

# Métis contributions to Treaty Making

ECCU 400

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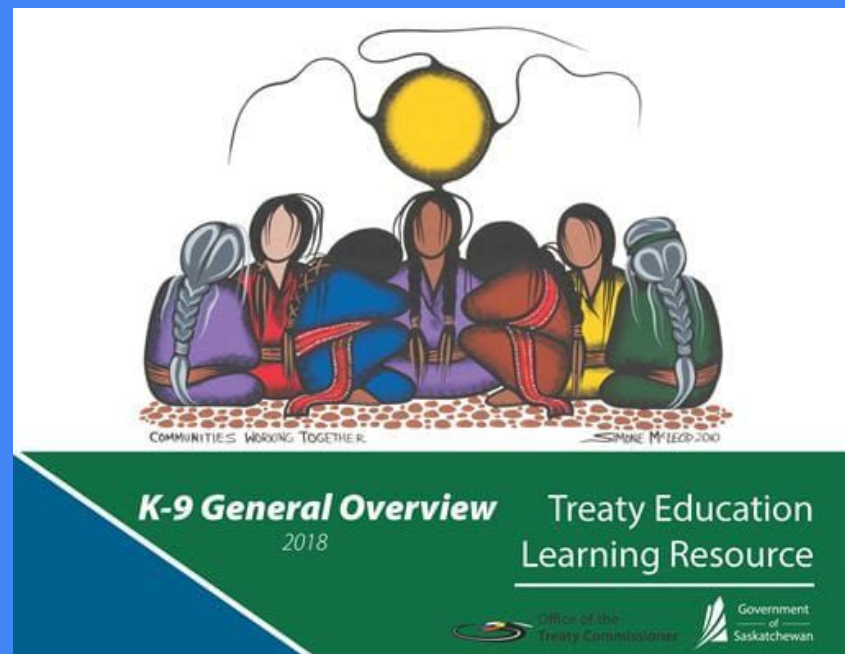
# Treaty Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that we are on the traditional lands, referred to as Treaty 4 Territory the original lands of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saukteaux, Dakota, Nakota, and on the homeland of the Métis.



# Curriculum Connection

## Grade 8 Treaty Outcomes



# Grade Eight: Exploring Treaty Impacts and Alternatives

## Treaty Relationships-

- Outcome: Analyze the impact of Treaty on The Métis people.
  - Research and assess the role of the Métis in the treaty negotiation process.
  - Examine the role of interpreter in the treaty process (e.g. importance of language).
  - Examine the concept of Scrip, as opposed to being signatories of treaties, and explore the importance of having a land base from which to generate a livelihood.

# The Métis Homeland



# Métis Homeland

Métis Homeland reaches from the Northwest territories into the top of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and into Ontario.



