, and the people who speak languages belonging to it. Includes the Beaver, Dogrib, Sekani, Slavey, Hare, Chipewyan, and Yellowknife peoples. These groups inhabited the northern boreal forest and forest-tundra transition zone, lived in small, family-centered bands for most of the year, and followed a hunter-gatherer lifestyle, harvesting animals such as moose and caribou.

**Autonomous:** A person or a group's ability to live their lives to their satisfaction without being interfered with by outside interests.

**Awl:** A tool used to perforate leather so that a string or thread could be pulled through the hole, to make items such as clothing, harness and saddles, and containers. Awls could be made from a splinter of sturdy bone or from metal.

## **B**

**Bannock:** A heavy bread made with flour, baking powder, salt, lard, and water. This food was a staple for people working in the fur trade and transport industry because of the minimum of ingredients it called for and its ease of production. This food was brought to Canada from Scotland and northern England.

**Baptism:** Christian sacrament of spiritual rebirth symbolized by the ritual application of water.

**Barter:** To trade without the exchange of money.

**Batoche:** A Métis settlement along the South Saskatchewan River, named after François Xavier dit Batoche. In 1885, the Métis under Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont participated in an armed resistance against Canada at Batoche.

**Battle of Batoche:** The decisive battle in the 1885 Resistance in which the forces of Canada defeated Métis resisters. The battle was fought on May 9 through 12 1885.

**Battle of Seven Oaks:** A battle fought on June 19, 1816 in which 20 Selkirk Settlers led by Hudson's Bay Company employee Robert Semple tried to intercept and confiscate the

pemmican of Métis buffalo hunters led by Cuthbert Grant. The battle was short and bloody and was a complete victory for the Métis, and became an important event in the creation of Métis nationalism.

**Beadwork:** Decorative artwork applied to garments and household items using colourful trade beads.

**Belief systems:** A reflection of a people's worldview and their shared patterns of behaviour; beliefs reflect perceived relationships between culture and environment. Beliefs and belief systems guide people's actions when interacting with other people, the biophysical environment, and the spiritual realm.

**Bilingual:** Ability to speak two languages.

**Boreal forest:** The forests of northern Canada. The boreal forest is composed of mixed-wood and coniferous sections, the latter of which is situated primarily on the Canadian/PreCambrian Shield. The boreal forest supports mostly scattered faunal resources such as moose, deer, bear, fish, waterfowl, and rabbits and hares. Boreal forest adapted Aboriginal peoples commonly lived in small, family-based groups for much of the year in order to harvest the scattered resources. They gathered into larger groups annually or seasonally to harvest resources which were abundant for short periods of time, such as fish or migratory waterfowl.

**Bourgeois:** A historically significant term, which means middle class or a middle class person. In a Métis context, the word was most often used to describe a fur trade merchant or post manager for the North West Company. Very few Métis were bourgeois.

**Bow:** The forward end of a canoe or boat

**Bowsman:** A position held by a person working on a York boat during the fur trade period. Bowsmen sat at the head of the boat and fended off rocks with a large pole and guided the boat through fast water.

**Brady, Jim:** He was an important Métis leader who helped to politically organize the Alberta and Saskatchewan Métis

people in the 1930s-1950s. Brady was born at Lac St. Vincent Alberta on 11 March, 1908, and disappeared in the Foster Lakes area of Saskatchewan in June, 1967.

**Brigade:** A group of people organized for a special purpose.

**Bureaucracy:** Government by central state administration.

## C

**Canadian Boundary Commission:** Was the means by which the Dominion of Canada policed and patrolled the Canada-United States border in the newly acquired province of Manitoba and the North West Territories. The Canadian Boundary Survey was undertaken between 1872 and 1876. Many Métis men were employed by the commission as guides and scouts to keep the surveyors and their crews safe and fed.

**Canadian Commonwealth Cooperative Federation or CCF:** A Canadian political party founded in the 1930s in Regina Saskatchewan, which espoused democratic socialist and left-of-centre views. The party formed government in Saskatchewan in 1944, and in the process became the first elected democratic socialist government in North America. The Saskatchewan CCF was sympathetic to Métis and First Nations concerns. Today, the CCF is called the New Democratic Party of Canada or the NDP.

**Canadien:** Is the name, which the ancestors of the Québécois and other French Canadians gave themselves in New France to differentiate themselves from French people born in France, and later English Canadians, whom they called "*Les anglais*" or 'the English'. Many francophone and Michif-speaking Métis called themselves Canadien or "*Canayen*".

**Capital:** Material wealth in the form of money or property that is used to produce more wealth.

**Capital punishment:** A death sentence deemed applicable by a court of law.

**Capote:** A hooded jacket made from a blanket. Capotes were commonly made from Hudson's Bay Company point blankets.

**Cariole:** A toboggan with upright sides of canvas used to carry supplies or people pulled by dogs or horses. The sides of carioles were often brightly decorated.

**Carlton Trail:** The western Canadian land route taken by the newly formed North West Mounted Police when they were created in 1873. The route went through the Winnipeg and through southern and central Saskatchewan to northern Alberta. It is also known as the **Red Coat Trail**.

**Catechism:** A summary of principles of a religion in form of questions and answers, series of questions.

**Caulk:** The process, or the material used, to make something air and water-tight. The Métis made caulk of a mixture of clay with hay or moss which was used to seal logs used in the construction of cabins. Caulking was also used to seal the seams between birch bark used in making canoes, or between planks used to make York boats.

**Census:** A survey taken by government or similar organization to find out the number of people in a given region. Questions such as family, age, race, gender, birth date, employment are some of the key questions on the application forms.

**Ceremony:** A formal act or set of acts performed as prescribed by custom, ritual, or etiquette for a particular purpose.

**Charity Order of the Grey Nuns:** A Roman catholic order of nuns dedicated to social work and charity among poorer groups of people. This order worked among the Metis in Rupert's Land and the Northwest. Many Métis women joined this order including Louis Riel's sister Sarah. The sisters base their charitable works on the life and teachings of St. Francis of Assisi.

**Charlottetown Accord:** A series of proposed amendments to the Canadian Constitution, which attempted to address Québécois, Aboriginal, New Canadian and Women's concerns. The accord, much more democratic than its predecessor the Meech Lake Accord, went to a vote in a binding national referendum in the spring of 1992, and was rejected by a majority of Canadians, in most provinces.

**Chief Factor:** Head HBC official appointed to oversee all social, economic, political aspects at major fur trade posts. Example, York Factory and Lower Fort Garry. These men often returned to Europe after their term in office. This position was coined after the term Factory, which was used to describe posts at one point in the early stages of trade.

**Childrearing practices:** Methods by which infants and children are nurtured, supported, and given cultural knowledge.

**Chinking:** a mixture made primarily of mud or clay placed between logs of a log cabin to insulate against cold, wind, and water. Chinking is sometimes found in archaeological sites when the house it insulated burned, turning the chinking into a hard, glassy material.

**Church Missionary Society:** A religious order of the Anglican Church dedicated to serving the spiritual needs of its parishioners and spreading the word of Christianity.

**Civil rights:** In all civil societies basic human principles should be but are not always respected. These include the right to live without persecution based on one's ethnic background, race, gender, sexual orientation and class background. It also means that one's freedom of opinion and the freedom to make decisions and lifestyle choices should be respected by everybody in society, provided that these do not harm others. When these basic human rights are not respected, people form civil rights movements to obtain them.

**Class:** A group whose members share a least one attribute. Is a category of people with shared social status. Because of their associated roles, they are accorded similar prestige. They share a common lifestyle, and develop common interests. They perceive a common identity that distinguishes them from members of other categories. For example, classrooms are mainly determined by grade and age.

**Class divisions:** Recognizable social, economic or political divisions between people in a society or community. These class divisions can be enforced by race, linguistic or cultural differences.



**Clerk:** At fur trade posts or stores, an individual responsible for keeping accounting records. Clerks sometimes acted as traders in posts as well, depending on the staffing of the operation.

**Collaborate:** To work jointly.

**Colony:** A group of settlers in a new land who remain subject to the parent nation. Rule was done by a distant nation. For example, New France and New England was established in the New World. Settlement established by an imperial power that reflects the same political-social-economic structures as the mother country.

**Colonialism:** A policy by one nation to acquire, control or hold overseas territories.

**Colonization:** The process of creating a colony. These colonies were to model the social structure of European society. Agriculture was practiced and encouraged and the church played a significant role in the developing community.

