



DID YOU KNOW >>> LOUIS RIEL DAY

On November 16th each year, the Métis Nation hosts commemorative ceremonies at locations throughout British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario. The celebrations honour Louis Riel's contributions to the country and to his people, the Métis.



DID YOU KNOW >>> MÉTIS SASH

The woven sash is probably the most widely recognized and best known symbol associated with the Métis culture. The sash was valued for its aesthetic presence, as well as its practicality and versatility. Often a decorative beaded pipe bag was suspended from a Voyageurs sash. It was also used by Voyageurs to carry their belongings during their transportation duties, and it provided warmth in the colder seasons.



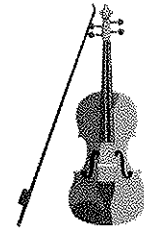
DID YOU KNOW >>> MÉTIS FLAG

The Métis flag, which emerged in the early 1800s, symbolizes the creation of a new society with roots in both Aboriginal and European cultures and traditions. The Infinity symbol also suggests that the Métis Nation will exist forever.



DID YOU KNOW >>> MÉTIS FIDDLE

The fiddle has figured prominently in the lifestyle of the Métis people for hundreds of years. The famous Red River Jig has become the centerpiece of Métis music, although it varies by region and performer. Since the European fiddle was very expensive in Canada's early development as a country, many craftsmen learned to make their own. Today the fiddle is used in celebrations and fiddle and jigging contests, where the fiddle symbolizes Métis nationhood and pride.



DID YOU KNOW >>> MÉTIS JIGGING

The Red River Jig, the unique dance developed by the Métis people, combines the intricate footwork of Native dancing with the instruments and form of European music. Traditionally, dancing started early in the evening and could last until dawn. Witnesses were amazed by the energy and vitality spent on celebration, especially after the long arduous work days necessary to keep the Métis communities running. Today, the Métis people still enjoy jigging, and have local, provincial and national dance teams that attend conferences, exhibitions and powwows.



DID YOU KNOW >>> MICHIF

Michif is the common term that Métis use to identify themselves. Michif is also the name that Métis give to their bilingual mixed languages (developing from 2 contributing languages), including Michif-Cree, Michif-French, (of Métis French), and a separate hybrid of Cree and French (sometimes called Ile-a-la Crosse Michif). Many Métis also alternatively/speak other aboriginal languages such as Cree, Ojibway, and others, as well as English and/or French.