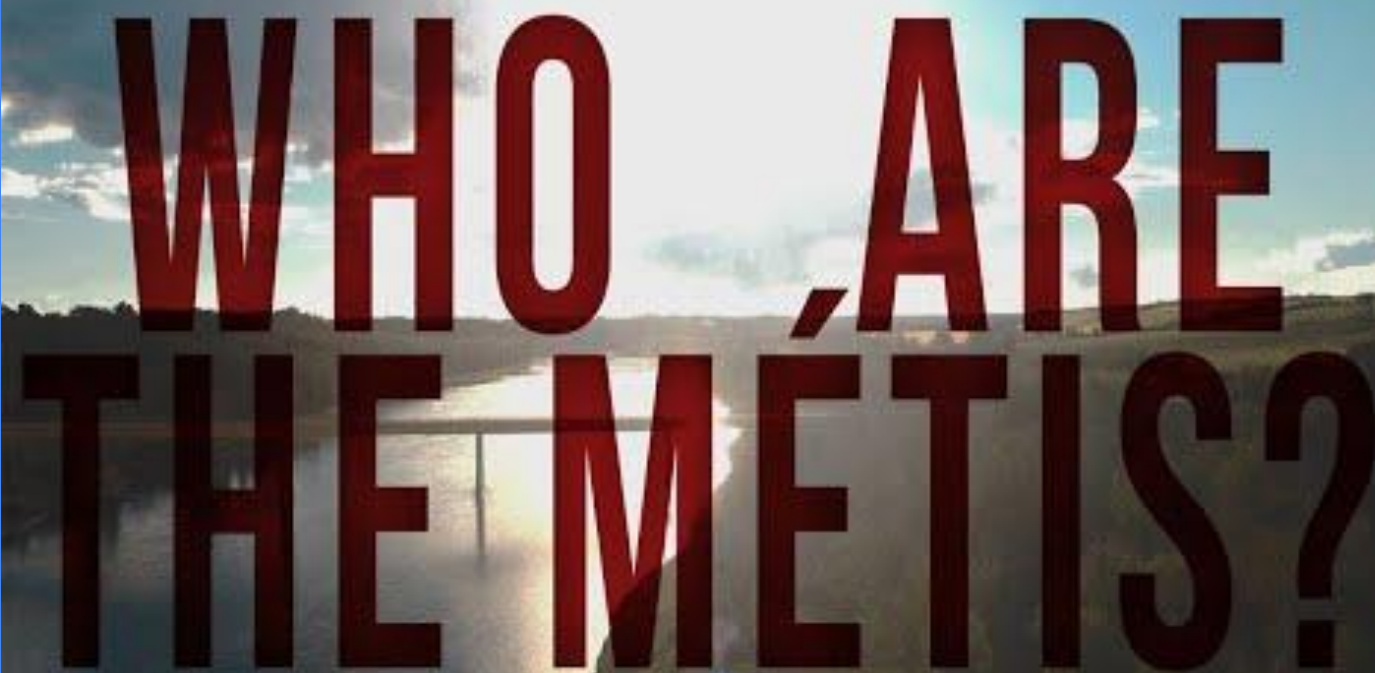
[Map showing Métis homeland boundaries sparks online conversation | CBC News](#)

# Métis Homeland

As we have learned, people of the Métis Nation can trace their origins to the Red River Valley and the prairies beyond.

[Who are the Métis? - YouTube](#)

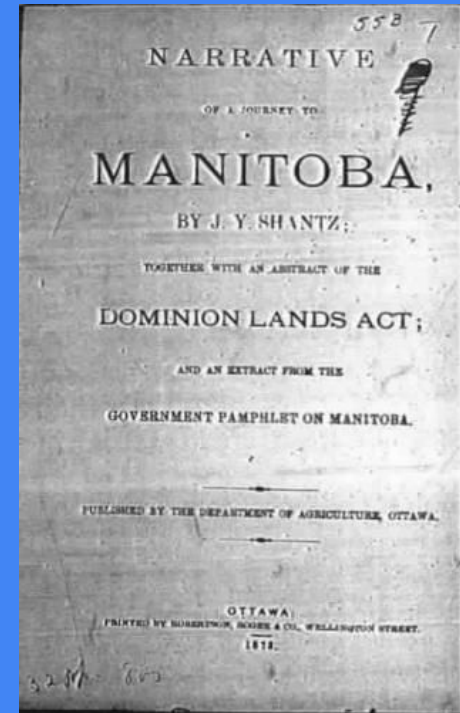




**WHO ARE  
THE METIS?**



# The Manitoba Act



# What is The Manitoba Act?

- On May 12th, 1870 Manitoba becomes the fifth province of Canada through the passing of The Manitoba Act
- Ensures to protect Métis land from the expansion taking place
- After two years the government of Canada has failed to meet their promises and does not deliver on promised land
- The Manitoba Act proved to not only be a mark of success over the land but also the Indigenous peoples who occupied it at the time.