**Collectivism:** A system under which ownership and control of the means of producing and distributing goods is in the hands of the people collectively.

**Commercial farming:** A system of farming where most of the goods produced are destined for a market, to be sold at a profit.

**Commission:** Is a group of officials elected or appointed to provide recommendations towards solving a particular problem.

**Communalism:** Shared between members of a group or community.

**Communion:** Fellowship, having ideas and beliefs in common, mutual relation between members or parts of Church.

**Communist:** Is a person dedicated to the political teachings of Karl Marx and Freidrich Engels. Communists believe that Western capitalist societies are concerned only with profits and not with the concerns of workers, the vast majority of

the people. Communists believe that these societies must be overthrown because capitalists and their friends in government enslave working people and that workers should own their labour and their factories.

**Comprehensive claim:** A claim made to the federal government based on the concept that the Aboriginal rights and title have not been extinguished.

**Confederation:** The political alliance of persons, parties or provinces in order to create a state. These groups legally and formally declare this new unification.

**Confirmation:** A religious rite confirming baptized person, at age of discretion, as member of Christian Church.

**Confiscate:** Is when a governing authority takes something away from somebody for breaking laws of that body. For instance, the Canadian state confiscates liquor and drugs smuggled into the country from the United States.

**Consensus:** Agreement in opinion between all members of a group.

**Consensual cohabitation:** Two people living together in a relationship based on a desire to be together, but not necessarily recognized through a formal wedding ceremony.

**Consensual democracy:** Is a form of democracy in which concerned and voting citizens have their input heard by their elected officials in return of giving up the right to regulate society. Often, the citizens can determine policy.

**Conservation:** Preservation of the natural environment. Conservationists ensure that the natural resources and environment will be maintained for the future generations.

**Constitution:** The fundamental laws of a nation.

**Constitution Act 1867 91 (24):** This section of the constitution delegates that Indians and lands reserved for Indians are under the responsibility of the federal government.

**Constituency:** A body of people in a region who elect a government official to represent their community and regional needs, wants and desires to the larger government body.

**Convent:** A community or residence of a religious order especially nuns.

**Conversion:** To be induced to adopt a new religion or belief.

**Convert:** To change beliefs, opinion, or party.

**Cooper:** Is a person who makes or repairs flasks and barrels. In the fur trade this was an important position because most dry and wet goods were stored in barrels or flasks.

**Cooperatives:** An economic enterprise designed, owned and used by its members to ensure continued services and equitable prices on goods within a particular market.

**Cord; cordwood:** A measure of cut wood, usually 2 feet x 4 feet x 16 feet [128 cubic feet] or 61 cm x 122 cm x 488 cm [3.6 cubic metres].

**Corporations:** Are bodies of companies or individuals who are legally sanctioned and whose sole purpose is to make and regulated money earned from the profit motive.

**Country Wives:** Native women who married European fur traders.

**Country Born:** A historical term used to identify mixed blood children of British and Indian descent, as opposed to the term Métis, which originally identified mixed blood children of French and First Nations descent.

**Council of Assiniboia:** The legislative and executive council appointed by the Hudson's Bay Company which governed Rupert's Land prior to the territory's incorporation into Canada.

**Coueurs de bois:** A French Canadian person who ventured into Canada's interior to secure trade and make alliances with the Native people. The term means runners of the woods.

**Cree:** A language in the Algonquian language family consisting of several dialects, such as Woods ("th"), Swampy ("n"), and Plains ("y"). People who speak this language

adapted to living in the southern boreal forest and northern plains, following a hunting and gathering lifestyle focused primarily on moose and fish, or bison.

**Cross-cousin marriage:** An anthropological term regarding marriage to a child of the mother's brother or the father's sister.

**Croup:** An inflammation of the larynx and trachea in young children with an associated hard cough and difficulty in breathing.

**Crown land:** Land owned in Canada either by the federal or provincial government.

**Culture:** An anthropological term for the non-physical means by which people adapt to their physical, spiritual, and social environment. People sharing a culture can be viewed as having similar technological, social and political, and ideological systems. Culture changes to meet the needs of people through time and place.

**Cultural Relativism:** An anthropological theory, which maintains that cultures are unique and, as such, can only be evaluated according to their own standards and values.

**Cultural suppression:** Outlawing and imposing regulations on people which forces them to practice acts that are deemed wrong by the dominant society. Historically government laws and regulations suppressed the native way of life. For example, First Nations were not allowed to publicly gather or practice their religious ceremony until 1951. Also game law restrictions have criminalized the traditional way of life of many Aboriginal people.

**Customs:** These are sanctioned social norms. Behaviour that conforms to those norms is rewarded, and that which deviates is penalized.

**Curriculum:** All the courses taught in an educational institute.

**Curtailment:** To cut short or reduce. For example, many Aboriginal people in Canada have experienced legal limitations on their hunting and trapping activities due to large-scale northern developments and industry curtailing Aboriginal harvesting practices.

**Cyclical resource scarcity:** Periods of time where the local resources are severely depleted, usually due to recurring heavy predation or disease in a population. During this period of scarcity, people have to adapt to other species or migrate to another area until the animal populations rebound.

## D

**Dakota Sioux:** The eastern most sociopolitical unit of the Sioux who were plains bison hunters living in what is now Minnesota, the Dakotas, and Montana; a dialect of the Siouxian language, along with Lakota and Nakota. These were among the Red River Métis' greatest rivals for dominance on the plains as bison hunters.

**Deadfall trap:** A trap composed of a heavy stone or log balanced on a pole. Bait would be tied to the pole and, when the bait was pulled, the heavy stone or log would fall and kill the animal.

**Deconstruct:** A method in the **Post-modernist** theoretical perspective which attempts to demolish oppressive and conformist ways of thought in society by emphasizing differences of groups of people and the inclusion of religious, sexual, racial and ethnic minorities into the culture of mainstream society.

**Debit and Credit system:** This system was practiced by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). First Nations and Métis people were allowed to open an account in order to buy supplies for trapping and hunting at the fur trade post. Since they had no money they had to pay back their debits by exchanging furs to the HBC post. The HBC created a system of dependence by placing a high mark-up on the supplies and the Aboriginal people could never trap enough furs to pay back these debits. This system ensured that Aboriginal people always traded at their post.

**Democracy; democratic:** Government by all the people. People indirectly or directly participate in the direction of government through elected bodies.

**Demography; demographics:** The study of the characteristics of human populations such as size, growth and vital

statistics, which includes age, sex, religion, and educational attainment.

**Denominational school:** School run by a religious group.

**Department of Indian Affairs:** In 1830 Indian Affairs was removed from military control and became a branch of the public service. The department of Indian Affairs was responsible for implementing the *Indian Act*.

**Department of Interior:** A Canadian government agency or branch that oversaw the administration and organization of the Métis scrip system and Canadian western development.

**Depression:** A period of financial and industrial slump. In Canada the "Great Depression" occurred from 1929 to 1939.

**Diocese:** a territorial subdivision within the Catholic Church administered by a bishop.

**Discrimination:** Occurs when a group of people is mistreated, criminally and otherwise, because of their skin colour, religious beliefs, ethnic background, gender, class, and sexual orientation by another group of people.

**Dispersal:** The Métis of Western Canada made two major dispersals from their homelands after the 1869-70 and 1885 resistances. The major reasons for the Métis dispersals were the inability to receive a land base and discrimination in the new social order.

**Dispossessed:** means when an individual or group of people has something taken away from them, which belongs to them. In most cases, this means the loss of a homeland or a way of life or it could be the family house, farm or business.

**Dominion of Canada:** The union or **Confederation** of the British North American provinces of Canada (Ontario and Québec), New Brunswick and Nova Scotia in 1867, and the subsequent additions of the North West Territories (1869), Manitoba (1870), British Columbia (1871), Prince Edward Island (1878), Alberta, Saskatchewan (1905) and Newfoundland and Labrador (1949). The term "Dominion" was also used interchangeably with the name of Canada until the 1950s.

**Dominion Lands Act:** In 1879 the Act made provisions to provide Métis in the Northwest with a land grant based on the scrip system used in Manitoba.

**Dovetail notches; dovetailing:** A construction joint, shaped like a fan or a "dove's tail", used to join logs when building walls. Dovetail notching was the strongest and most stable method used to build log houses taller than one story. It involved shaping the end of a log larger than 15 centimetres in diameter into a triangular shape. When the walls were built and then settled, the triangular ends pulled against one another and locked the logs in place. Dovetailing was used on buildings built prior to the 1930s in western Canada, and on structures, which needed long-term stability.

