

Tawnshi Hello!

Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning (RCTL) is excited that you are exploring our authentic Métis education resources! All RCTL resources have been carefully crafted by our team of Métis educators. We work closely with Métis leaders, knowledge keepers, and community members to produce resources that accurately present authentic Métis voices and stories in education. We, at Rupertsland, are honoured that members of our Métis community have determined us to be a trustworthy voice to share their stories in a meaningful, respectful way.

Educators are invited to use the resources we share to promote Métis voices in their classrooms.

We ask that our resources are not adapted out of their original context.

Do not share beyond an individual classroom without permission.

We take the responsibility of honouring the stories and knowledge that our community shares with us very seriously and so we ensure it is shared in an appropriate manner. We recognize that every teacher and student's learning situation is unique.

Please write to us with any requests or questions you have about how to best use our resources to fit your specific needs at education@rupertsland.org.

Marsee, thank you!

Rupertsland Centre for Teaching and Learning





**Rupert's Land
Institute**
Métis Centre of Excellence

Métis Scrip



Resource & Curriculum Development K-12
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Today you will leave with better understanding that the Métis...

- Are a distinct, strong, vibrant culture
- Were actively involved in the development of Canada
- Are unique from First Nations & Inuit
- Were dispersed across the Homeland due to scrip and various other reasons



Who are the Métis?

- The Métis are children of the fur trade
- Ancestrally connected to Métis communities in the Homeland
- Distinct from First Nations and Europeans
- Have their own language, government, culture, and traditions



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The Métis Homeland

- Traditional Métis communities are spread across the western plains
- From Ontario to British Columbia
- Into the Northwest Territories down to the northern United States

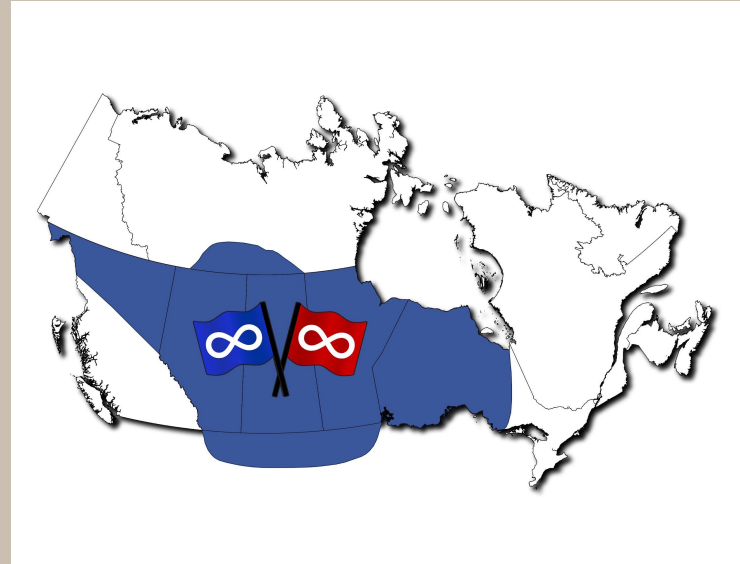
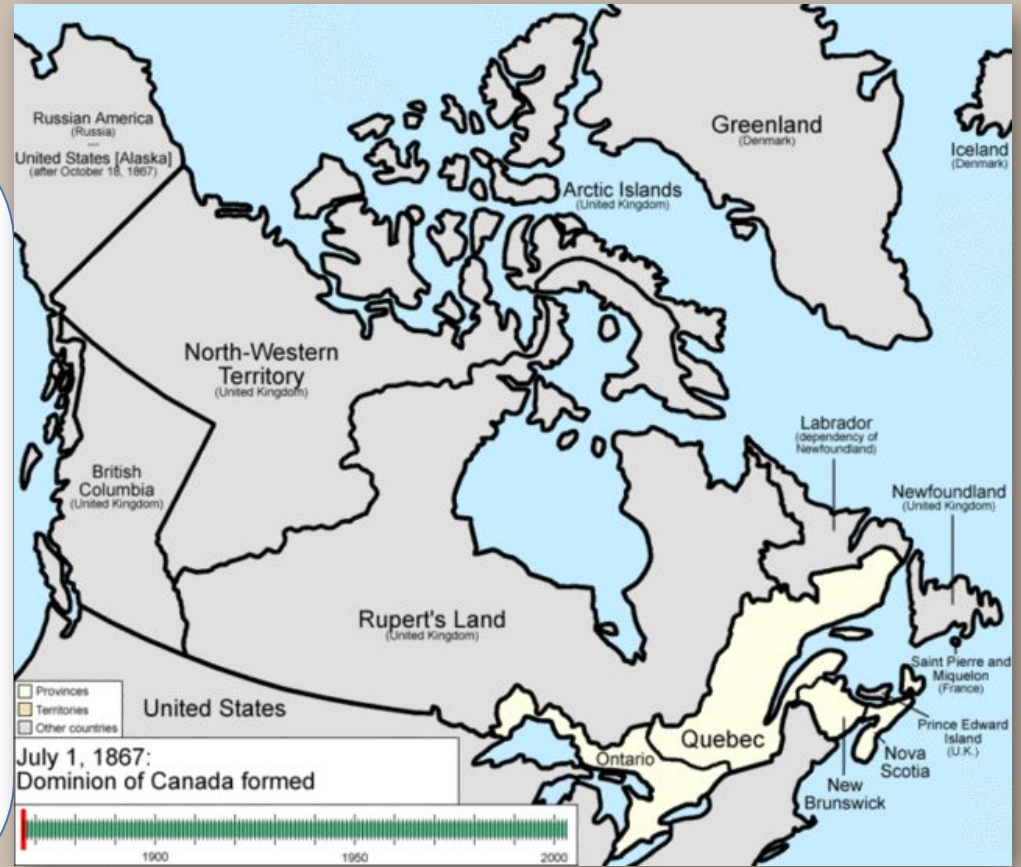


