

Métis Milestones

The Métis are a distinct post-Contact Indigenous nation formed by a perfect synthesis of First Nations and Euro-Settler traditions. Since their formation as a people, starting in the 1780s, the Métis have had an interesting and varied history, and their own culture, languages, and territories with deep historical roots in the three Prairie Provinces, and northwest Ontario, northeast British Columbia, the Northwest Territories, northern Montana and North Dakota. From the fur trade to bison hunting to the Road Allowance period, through two world wars to the modern era and the struggle to have their inherent Indigenous rights recognized, the Métis have contributed immensely to the region's and country's history.

1770s: With the revival of the Montreal-based fur trade, a distinction is made between the Métis, descended from French-Canadian voyageur fathers, and the Country Born (English Metis) descended from English or Scottish fathers; the distinction between them diminishes over time.

1774: Cumberland House is founded as a fur trade depot. It is the oldest settled community in Saskatchewan.

1776: Île-à-la-Crosse is founded. It is the second oldest community in Saskatchewan.

1770s-90s: Some mixed heritage people move into what is now Western Canada from the Great Lakes region. These mixed heritage people intermarried with Métis indigenous to what is now Western Canada. Métis group identity begins to form in what is now Red River Settlement (southern Manitoba/northern North Dakota). During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Métis would become invaluable employees due to their skills as boatmen, bison hunters, labourers, traders and interpreters.

1793: Cuthbert Grant is born at Fort Tremblante (near Yorkton, Saskatchewan). He is the first leader of the Métis Nation. However, he would later by become an Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) employer.

1801: November 15, the first Red River cart is built at the Pembina trading post.

1811: The Red River Settlement is founded as the HBC grants Lord Selkirk 300,438 square kilometres centred on the junction of the Red River and the Assiniboine River to bring in Scottish settlers. The Métis who already live in the area refuse to accept Lord Selkirk's control because they fear losing their lands and their ability to both trade and provide pemmican for the fur trade.

1812-1814: The War of 1812, primarily fought in the Great Lakes region, sets in place what becomes the Canada-United States border. Some Métis from present-day Western Canada fight on the British/Canadian side.

1815: The Métis sign a treaty with the HBC to conclude an undeclared war between Company officials, Selkirk Settlers, and the Métis and their North West Company (NWC) allies.

1816: May, the Métis (Infinity/Circle of Eight) flag flies for the first time in what is now Manitoba. The Métis flag is the oldest patriotic flag created in Canada. For contemporary Métis, this infinity symbol has two meanings: the joining of two cultures (Indigenous and European) and the existence of a people forever.

1816: June 19, the Métis and their Nehiyaw Pwat and NWC allies, led by Cuthbert Grant, defeat HBC officials and Selkirk settlers at the Battle of la Grenouillère (dubbed by the Anglo-Settlers as "Seven Oaks"). The HBC tries to curb the Métis' hunting and trading practices.

1816: Pierre Falcon, the "Métis bard," composes "The Battle of Flag Plain" "la gournouillere" (Michif)/"la grenouillère"(French)—the first Métis national anthem and the oldest patriotic song created in Canada.

1821: The HBC-NWC merger results in an influx of Métis families to the Red River Settlement.

1820s-50s: Métis self-identity further crystallizes as hundreds of Red River Métis and Scots/Orkney Half-breeds begin working as free traders, fur trade boatmen, bison hunters, and farmers. During this time, the Métis call themselves "gens libres," "Otipemisiwak" or the "Free People" because of their desire to be free. They are also known as "Apeetogosan," "Wissakodewinimi," and "Bois-brûlés" because of their mixed heritage. The two groups begin to intermarry and begin to see that they have common interests against the HBC trading monopoly and governance, eventually leading to one people, the Métis Nation.

1830: The Métis demand representation on the HBC governing body for the Red River Settlement, the Council of Assiniboia.

1835: the Métis protest the HBC trade monopoly and request free trade with the United States.

1837: Gabriel Dumont is born in St. Boniface in what is now Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1839: The HBC belatedly appoints Métis leader Cuthbert Grant to the Council of Assiniboia, which recognizes that the Métis had a right in governing the Red River Settlement.