**Douglas, Thomas, 5th Earl of Selkirk:** A British Lord who wanted to alleviate the suffering of displaced Celtic farmers in Britain by putting them on land inhabited by Métis, First Nations and French Canadians. Selkirk was born on St. Mary's Isle Scotland in 1771 and died at Pau France in 1820. In 1812, he bought enough shares in the Hudson's Bay Company to control it. This enabled him to buy land in prime buffalo hunting ground in what is now the Red River area of Manitoba, North Dakota and Minnesota. As a result, Lord Selkirk became embroiled in a conflict with the Métis buffalo hunters and the North West Company. Lord Selkirk eventually reached an uneasy peace with the Métis.

**Dowry:** money or property that a woman brings with her into marriage, usually supplied by her father.

## E

**Ecofacts:** An archaeological term for the remains of natural resources such as animal bones, human remains, seeds, or pollens, which provide clues about the environment and climatic conditions of the past. Ecofacts found in an archaeological site provide information about diet, health and disease, food availability, and how people interacted with the environment in a given area.

**Economic system:** Patterned and organized behaviours by which people produce, distribute, and consume material goods.

**Education:** The knowledge obtained through learning. Institution. Formal and Informal.

**Ego:** An anthropological/genealogical term for a person through which all relationships are drawn or originate when determining kinship.

**Elder:** Old people who are very wise about life and are greatly respected by the community.

**Embroidery:** Decorative artwork applied to garments and household items by needlework, often with silk or cotton thread.

**Emigrant:** A person who leaves a native country or region to settle elsewhere.

**Endogamy:** An anthropological term for marriage restricted to those within the same social, cohabitating, or frequently interacting group. Compare with exogamy.

**Enfranchised:** People are enfranchised when they are entitled to vote in society and have their voice heard. The "franchise" is the right to vote in and make public statements about society without fear of reprisal or persecution.

**Enumeration:** To count or specify. Métis political organizations want an enumeration of the Métis population so that government and the general public know how many Métis citizens live in Canada. This could have a directly influence of programs and services received by Métis. At the moment many levels of government are unsure about Métis population figures so there is a lack of programs and support for Métis service organizations.

**Ethnocentrism:** The attitude or opinion that the morals, values, and customs of one's own way of life are superior to those of other peoples.

**Ethnohistory:** Is a sub-discipline of history which attempts to be sensitive to the point of view of particular groups of people different than that of the historian writing about them.

**Euro-Canadian:** Is a Canadian of European background or a Canadian of non-European background completely assimilated in Euro-Canadian culture. This term is in contrast with



Aboriginal or Indigenous-Canadian, which has a different meaning and worldview.

**Eurocentric:** Is a bias, which many people in the West have long had towards Indigenous cultures throughout the world. Essentially, the Eurocentric world view emphasizes that every thing of value and virtue has come from Christian and capitalist-based Western European and North American society, and everything from non-western cultures is not as important.

**Ewing Commission:** The Alberta Government established the Ewing Commission in 1934 in order to study the social and economic conditions of the Métis living in the province. The commission concluded in 1936.

**Excavation:** In archaeology, this is the systematic and meticulous removal of sediment to expose buried cultural materials.

**Exogamy:** An anthropological term for the practice of marrying outside of one's social, cohabitating, or frequently interacting group. Compare with endogamy.

**Experiential learning:** A way of learning important concepts and skills by participating in activities.

**Extended family:** An anthropological term for a group of related people, beyond a mother, father, and dependent children, that live together. Extended families might include the grandparent(s) and sibling(s) of the mother and father with their dependent children.

**Exovedate:** Is the name of the North West governing council presided over by Louis Riel and the other Métis during the 1885 Resistance. It takes its name from an obscure biblical reference to an ancient Hebrew governing body.

**Extinguish:** Generally, the word means to end something or put something out such as a fire. For the Métis, extinguishment has meant the lose of their Aboriginal status either in the Treaty or Scrip processes

**Extinguishment:** A legal concept used by the Canadian government that refers to the land rights of Aboriginal peoples. Before Canada could lawfully settle the lands they had to legally extinguish the Aboriginal rights or Indian

title of the people. These rights were usually extinguished by Treaty or other written agreement.

## **F**

**Factor:** The person in charge of a fur trading post.

**Falcon, Pierre:** Was a Métis poet, song writer, magistrate and nationalist born at Elbow Fort Rupert's Land in 1793 and died at Grantown, now St. François Xavier, Manitoba in 1876. He left many famous folk songs for future generations including his "*La Chanson de la grenouillère*", which commemorated the Battle of Seven Oaks in 1816.

**Family Allowance Payment:** An allowance paid by the government to the parents of a family to help cover the cost of raising children. This was paid to parents of all Canadian children, except to status Indian families, starting in 1945.

**Features:** In archaeology, this is a non-portable artifact, such as a post hole or a fire hearth. Features cannot be removed from their location without destroying them or the information they contain.

**Fertilizer:** Chemical or natural substance added to soil to make it more fertile. Plains Métis people supplemented their income by collecting bison bones from the prairie for the fertilizer industry.

**Fiduciary Obligation:** Means held or given in trust depending for its value on public confidence or securities. Recent Métis land claims state that the federal government had an fiduciary obligation to administer land grants in the best interests of the Métis people. The Métis claim that the government historically failed to look after the best interests of the Métis land grant system, which led to the current lack of a Métis land base in Canada. The Métis viewed this as a breach of trust.

**First Nations:** are the original Aboriginal inhabitants of the country. First Nations are therefore different from such Indigenous people as the Inuit and the Métis because they inhabited Canada longer than either of these two groups. First Nations is usually used interchangeably with "Indian"; however, it has become the preferred term.

**First People(s):** are Indians or First Nations people, the original occupants of Canada.

**Fish Creek, the battle of:** The first battle of the 1885 Resistance, fought on April 24 1885, in which Métis resisters were victorious against Canadian soldiers.

**Fishing cooperative:** Is a collective organization through which fisher people market their products. The cooperative ensures their products are sold at a fair and stable price and guarantees that fisher people have equity or a financial return or own shares in their co-op. As well, the cooperative regulates the industry to conserve fish stock and prevent over-harvesting.

**Forgery:** To make or write in fraudulent imitation. Many Métis scrip documents had forged signatures placed upon them by scrip speculators, who wanted Métis land or money.

**Fort Edmonton:** Was an inland post of the Northwest Company a long the North Saskatchewan River, originally a French and Canadien fur trade post known as *Fort des Prairies*, which eventually transferred over to the Hudson's Bay Company after the amalgamation of the two fur trade companies in 1821. The site of Fort Edmonton is now in metropolitan Edmonton Alberta.

**Fraud:** To take something which does not belong to you through deceit.

**Freeman:** Independent traders and middlemen in the fur trade. Many Métis people worked as freemen and many contracted their services out to the Hudson's Bay Company and the North West Company.

**Free trade:** Trade left to its natural course without import restrictions.

**Free traders:** People who believe in free and practice free and open trade in opposition to trade monopolists.

**Freight Canoe:** Watercraft used by fur traders and voyageurs in hauling furs and other goods in the early fur trade along larger water systems. Freight canoes were replaced by the sturdier York boats in the fur trade during the early 19th century.

**Freighter:** A person engaged in freighting for the fur trading companies.

**Freighting:** A seasonal fur trade occupation moving goods and supplies from post to post. This was physically intense work and many men died on the job. Historically many Métis people gained employment with the HBC or NWC as freighters.

**Friendship Centres:** Centres that provide support for First Nations and Métis. They run programs and activities. These centres were established after World War Two in order to deal with the increasing Aboriginal population moving into urban centres across Canada.

**Fur Ban:** In the 1980s and 1990s, animal rights activists, particularly in the European Union, protested so forcefully that fur trapping was cruel to animals that a number of countries banned the trapping of fur-bearing animals. This protest put pressure on Canada to make fur trapping, a traditional Aboriginal industry, illegal.

**Fur conservation block:** In Saskatchewan, the provincial Department of Natural Resources divided the province up into resource blocks in order to set up conservation schemes and monitor the use of game in each of the blocks. Conservation officers were in charge overseeing the resource use of assigned conservation blocks.

## G

**Gabriel Dumont** (1837-1906): A Métis buffalo hunter, business person, military strategist and nationalist born in St. Boniface, Rupert's Land, and died at Batoche, Saskatchewan.