Figure 6 Métis Nation Homeland in Canada. Photo courtesy of Métis Nation of Alberta



A Bargain for Canada

- 1867 Canada is officially a country
- 1869 the Hudson Bay Company “sells” Rupert’s Land to Canada
- Canada then wants to expand westward from Ontario and Québec
- Canada sends surveyors into Métis territory
- Métis resist expansion and stop surveyors
- Métis government petitions Canada to negotiate





Red River Resistance

- 1869 -1870
- Led by Louis Riel
- Canada sent surveyors to plot out the Red River Settlement
- Métis petition for a land of their own (1.4 million acres of land)
- Métis capture and eventually execute Thomas Scott
- Province of Manitoba is created
- Riel leaves to live in the United States





North-West Resistance 1885

- Métis were facing similar issues to the Red River Resistance
- Threat to way of life and buffalo numbers were drastically reduced
- Westward expansion of the Canadian settlers and railway
- Group of Métis, including Gabriel Dumont, travel to the U.S. to bring Riel back
- Riel returns and leads the Métis in an armed resistance with Gabriel Dumont at his side
- Métis forces are defeated in the Battle of Batoche May 9-12, 1885
- Riel turns himself in 3 days later and was hung for treason on November 16, 1885 at age 41



The Idea of Scrip

- Scrip was issued after each of the resistance movements
- Scrip was a coupon to be redeemed for land or money
- It was designed to extinguish Indigenous title for the Métis
- Scrip was dealt with on an individual basis (unlike treaties with First Nations)
- Scrip was issued in multiple phases; Manitoba in the 1870s; in the North-West in the 1880s; and in conjunction with treaties 8, 10, and 11



Scrip Issues

- Métis scrip was a lengthy process with multiple steps
- Travel was required to go to a Dominion Lands Office (sometimes hundreds of kilometers by horse drawn cart)
- Huge issues with fraud by land speculators
- In some regions 90-98% of scrip ends up in the hands of non-Métis people



End Result of Scrip

- One of the factors that left many Métis destitute across the Homeland
- Many Métis were landless
- Some Métis started to live on road allowances (public land set aside to build roads) and were nicknamed “The Road Allowance People”
- Many Métis were displaced and separated from their communities



Recap





Foundational Knowledge Resource

Rupertsland Institute - Métis Centre of Excellence, Education Team (2020)



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