1840: The Red River Métis codifies the Law of the Hunt, to govern and regulate the biannual bison hunts. Extending from the bison hunt, the Métis practiced a form of consensual democracy. Informal assemblies led by Elders—which were usually held in the Pembina Hills of southern Manitoba, prior to the departure of the two bison-hunting camps (one to the Forks of the Saskatchewan River and the other to what is now North Dakota)—met and laws were implemented. In addition, those who transgressed against society’s rules were also punished. At these assemblies, the Métis elected a “Chief of the Hunt.” Following that, a series of “dizaines” or a force of ten men selected a captain. All captains reported directly to the Chief and in turn they coordinated hunting and resource preservation strategies.

1844: Louis Riel is born in St. Boniface in what is now Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1845: The Métis petition the Governor of the Council of Assiniboia to recognize the Métis’ land tenure. The Métis also ask for free trade with the United States. British troops are sent to the Red River Settlement because of the official fear of a possible Métis uprising.

1849: An HBC magistrate releases Métis trader Guillaume Sayer, after convicting him of trafficking in furs, because of the presence of many armed Métis horsemen outside the courthouse led by Louis Riel Sr. This action essentially gives the Métis the right to trade freely outside the HBC monopoly.

1851: The Métis win a decisive two-day battle against the Dakota at Grand Coteau, just outside of present-day Bismarck, North Dakota, on July 13 and 14. This battle took place between a Métis bison-hunting party from St. François Xavier, led by Jean-Baptiste Falcon and the Cut Head (Pabaksa) Yanktonai Dakota led by Chief “Mato Wakan” Medicine Bear.

1857: English Metis lawyer Alexander Isbister, while a resident in London, begins lobbying the Imperial Parliament to recognize the Métis’ and First Nations’ Indigenous rights in 1847. After 10 years of lobbying, Isbister presents his case on the HBC before the British Parliamentary Select Committee. It is decided that, following the precedent of the Royal Proclamation (1763), once Rupert’s Land becomes part of a larger British North American union, the region’s Indigenous residents should have a formal treaty process with the Crown before Euro-Canadian/European settlement could occur.

1862: Prince Albert in present-day Saskatchewan is founded by Métis, James Isbister.

1869: The Red River Settlement, one of the largest settlements on the Plains, consists of an estimated 9,800 Métis and 1,600 Euro-Settlers.

1869: The Dominion of Canada purchases Rupert's Land (the expansive land area that makes up the drainage basin of Hudson Bay) from the HBC for £300, 000 and 1/20 of the territory's fertile land without consulting its Indigenous residents. The Métis at the Red River Settlement establish the National Committee, effectively forming a Provisional Government. This action forces Canada to negotiate with the Métis to bring the region into Confederation as a province, which would become the "postage-stamp"-sized province of Manitoba in 1870. This event is known as the Red River Resistance.

1869: October 11, Édouard Marion discovers government surveyors on his land and summons neighbours and Louis Riel to stop them. The Métis challenge this survey that was conducted without their consent.

1869: October 16, Red River Métis form the National Métis Committee and called for an independent Métis republic. They elected John Bruce as president and Louis Riel as secretary.

1869: November 2, 500 Métis seize Fort Garry, where the Council of Assiniboia met and where the HBC had its main administrative offices in the region. The Métis gain food, armaments and a defensive position from which to defend their cause.

1869: December 8, the Métis form a Provisional Government and create a newspaper entitled *La Nouvelle Nation/The New Nation*. The Métis want to negotiate to join Canada as a nation through an international treaty.

1870: January 26-February 11, to determine the region's political future, the Convention of Forty is held with twenty English Métis and twenty French Métis delegates. They draft the second *List of Rights*, which forms the basis of *The Manitoba Act*.

1870: On May 12, *The Manitoba Act*, which the Métis sees as a treaty with Canada, received royal ascent. The Métis, led by Louis Riel, ensure that the new province would protect French-language rights, making the new province bilingual. The Act also contains a sec. (31) in which the "children of the half-breed heads of families" are to receive 1.4 million acres of land. No provisions are put in place to establish a consolidated Métis land base or to affirm the Métis' Indigenous hunting and harvesting rights. Later, s. 31 lands (land grants) were distributed through a lottery. As there were more Métis children than originally thought, *The Dominion Lands Act* was amended to distribute scrip to the remaining children. Scrip was also distributed to adults who were not included in sec. 31.