**Game laws:** Laws created by the provincial Departments of Natural Resources to conserve the resources for the general public. Game laws have often limited the Treaty and Aboriginal hunting and trapping rights of Canada's Aboriginal people.

**Gathering centre:** see Aggregating Centre.

**George Simpson** (1787-1860): He was the Scottish-born governor of the HBC from 1826 until 1860.

**Government:** The agency or organization through which a governing body exercises authority and performs functions.

**Genealogy:** The study of family relationships and family descent through a family pedigree chart or family tree.

**Grant, Cuthbert** (1793-1854): A Métis leader in 1816 that advocated Métis free trade and nationalism in Red River. Grant and the Métis resisted the tyrannical rule of the HBC in the colony.

**Green Lake Project:** The Green Lake project was a Saskatchewan provincial government development program initiated in the 1940s and designed to assist Métis people in becoming economically self-sufficient. It was intended to help the Métis of Saskatchewan increase their standard of living, reduce their dependence on relief, and give them farming skills. Nursing and hospital services were established to help raise the standard of living.

**Grey Nuns:** A Roman Catholic order of nuns who were the first to work among the Métis and First Nations in Rupert's Land and the North-West Territories. They arrived in Red River in 1844 from Lower Canada (Québec).

## H

**Half-breed Commission:** This commission was established in Alberta on December 12, 1934 in order to study the social and economic conditions of the Métis people in Alberta. The commission's recommendations were made public on February 15, 1936. The commission was later known as the "Ewing Commission".

**Harvest:** To gather, either by killing animals or collecting vegetables and fruits, natural resources for the purpose of obtaining food, medicine, clothing, shelter, or tools.

**Hegemony:** Occurs when an individual, or group of people, imposes his or her ways upon others too weak to resist.

**Hierarchy:** System in which grades of status or authority rank one above the other.

**History:** Is the interpretation of the past events and people through the use, at times selective, of primary source documents. The branch of knowledge concerned with the recording and explanation of historical events. Recording events of the past.

**Historiography:** Is the study of how history and historical interpretation has changed over time.

**Historical record:** Records or books that document facts of history dealing with past periods.

**Hivernants:** Term for Métis people in the 19th century who remained on the prairies, often in small temporary villages, in winter to hunt bison once the commercial hunts were over. They camped in regions with sufficient fuel, water, and animals to subsist through the winter. Synonymous with "winterer". Once the buffalo robe trade became established in the mid 1800s, the hivernants also processed and sold bison fur for eastern North American markets.

**Holistic; holistic perspective:** The assumption that any aspect of a way of life is integrated with other aspects, so that no aspect can be understood in isolation.

**Homeland:** A geographical region over which a particular ethnic group feels it has exclusive rights.

**Homestead:** Land granted to a settler.

**Homesteaders:** Were the early agricultural pioneers on the North American Plains. They were the first pioneers on the Canadian Prairies and American Plains during the early period of European agricultural settlement in these regions.

**High treason:** Violation by a subject of his allegiance to his sovereign or to the state.

**Hudson's Bay Company:** A powerful trading company based in England, and dedicated to trading for furs with North America's Indigenous peoples. The Company started as a trading monopoly in 1670, and is Canada's oldest incorporated company.

I

**Ideology:** The ideas and concepts forming the basis of a belief system, political system, or economic system. These ideas and beliefs have been used to legitimize and, thus, reinforce existing inequalities in stratified societies. Oppressed people have also used them in order to seek redress. The most potent of all ideologies is nationalism.

**Identity:** The means by which a person chooses to define his or herself in relation to others. Identities are often based on degrees of similarity or difference (real or fictive) between individuals or groups. Is the feeling of belonging to a particular community.

**Immigration:** The movement of a person or people into a new country for the purpose of settlement, often for reasons of economic, political, or religious upheaval in their former home country.

**Impersonation:** Pretending to be another person. During the Métis scrip system in Canada speculators would often hire some one to impersonate a Métis person in order to receive land or money scrip.

**Incest taboo:** An anthropological term for a cultural practice used to keep different sex siblings or close relatives from intermarrying with each other.

**Indian Act:** This act, revised considerably, was established in 1867 and was based on colonial Indian policy in the Province of Canada (1841-1867). The act outlined Canada's legal responsibilities towards Canada's First Nations. For many years *The Indian Act* regulated every aspect of First Nations life. The act defined who was Indian and gave the government the power to track and identify who was Indian. The act was paternalistic and contained rules that discriminated against Indian women. Amendments to the act outlawed Indian fund raising for land claims and gatherings of Indian people for ceremonial activities. For instance, an amendment to the act banned the Potlach, a social practice of gift exchanging among British Columbia's First Peoples, in 1884, but was repealed in 1951.

**Indian agent:** An official of the federal government often put on reserves to monitor social and political activity. The Indian Agent was a muchdisliked official, because he wanted the First Peoples to abandon their traditional ways and interfered in the band's internal affairs.

**Indian people:** A term given to the first people in America by the first European explorers, who believed that they had just arrived in India. Currently many Canadian Aboriginal people identify themselves with this term. Compare with First Nations.

**Indigenous people:** The original, or descendents of the original, occupants of a land.

**Industrial school:** A government run school opened up for the First Nations that was to train them in domestic and labour occupations.

**Institutional racism:** Is the all pervasive racism in all of a country's institutions including schools, churches, political system, the market place and government agencies which consciously or subconsciously discriminates against a group of people based on their racial or ethnic background.

**Interconnectedness:** The belief that all things human, natural and spiritual are a part of the same continuum and not independent of one another.

**Interdependence:** Dependant on each other and other things.

**Interdisciplinary:** Academic research involving the participation and application of knowledge from numerous fields of study.

**Interlake region:** The area between Lake Manitoba, Lake Winnipeg, and Lake Winnipegosis in central and south central Manitoba.

**Intermarriage:** Marriage between individuals outside of their immediate community or family.

**Intolerance:** Refusing to understand the views or beliefs of others differing from ones own views and beliefs.

**Isbister, Alexander (1822-1883):** A Métis barrister from Red River who lobbied in Europe for Métis rights in Rupert's Land.

## J

**Jig:** Any of various lively dances in triple time.



**Jurisdiction:** The exercise of lawful authority.

**Justice:** The quality of being fair and evenhanded and impartial in judging others. Justice refers to the principle of ideal or moral rightness.

## K

**Keel:** Is an essential structural feature - usually a ridge of wood, iron or fiberglass - on a bottom of a boat which serves to fasten materials, keep the boat afloat and water from seeping in its inside.

**Kin; kin group:** A group of people who conceive themselves to be relatives, cooperate in certain activities, and share a sense of identity as kinfolk. Members of a kin group may or may not be biologically related.

**Kinship:** An anthropological term for the means by which individuals determine relationships between themselves and other people. Kinship introduces and reinforces the connections between people to help them meet their physical, social, economic, and spiritual needs. Kinship systems are culturally relative and reflect adaptations to specific cultural environments.

**Kinterms:** Terms which establish and reflect roles and levels of personal closeness between individuals which may or may not be based on genetic closeness.

**Korean War:** A war fought between the United Nations and its ally the Republic of South Korea against the People's Republic of China and its communist ally, North Korea from 1950 to 1953. The war ended in stalemate and eventually ended due to the fatigue of its combatants. Canada sent a contingent of soldiers and some frigates and planes to this theatre of war, which was one of the hot points in the Cold War.

## L

**Lacrosse:** The official sport of Canada. A highly physical, intense game played by two opposing teams. One team tries to score on the other by passing a ball up a field using hand held poles with a netted pocket then throwing the ball between two goal posts. Aboriginal peoples in North America have played lacrosse for centuries.

**Land Claims:** Are legal challenges put forth by Canadian Aboriginal people to have land, which was taken away from them by the state returned.

**Land patent:** Certificate stating registered ownership of a parcel of land.

**Language:** Is the most fundamental and most distinctively human attribute because it allows for the transmission of culture. Language is system of behaviour encompassing communication. It is based on oral symbols, which are arbitrary and abstract in nature. The system enables humans to describe, classify and catalogue experiences, concepts and objects.

**Law:** A rule of action or conduct established by authority, society, or custom. A body of such rules. The control that ensues when such rules are enforced. The study and science of law is called jurisprudence. The profession of a lawyer. A code of ethics for behaviour.

**Leadership:** The people or person that leads a group. Leaders are influential in the decision-making process.

**Legal title:** A document, which can be recognized in a court of law as giving ownership to property to either an individual or a corporation

**Legislation:** The act or process of passing laws. Lawmaking. A law or group of laws proposed or enacted by a legislature.