# Impact and Lasting Effects

- Further damaging the relationship between the Canadian Government and Indigenous peoples
- Mistreatment of Métis individuals in Manitoba and across Canada
- Countless experiences of violence still present today
- Canadian governments influence on education

# Self-Determination

- Self-determination is a recurring theme
- Acknowledging the role of Louis Riel and the Red River Resistance
- A strengthening of brother to brother relationships
- The role and importance of self-determination should be taught in the classroom



# Métis Scrip





# Scrip System



- Limited Métis land ownership across Canada
- Goes against promises that were made with The Manitoba Act
- A system used to take advantage of Métis lack of knowledge concerning Colonial concepts
- Many cases of stolen land through this corrupt system



# Métis and the signing of the Treaties



After six days of conference at the Qu'Appelle Lakes Treaty No. Four was signed on September 15, 1874. Under this treaty approximately 75,000 square miles of territory was surrendered. This territory was also traditional Métis land.

It is noteworthy that on September 7, 1876, 30 Métis at Fort Walsh submitted a petition, on behalf of the Métis of the four districts of Assiniboia to join Treaty 4.

To.

Inspectr. J.M. Walsh  
N.W.M.Police  
Agent for Supt. Gen'l. Indian Affairs  
Cypress Hills  
N.W. Ty.

Sir:

We the undersigned Half Breeds offer you to day our homage and submit to you the following petition which we present in our names and the names of all our brothers scattered over the Prairie in the 4 districts and we beseech you to give us a favorable hearing.

We ask you first (1)st

That the Government allow us to relinquish our land claims which we understand the Government has granted in the province of Manitoba and in relinquishing such claims that we be admitted into No. 4 Treaty and to reserve the same distribution of annuity money as the Indian and to be treated in Common the same as the Indian is, with the exception that we be privileged to select our own chief.

Secondly (2")

We further respectfully state that never have asked nor yet received the title to said claims.

Thirdly (3)

We further add that we are Half Breeds of the Cree and Saulteaux Tribes, and that we have lived from childhood upon the prairie and adopted the customs of the Indians.

Sincerely trusting this will meet with your favorable consideration we most respectfully subscribe ourselves Her Majesty's most loyal subjects.

# Were Métis included in the Numbered Treaties?

- The short answer is Métis rights are not a part of the Treaty. However, during the signing of the numbered Treaties, the Métis worked as interpreters and signatories during the Treaty making process.
- Treaty 3 (1873) or the North- West Angle Treaty is uniquely the only Treaty where the Métis signed an adhesion to be an official part of Treaty.

# Métis signatories and interpreters of Treaty 4

Charles Pratt

Pierre Desnomme

Pascal Breland

Joseph McKay

Edward McKay

Donald McDonald

Pierre Poitras

Pierre Lapierre

Jean Baptiste Davis



# lyéska

Nakoda for “he or she interprets”

# Métis as Interpreters

- Allyson Stevenson (2004) writes “For the Métis, their role as intermediaries in the arena of Indian affairs made them indispensable to the administration in the North-West territories. As interpreters evidence suggests that these Métis used their position in-between to persuade Indian leaders to trust government promises, maximizing their unique bi-cultural ethnicity and trusted positions” pg. 104

# Charles Cowley Pratt

Pratt also known as Askenootow  
(Worker of the Earth) was the official  
interpreter at the signing of Treaty 4, in  
September of 1874.





# Pascal Breland

Breland is another figure crucial in negotiations before and during the signing of Treaty 4. With his familiarity with the local population and ties to the North West Council he played an important role in negotiations.



# Questions to Consider (7 minutes)

Discuss either 1 or 2 and number 3

1. What unique perspectives do you think the Métis brought to Treaty negotiations?
2. Why do you think Métis received Scrip rather than Treaty?
3. What is the difference between an interpreter and a translator?

# Resources

Métis Scrip Presentation by Métis Nation of Alberta:

[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-Hq5zWyvTt0xq\\_Rz40WBfYRZMNMssfPMU\\_gpKwqfDgg/edit#slide=id.p3](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-Hq5zWyvTt0xq_Rz40WBfYRZMNMssfPMU_gpKwqfDgg/edit#slide=id.p3)

[Classroom Resources - Rupertsland Institute](#)

[Timeline - Métis Nation of Alberta](#)

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