1870: July 15, Manitoba, Canada's fifth province, enters Confederation, without recognizing Louis Riel and the Métis as its founders.

1870s: Many permanent Métis settlements in present-day Saskatchewan are founded, including Batoche and its environs and Willow Bunch. The Métis also take part in the numbered Treaty Process as interpreters and in some cases as enrollees.

1870-1873: Between August 1870 and March 1873, the “Reign of Terror” is conducted against the Métis by the Red River Expeditionary Force (RREF) under the command of Garnet Wolseley. The RREF, more than 1,000 troops, is sent west by the federal government to “pacify” the new province. Métis men are murdered and Métis women and girls are raped by the Canadian soldiers. In addition, many settlers begin to arrive from Ontario and are openly hostile to the Métis. Louis Riel, fearing for his life, flees to the United States. The appalling social climate in the new province forces many Métis to disperse to the South Branch Métis settlements around Batoche throughout the 1870s.

1872: February 8, the Ontario government places a \$5,000 bounty on Louis Riel, who was then living in exile in the United States.

1872: *The Dominion Lands Act* became law. The Act provides free homesteads to those who applied to settle on farm and ranch land in Western Canada—provided they settle the land, farm on it, and make improvements to their property. The original *Dominion Lands Act* did not address the issue of the Métis’ Indigenous rights.

1872: The Saskatchewan valley Métis, under Gabriel Dumont’s leadership, petition for an inalienable Métis colony of 1.8 million acres. This is one of dozens of petitions sent by the Métis during the 1870s and ’80s in what is now Alberta and Saskatchewan regarding their land tenure.

1872-1874: Louis Riel is elected three times to represent a Manitoba riding—once in a general election and twice in two by-elections held in October 1873, February 1874, and September 1874. He never takes his seat out of fear for his life, although on one occasion he secretly enters parliament and signs the rolls.

1875: February, the Canadian government grants amnesty to all Métis (except Louis Riel and Ambroise Lépine) who participated in the 1869-70 Red River Resistance.

1875: April, *The North-West Territories Act* becomes law. There are no provisions for the Métis in this Act, which affects Métis living in what is now Alberta, the Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, and northern Manitoba.

1875: August, the North West Mounted Police force the Batoche-area Métis to abandon their form of local self-government, “le conseil de Saint-Laurent” or the “Council of St. Laurent.”

With Gabriel Dumont as its president, the council's last edict is to enforce bison hunting conservation measures.

1875: September 12, the Métis at Rainy Lake and Rainy River (present-day Fort Frances, Ontario) successfully negotiate a "Half-breed" adhesion to Treaty 3, which is originally signed by "Indians" in the Northwest Angle in 1873. This is the only time Métis are dealt with as a collective in one of the historic treaties. After signing, Canada fails to fulfill the adhesion terms by attempting to make Métis in the region identify as "Indians."

1876: June, the federal government's Half-Breed Scrip Commissions begin to issue land and money scrip certificates. The system is fraudulent and most Métis do not end up living on their allotted scrip land. Scrip Commissions would meet and hand out Scrip until the early 1900s. Most Métis would not retain their Scrip lands as the process was fraudulent.

1877-1883: The Métis in Western Canada send dozens of petitions to the federal government regarding the issue of their land tenure.

1878: February 1, the Métis at St. Laurent (Batoche) prepare a list of grievances. In a letter to Lt.-Gov. David Laird, Gabriel Dumont asks for local schools to be subsidized by the territorial government, assistance for Métis farmers, and the appointment of a French-speaking magistrate, a Métis member for the territorial governing council, and a land grant to recognize the Métis' Indigenous title to the land.

1879: May 15, Parliament amends the *Dominion Lands Act* to allow for the granting of land to the Métis in the North-West Territories. However, a commission to settle the Métis land grievances in the North-West Territories is only established on Jan. 28, 1885, and only begins to meet as the Battle of Duck Lake breaks out on March 26, 1885. Amendments to *The Dominion Lands Act* acknowledge that the Métis had outstanding claims to their lands in the North-West Territories. Section 42 indicates that the federal government has a responsibility to protect Indigenous rights (for both Métis and First Nations) and thus have a duty to limit non-Indigenous settlement in a region until the local First Nations and Métis inhabitants have their Indigenous title extinguished through Treaty and Scrip. Section 125 of the act grants occupancy to those who lived peaceably and continually on a piece of land. However, the Act, even with these amendments, does not guarantee the Métis title to their lands. Therefore, Métis living in what is now Saskatchewan continue to send petitions asking that their occupancy and title to their lands be recognized.