**Legislature:** An officially selected body of persons with the power and responsibility to make and change laws.

**Lépine, Ambroise :** A Métis nationalist, activist and Riel loyalist who played a key role in the 1869-70 Resistance. Lépine was seen by English Canada as the person most

responsible for the execution of Thomas Scott. In 1873, he was eventually found guilty of Scott's "murder" and was sentenced to death. The sentence was eventually commuted, and his civil rights were restored.

**Lifestyle:** The way a person or people commonly live, ways of living that set persons or people apart.

**Lineage:** Is the tracing of one's family back to an original ancestor or starter of a family line. For instance, many Métis can trace their family name back to the name of one ancestor from New France or with a Hudson's Bay Company official.

**Lower Canada:** The southern portion of Québec from 1791 until 1841. It was called Lower Canada because it was "down" the St. Lawrence River and because Canada's provinces rise from east to west. By contrast, Ontario was originally known as Upper Canada.

**Lower Fort Garry:** A historic fur trade post built in 1831, by the Hudson's Bay Company some time after the amalgamation of the company with its bitter rival, the North West Company. During the agitation surrounding the Métis Resistance of 1869-70, which created the Province of Manitoba, Lower Garry served as a prison to hold those individuals who opposed the Provisional Government and as a meeting place for Métis counselors.

**Luxury goods:** Items that are not needed for the daily survival needs of a person or group. They are goods purchased for enjoyment or prestige rather than necessity.

## M

**Macdonald, Sir John A:** He was the first Prime Minister of Canada in the years 1867-1873 and 1878-1891. He was the leader of the Liberal-Conservative Party, the forerunner of the Progressive-Conservative Party of Canada. Sir John A. Macdonald was the person most responsible for the creation of the Dominion of Canada in 1867, for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, creating the National Policy and for crushing the 1885 Resistance.

**Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, Inquiry:** An impact study by Thomas Berger for the federal government to indicate whether or not an oil and natural gas pipeline through the Mackenzie River valley would adversely affect the area's fragile

natural environment and the local Aboriginal peoples' subsistence activities. The hearings lasted from 1974 until 1977.

**Made Beaver:** The made beaver was a well-dressed, thick-furred beaver pelt. It became standard of trade used in the fur trade system in Canada on which the value of all other items was based.

**Magistrate:** Is a legal authority, usually a Justice of the Peace or a low ranking judge, charged with dispensing civil law.

**Manitoba Act:** An act which created the province of Manitoba in 1870. The act guaranteed 1.4 million acres of land to and language rights for the Métis people of Manitoba.

**Marginalization:** Placed on the margins of society. Excluded from mainstream group activities or social systems.

**Marketing board:** Is a means by which a group of primary producers such as farmers or fisher folk collectively have an agency market their product in order to receive a fair price and to avoid undercutting each other.

**Marriage alliances:** The establishment of familial ties through marriage between two families or two groups, commonly for the mutual benefit of the two families or groups. For instance, such alliances have been used to help end conflicts or gain access to territories for resource harvesting.

**Marrow:** The calorie rich, fatty tissue inside bones.

**Mason:** Someone who builds with stone.

**Mass:** A ritualistic ceremony of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches, which involves the Celebration of the Eucharist.

**Material culture:** The buildings, tools, and other artifacts that constitute the material aspects of past and present societies and technologies.

**Mercantilism:** A theory popular among European nations in the early modern period stating that the economic and political strength of a country lay in its acquiring gold

and silver, to be achieved by restricting imports, developing production for exports, and prohibiting the export of gold and silver.

**Métis:** A French word, which means mixed. In the Canadian context, the word means persons of mixed Aboriginal and European heritage, no matter the mixture, who identify themselves as a Métis. In English, the word is pronounced "may-tee" while in French it is pronounced "may-tis" - a pronunciation which many Métis Elders still use.

**Métis Betterment Act:** As a result of the recommendations made by the Ewing Commission, the first *Métis Betterment Act* was passed on November 22, 1938. This act outlined the Alberta provincial government's responsibilities towards Alberta Métis citizens.

**Métis Nation Accord:** This Accord was signed in 1993 by the federal government and the Métis National Council. The purpose of the accord was to establish the framework to create an effective Métis land base and to achieve Métis self-government.

**Métis National Council:** Is the national governing body of the Métis of Canada and includes representatives from the various Métis provincial councils.

**Métis Settlements Accord of Alberta:** Was signed in 1990 between the Métis settlements and the Alberta provincial government. This is a working model of regional self-government for the Métis settlements.

**Métissage:** The mixing of distinct races in order to produce a new people.

**Métisse:** Is the feminine form of Métis and was used historically to refer to a Métis woman or girl.

**Michif:** A distinctly Métis language based on a mixture of Cree or Ojibwa and French with a distinct grammar, syntax, and lexicon.

**Middleman:** A trader who handles a product between its producer or distributor and its customer; an intermediary.

**Midwife:** A person who is trained to assist a woman in childbirth.

**Missionaries:** Clerics or otherwise qualified members of a church or religious group (such as from the Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Russian Orthodox Churches) sent to propagate a religious faith among unconverted or relatively unconverted people.

**Mission school:** Church-run schools, which took native people away from their communities and tried to wean them away from their Aboriginal heritage.

**Moose Factory:** A Hudson's Bay Company trading outpost and storage facility in northern Ontario along Moose River and an inlet of James Bay.

**Monopoly:** Exclusive possession of rights to trade in some commodity. The Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) had a trade monopoly after the 1821 merger of the North West Company and HBC. In order to get better prices under the 1821 trade monopoly, many Métis practiced illegal trade with American fur traders.

## N

**Nation:** A group of people organized under one government; also a culturally homogenous group speaking the same language.

**Nationalism:** Patriotic feeling, principles or efforts. Policy of national independence. Concern for or attachment to a particular nation's interests or culture. Advocacy of national independence or some other national "mission".

**Native people:** Refers to the First Nations (status and non-status), the Inuit, and the Métis.

**Natural resource:** A material, such as timber or mineral deposits, occurring in nature that a group of people find useful or helpful in their economic, social, or spiritual adaptations.

**Nomadic:** A lifestyle, which involves a non-permanent settlement pattern.

**Non-confidence motion:** Is a parliamentary manoeuvre meant to bring down a government in a minority government situation. The members vote on whether or not the governing party has

the confidence of the House of Commons or any provincial legislature, and if it does no the government falls and a general election is called.

**Non-profit:** An organization where all funds or moneys raised go directly towards a specific cause or activity. These organizations have a special legal status and cannot spend the money on other peripheral activities.

**Non-renewable:** Natural resources that cannot be replaced once they are used up. Oil, natural gas, and coal are example of non-renewable resources.

**Non-status Indian:** A non-status Indian is a person who was missed by the treaty commissions and was never officially registered as an Indian under *The Indian Act*.

**Northern Department Council:** of the Hudson's Bay Company.

**North West Company (The) or NWC:** A Scottish, Anglo-American, and Canadien fur trade company established after the Conquest of Canada (1760) and based out of Montréal. The NWC used the same inland fur trade as the French and Canadiens and had the same rivalry with the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). The NWC employed many more Métis than the HBC prior to the amalgamation of the two companies in 1821.

**North West Game Act 1917:** Federal government legislation which granted the three Prairie Provinces the right to manage game and other wild life in their jurisdictions. The Prairie Provinces did not control all of their natural resources until 1930.

**North West Mounted Police:** A federal police force officially formed in 1873 to assert Canada's control in the Northwest.

**Northwest Territories:** A territory of Canada. The former area of Rupert's Land, which originally extended from Labrador to the Alaska border and was called the "North-West Territories". A huge territory of land incorporated into Canada in 1870. Eventually, Manitoba (1870), the Yukon Territory (1898), Alberta (1905) and Saskatchewan (1905) and Nunavut (1999) were created from this territory.

**Norris, Malcom:** An important Métis political leader who organized the Métis in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the

1930s, 40s, and 50s. Norris was born at St Albert, North West Territories in 1900 and died in Calgary Alberta in 1967.

**Nuclear family:** Father, mother, and dependent children who, typically, reside together.

## O

**Oakum:** Pieces of fibre, usually from old rope, used in caulking.

**Observance:** To perform a rite or ceremonial act.

**Oral history:** Stories and historical events and experiences passed down from generation to generation by individuals and families. These events were not compiled in a written form but rather committed to memory.