1881-1885: The Canadian government builds the Canadian Pacific Railway from Ontario to British Columbia, leading to an influx of new settlers to Western Canada and dramatically changing the economy and way of life of the Métis.

1884: Without a secured land base or title to their lands, Prairie Métis experience ever-increasing encroachment on their lands by new settlers.

1884: May 6, the French Métis of the Northwest pass a resolution to obtain Louis Riel's assistance to negotiate their outstanding land rights grievances with the federal government.

1884: June 4, James Isbister, Gabriel Dumont, Moïse Ouellette, and Michel Dumas arrive at St. Peter's Mission in Montana to bring back Louis Riel to Canada.

1884: Summer, Louis Riel holds meetings with English and French-speaking Métis and non-Aboriginal settlers to negotiate provincial status for the region.

1884: December 16, Louis Riel and William Henry Jackson (secretary to Riel) draft a petition listing the grievances of the Northwest's inhabitants. The government appoints a committee to investigate Métis claims and to make a list of those who did not take Scrip in Manitoba.

1885: March 8, Louis Riel puts forth a motion for the formation of a provisional government and the drafting of a "Bill of Rights."

1885: March 18, Louis Riel is informed by Lawrence Clarke that the Métis petitions would be met with bullets. The Métis immediately form a provisional government. Pierre Parenteau is chosen as president, Charles Nolin is commissioner, Gabriel Dumont is adjutant-general, French Canadian Philippe Garnot is secretary, and 12 other Métis men are elected as members of the council. The non-Indigenous settlers and English-speaking Métis withdraw their support of the provisional government. The provisional government establishes its headquarters at the Batoche Church.

1885: On March 26, the first battle of the 1885 Resistance occurs at Duck Lake. The Métis, under the leadership of Gabriel Dumont, defeat a party of North West Mounted Police officers and settler volunteers.

1885: April 24, Métis forces under Gabriel Dumont clash with Gen. Middleton's army at Tourond's Coulee (Fish Creek). The Battle of Tourond's Coulee is a Métis victory.

1885: May 9-12, the Métis fight the Canadian Army at Batoche. On May 12, tired and out of ammunition, the Métis valiantly succumb to a hasty charge by the Canadian Army. The "disciplined" soldiers zealously and rather gruesomely killed Métis combatants when they found them, even old men. Donald Ross age 63 is bayoneted to death after the Canadian soldiers are told he was responsible for killing captain

French during the Battle of Batoche. Joseph "*La Pioche*" Vandal was 75 years old when he was bayoneted to death after having his arms broken. He died beside Donald Ross. José Joseph Ouelette was 93 when he was bayoneted to death. He died so the younger men could flee and live. Gabriel Dumont noted later: "José ... was killed after the ammunition ran out and Middleton's troops overran the Métis rifle pits. 'What kept me at this position, I must admit, was the courage of Old Ouellette.'" Many Métis homes are pillaged and burned, and many Métis women and children hide along the riverbank to avoid capture. Gabriel Dumont escapes to the United States. Louis Riel surrenders on May 15, three days after the battle.

1885: July 20, Louis Riel's trial for treason begins. During the trial, Riel outlines the undemocratic treatment of the Métis, defends his sanity, and explains his vision for the country. Ontarians demand his execution and French Canadians argue for clemency.

1885: August 1, Louis Riel is found guilty of high treason, although the jury recommends mercy. The judge ignores the jury's recommendation of clemency and sentences Riel to death; all subsequent appeals are lost.

1885: November 16, Louis Riel is executed. Riel's trial and execution cause great conflict within the new country. For English Canadians, Riel's execution is a message that Western Canada would be run by and for Anglo-Protestants. For French-Canadians, Riel's execution is an attack on the French fact in Canada.

1885-1960: The Road Allowance period of Métis history begins. The Métis are socially, economically, and politically marginalized by the dominant society within the Prairie West, with many squatting in makeshift homes along road allowances (the land on either side of rural roads). Many Métis are dispersed to Montana, North Dakota, and the Peace River district of what is now Alberta following the 1885 Resistance.