**Oblate Fathers of Mary Immaculate:** A religious order of the Roman Catholic Church. Many members of this order served as missionaries to the indigenous people of the Canadian Northwest.

**Opinion:** A view formed in the mind about a particular matter.

**Outfit:** The supplying of goods necessary for survival. It is also a term used to denote a fiscal year for the Hudson's Bay Company administration.

**Outpost:** A centre of the fur trade in a remote or otherwise isolated area.

## P

**Parfleche:** A container made of folded leather and fastened by a strip of rawhide. Parfleches are commonly painted or decorated in bright colours.

**Paternalistic:** Under the care and control of male centered institutions or organizations.

**Patriotic:** One who is devoted to and ready to defend his country or nation.



**Pemmican:** A mixture of pounded bison meat, fat, and berries used as a staple food in the fur trade economy.

**Pemmican Proclamation:** A Hudson's Bay Company proclamation of July 1814, which attempted to regulate the Métis buffalo hunt. The Métis, of course, resisted this measure.

**Peripheral activity:** Is a secondary activity, often related to economics, undertaken to supplement primary or everyday activities. For some Métis people, this could be the seasonal or incidental hunting or trapping trip to supplement the food and income earned by working at a wage-earning job.

**Petition:** A solemn, formally written request addressed to an authority.

**Pilgrimage:** A journey to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion.

**Pitch:** A resin made from pine or spruce tree sap used to caulk the seams of birch bark canoes and York boats, making them waterproof.

**Point blanket:** A wool blanket sold and traded by the Hudson's Bay Company. Blanket sizes were standardized by the number of "points" or short lines marked on the side of the blanket. The blankets differed in size and quality, with a four-point blanket being of the highest quality and the greatest size. People made jackets called 'capotes' from point blankets.

**Political activism:** Sometimes it is necessary for ordinary people to enter the political system in order to end their social, racial, ethnic, religious and gender displacement or oppression. This is political activism and the Métis of Canada had to organize politically so their voices could be heard in decision-making circles.

**Political organization:** Although law can exist without government in the formal sense, the existence of law presupposes some sort of political process. The political process defines behavioural norms, allocates forces and authority, and settles disputes. Political organization also organizes group efforts at public works, carries out ritual or ceremonial tasks, organizes and maintains the means of economic exchange and defends the home territory and wages aggression against enemies.

**Polygamy:** An anthropological term for the practice of having more than one marriage partner at the same time.

**Polygyny:** An anthropological term the practice of having more than one wife at the same time.

**Portage:** An overland route connecting two water bodies over which traders carried their watercraft and goods.

**Portage La Loche route:** The portage connecting the Churchill River and the Clearwater River. A very important overland route because it connected the drainage which entered Hudson Bay and the drainage which entered the Arctic Ocean.

**Post-Contact Period:** An archaeological term referring to the period in American history after Europeans came into contact with Aboriginal peoples. The timing of this period varies across the Americas due to the time it took to travel across the interior or arrive on the Pacific or Arctic coast after arriving on the Atlantic coast. Is also known as the Post-European Contact Period.

**Post-marital residence:** An anthropological term for the location where a couple resides after entering into a marriage or after a formal wedding ceremony.

**Post-Modern interpretation:** Is a school of thought or theoretical perspective, which seeks to critically analyze traditional modes of thought, art, and culture. Post-Modernist scholars attempt to incorporate the views and input minorities and other groups in its analysis of society. Regarding Louis Riel as a Canadian hero after the Canadian state executed him as a traitor is a Post-Modern view of the Métis patriot.

**Poultice:** A soft heated mass with medicinal properties applied to a sore spot on the body in order to reduce inflammation or infection.

**Power:** The capacity or ability to do or accomplish something. Strength, force, or might. The authority or ability to control others. Having great authority or influence.

**Power of attorney:** A legal document transferring powers from one individual to another. By having a power of

attorney a person has the right to make certain decisions on behalf of the client.

**Pre-Contact period:** An archaeological term for the period in history before Europeans came into contact with Aboriginal peoples in the Americas. Is also known as the Pre-European Contact Period.

**Priest:** A specialist, often full-time, who officiates at religious rituals and ceremonies; an ordained minister of Roman Catholic or Anglican Church.

**Primary source documents:** Sources, such as newspapers, journal entries and government documents, which allow an historian to tell a past story. Secondary sources are printed materials such as books and reports, which have been derived from primary documents.

**Prince Albert Métis Fall Festival:** A series of cultural and recreation events organized by the Métis community of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. Events are held in early September.

**Proclamation:** To announce or declare officially to the general public.

**Provisional government:** Temporary government.

**Provisioner:** Someone who supplies provisions; the Métis were frequently hired to provision the Hudson's Bay Company posts in Red River with fresh bison meat and pemmican.

**Provisions:** A supply of food and needed equipment.

## Q

**Quadrille:** A square dance of five figures performed by four couples

**Quillwork:** Embroidery using natural or dyed porcupine quills.

## R

**Racism:** A theory that human abilities are determined by race.

**Ratified:** The act of confirming or accepting by formal consent or signature.

**Recycle:** The act of returning material to a previous state, or to convert waste to reusable material.

**Red Power Movement:** Also known as the American Indian movement. This movement, now embraced by many Aboriginal peoples throughout North America, is a civil rights movement started by Native American activists in the 1960s, and was influenced by the African-American Civil Rights movement. The movement led to resistance against the American government at Wounded Knee North Dakota in the early 1970s.

**Red River:** The Red River was a resource rich area and became a major settlement and distribution point for the early fur trade. The Métis people made up a majority of the population along the river during the 1800s.

**Red River Expedition:** Military volunteers and recruits from Canada that came to Red River in 1870 to suppress the provisional government of Louis Riel and the Métis.

**Red River Settlement:** Was the original non-First Nations settlement in Manitoba, outside of fur-trade posts. The settlement consisted of Irish and Scottish farmers, Métis, Canadien and Country Born farmers and buffalo hunters.

**Resistance of 1885:** See the 1885 Resistance.

**Red River Resistance:** The first of the great Métis resistances led by Louis Riel, which led to the creation of Manitoba as a province in 1870. The Red River Resistance began in October 1869, with the creation of a provisional government, and concluded on May 12, 1870 when Parliament passed *The Manitoba Act*.

**Reel:** A fast, lively folk dance.

**Riel, Louis:** Métis leader who led the Métis resistances of 1869-70 and 1885. He was the founder of the Province of Manitoba. Riel was born on October 22, 1844, in the Red River colony and was executed on November 16, 1885, at Regina, North West Territories.

**Riel, Marguerite** (née Monette dit Bellehumeur): A Métis woman who married Louis Riel. Louis and Marguerite had a boy

and a girl, Jean and Marie-Angelique. Madame Riel was born at the White Horse Plains just west of present-day Winnipeg in 1861 and died in May, 1886, from tuberculosis.

**Regulation:** A rule.

**Relief:** A government-organized system created to assist people and families in time of need in welfare states such as Canada.

**Religion:** That aspect of a people's world view which deals the supernatural, spiritual factors in their world; the actions people engage in to deal with those factors.

**Rendezvous:** See Aggregating Centres.

**Renewable resources:** Natural resources such as timber, flora, and fauna that can be maintained if they are carefully used by people and industry.

**Residential schools:** Schools run by the church under an arrangement by the government which removed Indian children from their homes in order to assimilate them into mainstream society.

**Resistance:** The act of opposing.

**Resources:** Items that are useful or can be used profitably. Animals, plants and minerals are examples of resources, which can be used for food, shelter and tools within a subsistence-oriented lifestyle. Wheat, uranium and gold are resources that can be used in commercial industries. See Commodity.

**Resurgence:** The act of arising again. The Métis Nation is once again growing strong after years of oppression following the 1869 and 1885 resistances. Now people are once again vocalizing their pride and nationalism in mainstream society.

**Revival:** To bring back to consciousness or life. A reawakening of religious fervour.

**Rights:** Rights owed to a person or group by force of custom, law or nature. A just moral or legal claim.

**Rite of passage:** An anthropological term for a public ceremony or ritual recognizing and marking a transition from one group or status to another.

**River lots:** The traditional Métis system of land-hold tenure based on the French-Canadian river lot system of old Québec. River lots are long narrow strips of land fronting a river and stretching back inland for a specified distance.

**Road allowance; road allowance people:** Lands set aside by the government for the development of roads. Many dispossessed Métis lived on road allowances when they were pushed off their traditional lands, becoming known as the road allowance people.

**Royal Commission:** A government funded study or investigation into issues of public concern. Information from these studies can influence the direction of government and public policies in Canada. The final reports of the commissions are made public.

**Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples:** Established in 1991, this commission held its first round of hearings across Canada in April 1992. The objective of this commission is to allow Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people and organizations to voice their concerns and to offer solutions to the broad range of problems facing Canada's Aboriginal peoples. The commission made transcripts and summaries of the hearings. Its final report appeared in 1996.

**Rudder:** Flat piece hinged vertically to the stern of a water-borne vessel for steering.

**Rupert's Land:** This is the territory that the Hudson's Bay Company and English crown claimed. The land drained by waters entering the Hudson Bay.

## S

**Saddle notch; saddling:** Saddling involved making a rounded notch at the end and bottom of a log, which fit over the hump of the log immediately below it at the corner of a building. While quick and easy to fashion, saddle notches were weaker than dovetail notches. Most buildings using saddle notching generally did not exceed one storey and were built with logs 8 to 15 centimetres in diameter.

**Sanatorium:** An institution established for the treatment of sick people, especially convalescents and the chronically sick.

**Sayer Trial:** In 1849, Guillaume Sayer, a Métis free trader, appeared before a Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) magistrate facing charges of trading illegally outside of the HBC trade monopoly. The Métis community compelled the magistrate to suspend his sentence. This was viewed as an assertion of Métis freedom to trade.

**Scow:** A small, flat-bottomed boat.

**Scott, Thomas (1842-1870):** An Irish-born Orangeman who opposed the action of Louis Riel and the Métis provisional government at Red River in 1869. He was arrested, convicted and sentenced to death by the Métis Provisional Government. This action led to a strong response by Anglo-eastern Canadians.

**Schmidt, Louis (1844-1935).** Métis patriot and friend of Louis Riel, who was never involved in the Métis resistances against Canada to the same extent as his better-remembered friend. In later life he continued to defend the rights of the Métis as well as Saskatchewan's Catholics and Francophones.

**Scrip; Scrip certificate:** A government issued certificate that gave Métis people land or money.

**Scrip Commission:** These were government-organized gatherings held at or near Métis communities for the purpose of determining who was eligible for scrip, as well as issuing it.

**Seasonal cycle:** The recurrent round of economic activities and movements of a group of people, who are dependent on natural cycles for the availability of resources. This refers primarily to people involved in subsistence-related economic pursuits.

**Seasonal employment:** Wage-based activities available for limited periods of time during the year. The availability of these jobs is commonly based on natural cycles or government regulated times, such as for commercial fishing or trapping.

**Section:** A parcel of land measuring 640 acres (259 hectares) or 1 mile by 1 mile (1.6 kilometres by 1.6 kilometres). There are 36 sections in a township. Sections are commonly broken up into quarter sections (160 acres) and half sections (320 acres). Land scrip certificates issued in Manitoba were worth 160 acres or, in other words, a quarter section.

**Section 35, Constitution Act:** The section of the constitution, which recognizes Aboriginal people as being First Nations (Indian), Inuit and Métis.

**Security:** The state of being secure, freedom from worry, feeling safe.

**Sedentary:** To remain in one location for an extended period of time. Many Métis buffalo hunters became sedentary when they became full-time farmers.

**Self-determination:** Is the desire of a nation of people, for a whole host of reasons, to obtain more self-government or to become independent of the larger political entity in which they live.

**Self-government:** Is the desire of groups of colonized or politically marginalized people to govern their own affairs without outside interference. The term does not infer separation but means instead autonomy.

**Semi-nomadic:** A settlement pattern where a group takes up seasonal, not permanent, residence in several areas of a region during the year. This lifestyle is commonly associated with harvesting seasonally rich or available resources. A family might spend their late spring, summer and fall planting, tending and harvesting a crop while, in the winter, they might go hunting and trapping in a different area.

**Seneca root:** This is a root that is found in dry soil of rocky woods. The root has many medicinal purposes and works well as an expectorant. Historically, many Métis people supplemented their income by picking seneca root. Scientific name is *polygana senega*

**Servants:** Within the context of the fur trade, full time employees of the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) receiving a wage



or a contract for their work. They were fed, paid, and lodged by the HBC.

**Settlers:** People who immigrated from another region or country to begin a new life, particularly in agriculture or other resource industries.

**Seven Oaks, Battle of:** This was a skirmish between the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and Métis at a ravine called Seven Oaks on June 19, 1816. The Métis defeated the HBC and asserted their rights to free trade in the region. This event promoted Métis nationalism in the Red River region.

**Shamans:** Individuals recognized in Aboriginal communities as having special connections to the supernatural. They are often known as healers and medicine people. Shamans' roles and duties are different from group to group.

**Shanty:** A shack or cabin.

**Sinew:** A very tough, stringy tissue found in the muscle bands of animals. The Métis frequently used the long strands of sinew along the neck and back of a bison. Métis people sewed with sinew and used it when they needed to bind items together in a very secure fashion.

**Skiff:** A light rowing boat

**Skilled labour:** Labour in which specialized knowledge and talent share needed, usually acquired through an apprenticeship program or from courses from a technical school.

**Skirmish:** An irregular engagement between two small bodies of troops.

**Subsistence:** Resources necessary to sustain life.

**Social Assistance:** A government-organized system created to assist people and families in time of need.

**Social Darwinism:** A now-defunct concept based on Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. It postulated that human societies evolve, like humans have biologically. Hunting and gathering societies were seen as the least developed,

and industrial societies, especially those of Europe, as the most advanced.

**Socialism:** A political system, which maintains that the community is more important than the individual, and that the working class, the vast majority of the people, should own the means of production or the means to make a livelihood. The socialist system, in its purest form, is opposed to capitalism.

**Social organization:** The ability of all human groups to live collectively by a set of rules in order to provide for themselves materially and spiritually. Humankind has found it necessary to organize into societies in order to survive. Very few humans have the ability to survive on their own outside of organized society.

**Socialization:** The process by which humans come together and adapt to living in a particular society.

**Social status:** The relative positions held by members in a society. These are often based on access to money, power, and prestige, as well as experience, resourcefulness, and generosity.

**Social stratification:** The presence of acknowledged differences in social status and /or wealth among the people within a society.

**Society:** A territorially distinct and largely self-perpetuating group whose members have a sense of collective identity and who share a common language and culture.

**Sovereignty:** Supreme in power and rank. Self-governing and independent. Supremacy of rule or authority. Political autonomy. Exerting supreme power.

**Spawning:** A period of time when fish gather in large numbers in a specific environment to produce eggs and create offspring.

**Species:** Class of organisms having the same characteristics. Group of plants or animals in the same genus, differing only in minor ways from others within the group.

**Specific claim:** A claim based on the case that the government did not fulfill its obligations.

**Speculators:** People who engage in risky financial transactions.

**Spirituality, Aboriginal:** Is a system of beliefs which maintains that a divine creator or creators created the world, that humans should live in harmony with each other and, in some belief systems with nature and that there is a system of divine laws which people should follow to make their lives better and to prepare for the afterlife. Spirituality is often used interchangeably with religion even though the two terms have very different meanings: religion is organized spirituality in which a class of priests or holy people interpret divine meanings and disseminate it to the public; spirituality is more an individual and, therefore, not organized belief system.

**Sport hunting:** Hunting for enjoyment or pleasure. The acquisition of game is not critical for group survival or subsistence. Historically, many Indian and Métis subsistence hunters have competed for resources with sport hunters.

**Squatters:** To settle on land without having legal title. To settle on public land in order to obtain legal title.

**Standard of living:** A measure of the quality and quantity of goods and services enjoyed by a person, group, or nation.

**Staple:** An important product or export that is the main or principal article of commerce in a district or country. It is a main element or material that drives the local economy. The buffalo was an important staple for the plains Métis.

**Steersman:** The steersman was a position a person held during the fur trade on York boats. He was responsible for steering a boat along water routes. The steersman on a York boat had a very important role in the fur trade. He was the most important member of the York boat crew. Guides often doubled as steersmen as they were familiar with water routes.

**Stereotype:** A preconceived and simplified mental image of a category or group of persons that influences perceptions of persons, customs, or things. The word is derived from a printing process for reproducing typefaces.

**Stern:** Rear end of a canoe or boat.

**Stevedores:** A person hired to load and unload boats.

**Stigmatize:** To describe as unworthy or disgraceful.

**Stooked:** Is the process by which ripening grain is put in a conical formation after it has been cut at harvest time in order to prevent rain, frost, or snow from damaging it.