1887: July 17, the Union Nationale Métisse Saint-Joseph is founded in St. Boniface, Manitoba. This organization still exists.

1896: St. Paul des Métis is founded as a Métis agriculture colony in what is now Alberta. However, by 1909 the community is dissolved and the land is given to French Canadians.

1897: The St. Albert Métis Association or the Alberta Half-Breed Association is founded in St. Albert, Alberta.

1899: Treaty 8's Half-Breed Commission travels through what is now Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the North-West Territories, and issues Scrip to Métis applicants.

1900: May 25, Malcolm Norris is born in present-day Alberta.

1902: The federal government establishes Métis townships in what is now Green Lake, Saskatchewan.

1908: March 11, James Brady is born in Lac St. Vincent, Alberta.

1923: Batoche is designated a national heritage site by the federal government, although shared management with the local Métis only occurs in 1998.

1930: The *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement* turns control of public lands and natural resources to the three Prairie Provinces. The Métis are impacted by paragraph 12, which argues that Indians have the right to harvest food on unoccupied Crown land, but the Métis do not.

1932: December 28, L'Association des Métis d'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest is founded in St. Albert, Alberta. Joseph F. Dion serves as its first president.

1935: The federal government establishes the Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration. *The Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act* creates common community pastures, which eventually lead to the forced removal of many Métis living along unused Crown land, the most notorious example being the community of Ste. Madeleine, Manitoba.

1935: The Saskatchewan Métis Association is founded for Métis living in the province's north. The Saskatchewan Métis Society is also founded around this time. It represents Métis in southern and central Saskatchewan.

1938: L'Association des Métis d'Alberta et des Territoires du Nord-Ouest lobbies Alberta's government to set aside a land base for the Métis.

1938: November-December, *The Métis Population Betterment Act* becomes law in Alberta. The Act identifies lands for Métis settlement. This land base will ultimately become known as the Alberta Métis Settlements, the only land base in Canada set aside for the Métis.

1940: The Métis Association of Alberta is founded.

1940-1960: Some 12 Métis Settlements are originally set aside in Alberta, but four of these are rescinded in 1940s and 1950s when they prove valuable for resource development. These

lands return to the Alberta government. Today, there are eight Métis settlements in Alberta comprising 1.25 million acres.

1941: September 16, Harry Daniels is born in Regina Beach, Saskatchewan.

1941: The Saskatchewan Métis Society receives \$10,000 from the provincial government to hire a law firm to demonstrate that the Métis possessed an outstanding "Indian" title to the land.

1945: The Saskatchewan government buys the Oblate-run Métis Farm in Lebret. The government later establishes other Métis Farms in Baljennie, Crescent Lake, Crooked Lake, Duck Lake, Glen Mary, Green Lake, Lestock, and Willow Bunch to "rehabilitate" southern Métis. Many Métis are forced onto the farms against their will, and some witness government authorities burning down their homes when they board trains to go to the Métis Farms. The farms prove to be paternalistic and the Métis, preferring wage labour positions in cities, abandon the farms in the mid-1950s.

1946: The provincial government funds a Saskatchewan Métis Society reorganization conference which tries to unite northern and southern Métis. The conference is unsuccessful.

1946: Fred DeLaronde and Joe Amyotte serve as presidents of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan.

1960s: Métis political organizations exist in both northern and southern Saskatchewan. The Métis Society of Saskatchewan, which is founded in 1964 and led by Joe Amyotte, represents Métis living in southern and central Saskatchewan; and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan, led by Malcolm Norris and supported by James Brady, represents northern Métis and Non-Status Indians.

1967: The Métis Society of Saskatchewan and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan merge but keep the Métis Society of Saskatchewan as the new organization's name.

1967: June 7, James Brady went missing from Foster Lake region of Saskatchewan.

1967: October 1, the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) is founded.

1967: December 5, Malcolm Norris dies in Calgary.

1969-71: Howard Adams serves as president of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan.

1970: *New Breed* Magazine is founded in Saskatchewan. The magazine is a key instrument in the organization of the province's Métis and Non-Status Indian community.

1970: The modern Back to Batoche Days begins.

1971-88: Jim Sinclair serves as president of the Métis Society of Saskatchewan/ Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians.

1971: The Native Council of Canada is founded and is a pan-Indigenous movement with Non-Status Indians and Métis in its ranks.

1973: Maria Campbell's *Halfbreed* is published. Campbell's book brings public attention to the Métis' marginalization by the dominant society.

1975: The Métis Society of Saskatchewan changes its name to the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan after the province's Métis and Non-Status Indians realize that they face many common issues as disenfranchised Indigenous peoples.

1975: Howard Adam's *Prison of Grass* is published. Adams develops Indigenous colonization theory for a Canadian context.

1976: A Metis cultural conference is held after extensive lobbying by the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan. Once the delegates were assembled, active planning for a Metis and Non-Status Indian educational Institute begins in earnest.

1976-1980: All levels of government are lobbied to create a Métis and non-Status Indian educational institution in Saskatchewan.

1980: Pemmican Publications begins publishing in Winnipeg after the MMF Press and presses Bois-brûlés merge.

1980: January 21, the Gabriel Dumont Institute of Native Studies and Applied Research (GDI) comes into existence during a formal signing ceremony with the Saskatchewan Department of Continuing Education.

1980: June 1, the Saskatchewan Urban Native Teacher Education Program (SUNTEP) begins operations.

1980: July 30, SUNTEP is formally launched.

1980: October 27, GDI opens for operations. Also in 1980, the Institute holds its first cultural conference.

1981: April 15, the MMF and the Native Council of Canada file a claim against the federal government and the Manitoba government for breach of fiduciary duty and for failing to fulfill land-related promises to the Métis following the events of 1869-70. Despite its recognition of Métis land rights in the original province of Manitoba and then by *The Dominion Lands Act* in the rest of the Prairies, northeastern British Columbia, and the Northwest Territories, the federal government maintains that Métis land rights have been extinguished by law and that any future interventions on their behalf have to come from the provinces. Ruling finally delivered in 2013.

1981: September 14, classes began in SUNTEP Prince Albert

1982: The Métis are recognized as one Canada's three Aboriginal peoples in Sec. 35(2) of *The Constitution Act*, 1982. Harry Daniels is the person most responsible for putting the Métis in the Constitution. Harry Daniels and Louis Riel are the only two Métis responsible for ensuring that the Métis are in the Constitution.

1983: The Louis Riel Métis Association of British Columbia is incorporated.

1983: Pauline Lavendeur and Ida Rose Allard, from the Turtle Mountain Reservation, write the first Michif dictionary. This dictionary is still referenced.

1983: Beatrice Mosionier's book, *In Search of April Raintree* is published.

1983: The Métis National Council (MNC) is founded by the Métis Association of Alberta, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan, and the MMF . The Métis Nation British Columbia would join the Council in the 1980s and the Métis Nation of Ontario in the 1990s.

1984: April 27, the first SUNTEP Saskatoon graduation is held.

1984: June 16, the first SUNTEP Regina graduation is held.

1985: The centenary of the 1885 Resistance occurs.

1986: September 15, the Gabriel Dumont Institute Scholarship Foundation is established.

1988: August, after a referendum within the membership, the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan is dissolved, and a Métis-only political body, the Métis Society is reestablished.

1988: The Province of Saskatchewan transfers the province's Métis farms to community-based Métis authorities, most notably at Lebret.

1989: July 1, the Federation of Métis Settlements and the Province of Alberta sign the Alberta-Métis Settlements Accord. It involves agreements to establish the Métis Settlements as a permanent land base with the Métis managing their own government and affairs.

1990: November 1, The Alberta Métis Settlements Accord is implemented.

1992: The *Métis Nation Accord* dies as the Charlottetown Accord is rejected by a majority of Canadians in a national referendum. This would have established a national Métis land base and other items to recognize the Métis Nation as a founding nation of Canada.

1993: The Métis Society of Saskatchewan changes its name to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan.

1994: March, Métis in northwestern Saskatchewan file a land claim in Court of Queen's Bench in Saskatoon.

1994: The Dumont Technical Institute begins operations.

1995: The Métis Resource Centre in Winnipeg is founded.

1995: November 3, the Louis Riel Institute is created by an act of the Manitoba Legislature, although efforts to create began in 1985 by the MMF.