**St. Paul des Métis:** Was the first Métis settlement in Alberta, which did not start out as a fur trade centre. Located in Northern Alberta, the settlement, the first of the Métis settlements of Alberta, began through the efforts of the Métis missionary Father Albert Lacombe and lasted from 1896 until 1909, when its residents left due to financial difficulties and the resistance of other Métis who did not want to live in the community.

**St. Paul, Minnesota:** The capital of Minnesota and a historic trading centre of western North America, which many Métis free traders and freighters frequently visited.

**Strike:** To stop working in protest against something or in support of demands made of an employer.

**Subsistence:** The activities a person or group takes part in to meet physical needs of food, shelter, and clothing, without developing a surplus and often without the use or exchange of currency.

**Subsistence cycle:** The pattern or round of activities a person or group takes part in throughout a year or season to meet the physical needs of food, shelter, and clothing.

**Subsistence farming:** a system of farming where nearly all the goods produced are used by the farm family without significant surplus for sale.

**Suet:** The hard fat of the kidneys and loins of bison or cattle.

**Supreme Court of Canada:** This is the highest court in Canada. Decisions made at this level stand above all other judgments made in a lower court. The Supreme Court will only make judgments on cases it deems valid.

**Surplus:** The amount left over when requirements have been met. Exceeding what is needed or used. Excess of revenue over expenditure.

## T

**Tanned:** A method of treating a hide to soften and preserve it for use in clothing or shelter. Métis hide tanning involves removing hair and tissues, rubbing in oils, soaking in water, and smoking.

**Theology:** Is the study of God, and God's word through scripture. Theologies come from all religions but the most widely known come from the three great monotheistic ("One god") religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

**Title:** In the context of Métis history, title means ownership of land through Aboriginal inheritance, which the Métis have either lost or have tried to own or regain, usually through the scrip and treaty process.

**Token system:** A teaching method that gives tokens out to students in recognition of their achievement. This system can be coercive if applied in a negative manner

**Township:** A unit of land equal to 36 sections of land; in other words it is a square, measuring 6 miles by 6 miles (or approximately 10 kilometres by 10 kilometres).

**Track:** To pull a boat over rapids or shallow water from the shore using ropes and harnesses.

**Trade:** The business of buying and selling commodities. To exchange one item for another, bartering.

**Trade monopoly:** Occurs when a trading company has exclusive right, granted by government legislation, to trade in a specified territory. In the context of Métis history, this term meant the exclusive trading monopoly granted to the Hudson's Bay Company for the Hudson's Bay drainage basin granted in 1670 by the English Crown, which the Métis ignored either in the employ of the North West Company or as free traders. See Free traders.

**Tradition:** Proven and accepted ways, which are handed down from generation to generation. The body of information, rules, and values, which made existence possible and meaningful for a group of people. Traditions, like societies themselves, can be affected by changing circumstances.

**Traditional knowledge:** Knowledge about the land, environment, and resources that has been passed down from generation to generation.

**Trap line:** The tract of land on which a person places traps to capture animals for their pelts.

**Travois:** A vehicle composed of two poles lashed together at one end with a seat or platform attached between them pulled by a dog or horse. Used to transport camp supplies.

**Treason-felony:** An offence akin to treason or felony, but not liable to the capital penalty.

**Treaty:** Today a treaty is a formal agreement between two or more states or nations. In the past, a treaty was by individuals, usually princes, and or states.

**Treaty Indian:** A First Nations person who is a descendant of family members who signed treaty with, or received treaty annuities from, the Canadian government. Treaty First Nations are registered as Indians under *The Indian Act*.

**Tuberculosis:** An infectious bacterial disease promoting the growth of nodes or tubercles in the lungs. Untreated, this disease can be fatal.

## U

**Undercapitalized:** A lack of material wealth in the form of money or property that is used to produce more wealth.

**United Nations:** A world organization of states, which attempts to ensure stability in our world. The United Nations was founded in 1945 in an effort to construct a better world after the carnage of the Second World War.

Canada was a founding member of the United Nations and has great respect there.

**Upper Canada:** Québec was divided into two colonies in 1791. Upper Canada was "up" the St. Lawrence River and is part of present day Ontario. Also, Upper Canada was higher in elevation than Lower Canada. Both provinces were amalgamated in 1841, and were called the united province of Canada, in an attempt to assimilate the French Canadians. See Lower Canada.

**Urbanization:** Humanity's move towards gathering in large settlements and away from rural or sparsely settled areas.

**Utilitarian:** Suitable for everyday use; designed primarily for practicability or function.

## V

**Veteran Affairs:** A Canadian government department that oversees the programs and support systems for war veterans.

**Vermilion:** Traditionally, a form of iron oxide known as hematite used as a red paint or dye by Aboriginal people. In some circumstances cinnabar and other natural ingredients were used. Vermilion can also be made artificially.

**Victorian:** Relating to the period of Queen Victoria's reign (1837-1901), or displaying qualities (e.g. fashion and furniture) associated with the time of Queen Victoria.

**Vision quest:** The attempt to enlist the aid of supernatural powers by intentionally seeking a dream or vision.

**Voyageurs:** French-Canadian, Iroquois and Algonquin fur traders that traveled westward in search of trade with the Aboriginal peoples.

## W

**Wage labour:** Activities in which people are involved to earn money or goods to support themselves. People are dependent on a larger economic system for their survival. This is in contrast to subsistence activities where people acquire their food, shelter and tools for themselves and are generally self-sufficient.

**Wake:** A gathering of people mourning the death of a person, not associated with, or part of, religious funeral services.

**Western Treaty Making Process:** As Canada expanded westward, the federal government entered into a treaty-making process with First Nations, by which the people ceded the land to the Crown, thus opening the way for the peaceful settlement of the west.

**Whitehorse Plain:** Prime Métis and First Nations buffalo hunting grounds, which were located in what is now southern Manitoba.

**Winterer:** Term for Métis people in the nineteenth century who remained on the prairies, often in small temporary villages, in winter to hunt bison once the commercial hunts were over. They camped in regions with sufficient fuel, water, and animals to subsist through the winter. During the second half of the nineteenth century, the Métis hunted in winter for buffalo robes. See hibernant.

**Wintering Servant:** A person paid, fed, and lodged by the Hudson's Bay Company for work done through the winter months rather than year round.

**Wolseley's Expedition:** This was the name of the military troops sent out from Eastern Canada in 1870 to suppress the Métis resistance in Red River.

**Worldview:** The way a people interpret reality and events, including how they see themselves as relating to the world around them.

**World War One:** The first worldwide war, which used scientific means to kill people fought from August 1914 until November 11, 1918. About 60,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders died in this war.

**World War Two:** The first war, which Canada declared war on its own. The war was fought from September 1939 and lasted until August 1945 after Japan surrendered unconditionally. About 42,000 Canadians and Newfoundlanders died in a war to stop Nazi, fascist and Japanese militarism, which took some 50,000,000 lives worldwide.

**Y**



**York Factory:** One of the Hudson's Bay Company's oldest and busiest trading posts located on the Hayes river on the western shore of Hudson Bay. The post was founded in 1684, and was a major post until 1774, when it declined due to increased in land trade by the North West Company. In 1873, its role as headquarters ended, and the post, once the busiest in Canada, closed in 1957.

### **Numerical Terms**

**1821 Merger:** The union or amalgamation of the Hudson's Bay Company and its hated rival the North West Company. The merger ended about 50 years of hostilities between the rival companies, events, which involved many Métis.

**1869-70 Resistance:** The first of the great Métis resistances led by Louis Riel, which led to the creation of Manitoba as a province in 1870.

**1870 Dispersal:** The movement out of Manitoba by the Métis to the Saskatchewan river valley after the 1869-70 Resistance, after it appeared that Euro-Canadians were taking over the province.

**1885 Resistance:** The final and greatest of the various Métis resistances, which started after the Canadian government ignored the Métis and settlers' peaceful petitions for redress. The Métis were crushed in this resistance by the forces of English Canada, and their beloved leader, Louis Riel, was executed.

**1885 Dispersal:** The movement of the Métis out of the Saskatchewan valley to the Peace River country of Alberta and the bush in northern Saskatchewan after the suppression of the Métis resisters.

**1939 Re: Eskimos:** A judicial decision which maintained that, for purposes of *The Indian Act*, the Inuit were "Indians" and were therefore entitled to the "status privileges".