1995: *R. v. Morin and Daigneault*. Bruce Morin and Dennis Daigneault, from Turnor Lake, Saskatchewan, first had their court case heard in provincial court in Buffalo Narrows. The two were charged with fishing violations. The Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench affirmed that they had an Aboriginal right to harvest fish via s. 32 of the Constitution.

1995: *R. v. Grumbo*. In this case, John Grumbo (Grandbois) was charged under *The Wildlife Act* for receiving deer meat from a First Nations person. The appellant unsuccessfully argued before a provincial court in Yorkton that the Métis have an "Indian" right to hunt on unoccupied Crown lands via paragraph 12 of the 1930 *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement*.

1996: The Métis Provisional Council of British Columbia is founded. It is now known as the Métis Nation of British Columbia.

1996: Marilyn Dumont's first book of poetry, *A Really Good Brown Girl*, is released.

1996: April, Morin and Daigneault are acquitted for fishing without licences because the court ruled that the 1906 Scrip Commission did not extinguish their Aboriginal rights to fish. The court ruling also decreed that this right was protected by s.35 of the Constitution.

1996: August, John Grumbo was acquitted on an appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench. With this ruling, any person of Métis ancestry could hunt without a licence in Saskatchewan, including Métis from outside the province.

1997: The first John Arcand Fiddle Fest is held and runs until 2021.

1997: September, the Saskatchewan Court of Queen's Bench upholds the April 1996 Morin and Daigneault ruling.

1998: May, the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal overturns the Court of Queen's Bench decision in *R. v. Grumbo*. The court decides that they were not sure if the Métis had the same hunting rights as Indians via the 1930 *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement*.

1998: May, Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management implements a policy whereby Métis living in the Northern Administrative District have an Aboriginal right to hunt and fish. However, Métis living elsewhere in this province do not have this right.

1999: Gregory Scofield releases his poetry collection, *I Knew Two Métis Women*.

2002: The MNC adopts a specific definition of people Métis which is based on criteria developed by the MMF. To be considered Métis, a person must self-identify as Métis, be distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, have historic Métis Nation ancestry, and be accepted by the Métis Nation." This definition is then used by all MNC Governing Members.

2003: GDI releases the Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture to the public. To date, there are over 15,000 items on the website and it has two online Michif dictionaries attached to it.

2003: September 19, in *R. v. Powley*, the Supreme Court of Canada declares that the Métis respondents, Steve and Roddy Powley, have an Indigenous right to hunt through Sec. 32 of the Constitution. Through ancestry and community "tests" this right can apply to any Métis

living in the Métis Nation Homeland if the Métis defendant can demonstrate a connection to a historic Métis community. The case impacts Métis case law across Canada. The case has its origins in 1993 when Steve and Roddy Powley killed a bull moose just outside Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and tagged their catch with a Métis card and a note that read "harvesting my meat for winter." One week later, the Powleys were charged by conservation officers for hunting moose without a license and unlawful possession of moose contrary to Ontario's *Game and Fish Act*.

2003: September 19, in *R. v. Blais*, the Supreme Court of Canada declares that the Métis are not "Indians" under the hunting rights provision of the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement* (1930). The status of Métis hunting rights awaits the province's final interpretation of the Supreme Court Powley decision.

2004: September 6, Harry Daniels dies in Regina.

2005: April 2005, in *R. v. Norton and Samuelson*, the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan rules that the Métis living in the Qu'Appelle Valley represent a rights-bearing community, and therefore have an Aboriginal right to hunt and fish.

2005: July, in *R. v. Laviolette*, the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan rules that Métis living in northwestern Saskatchewan constitute a right-bearing community and possess s.35 harvesting rights.

2007: February 1, GDI Training and Employment takes over client files and begins service delivery. The new entity was formed as a result an agreement between the Institute and Human Resources and Social Development Canada to offer a broad range of human resource development programs in Saskatchewan's rural, northern, and urban Métis communities.

2007: October 19, in *R. v. Belhumeur*, the Saskatchewan Provincial Court rules that Don Belhumeur, a Métis from Regina, has an Aboriginal right to fish without a licence because he belongs to an historic Métis community, which includes Regina and the Qu'Appelle Valley. This case used a key "test" from the 2003 Powley ruling whereby Aboriginal harvesting rights could be implemented in a region if a Métis appellant could prove connection to a historic Métis community. The Province of Saskatchewan still has not reversed its decision to allow Métis across the province the Aboriginal right to hunt and fish.

2008: March, GDI hosts the National Michif Language Conference in Saskatoon.

2008: GDI, Batoche National Historic Site and Friends of Batoche work to change the name of the Battle of Fish Creek to the Battle of Tourond's Coulee and hold a storytelling event to honour the Tourond family.

2009: January 8, in *R. v. Goodon*, the Métis in Manitoba is granted the Aboriginal right to hunt for food through s. 35(2) of *The Constitution Act*.

2010: The MNC declares 2010, the "Year of the Métis Nation."

2010: Year of the Métis is proclaimed in Saskatchewan and Ontario.

2010: February, the Rupertsland Institute is founded in Alberta.

2010: November 18-20, GDI celebrates its 30th anniversary.

2011: November, GDI releases the report, *Bridging the Aboriginal Education Gap* by economist Eric Howe, which examines and quantifies the benefits of Aboriginal education and training to Saskatchewan's economy.

2012: May, GDI works with the University of Saskatchewan and Michif-language specialist Norman Fleury to develop the first online Michif dictionary and a companion Android app. Later, GDI works with Vince Ahenakew to develop a northern Michif online dictionary and a companion Android app. Both now have Apple apps for use with iPhones and iPads.

2012: November, the Dumont Technical Institute celebrates 25 years of operations.

2013: January, in *Daniels v. Canada*, the Federal Court of Canada rules that Métis and non-status Indians are "Indians" for the purposes of Sec. 91(24) of the Constitution and are thus under federal jurisdiction.

2013: March 8, the Supreme Court of Canada rules in *Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada* that the Crown failed to live up to the obligations in implementing the land grant provisions of *The Manitoba Act*. The case began in 1981.

2014-2016: GDI organizes the engraving and commemoration of the Métis Veterans Memorial Monument at Batoche and creates an online app for the monument.

2014: April 17, on appeal, Non-Status Indians are removed from the 2013 Daniels Ruling.

2016: April 14, the Supreme Court of Canada upholds the earlier federal court ruling that established that the Métis are “Indians” for the purposes of Sec. 91(24) and are therefore a federal responsibility. This decision affirms that all Indigenous peoples in Canada are encompassed with the term “Indian” in Sec. 91 (24).

2017: GDI releases the research report, *SUNTEP: An Investment in Saskatchewan's Prosperity* in 2016-2017. Authored by University of Saskatchewan economist Eric Howe, the report shows that SUNTEP graduates provide over \$13 billion in benefits to Saskatchewan.

2017: April 13, the Canada-Métis Nation Accord, signed by the MNC and the Government of Canada, comes into effect. The accord outlines how the two levels of government will work together to ensure that the federal Crown deals honourably with the concerns of the Métis Nation.

2019: July-August, the 8,200 square expansion of GDI's head office is completed. The Institute's Métis Culture and Heritage Department moves into the new space.

2021: The MMF leaves the MNC because the Métis Nation of Ontario includes thousands of non-Métis in their registry.

2023: June 21, Parliament introduces Bill C-53, known as the *Recognition of Certain Métis Governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan and Métis Self-Government Act*. The Act would grant self-government powers to these Métis governing bodies, recognize them as legal governments, but faces opposition from First Nations. The bill eventually stalls and does not pass.

2023: September, the Métis Nation of Alberta changes its name to Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

2024: The Métis—Nation Saskatchewan (MN—S) also leaves the MNC in September 2024 over concerns that the Métis Nation of Ontario includes thousands of non-Métis in their registry.

2024: The Métis Nation of British Columbia also leaves in November 2024 because of the Métis Nation of Ontario's controversial registry.

2024: April, the MN—S pulls out its support for Bill C-53 and seeks a direct self-government treaty with Canada.

2024: November 30, the MMF and the Government of Canada sign the *Manitoba Métis Federation Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty*, which recognizes the MMF as the government of the Red River Métis and includes self-government powers. As Bill C-21, the Treaty will have to be passed by parliament. As of 2026, the bill still has not passed and faces opposition from Manitoba First Nations.