

The Red River Métis are about to make one of our most important and historic decisions about the future of our identity our Nation and our ability to govern ourselves. We'll do this through a Treaty between Canada and our Nation.

The Red River Métis have a storied history that has been told through oral traditions, books, poems, songs and even movies. It is this history we are returning to as we anchor our Nation's strength in our past, creating a legacy which our children and grandchildren will talk about in the years to come.

Towards a Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty

"We will never give up our rights or our place in Confederation. It is ours, we earned it. We bled for it and we died for it. This is a country we helped build and a province we built as a people, and we will defend it with everything we've got."

David Chartrand



Red River Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Treaty

With this Treaty, the MMF – the National Government of the Red River Métis – will have formal, legal, and concrete recognition of our core section 35 rights Self-Government carved into the Constitution of Canada. This includes our right to make laws in core jurisdictions. The Treaty constitutionally protects our Red River Métis Government by enshrining it.

This will be the first Métis modern-day self-government Treaty. It is unique. No one else has an agreement like this. We will be on the forefront of treaty development. The Red River Métis continue to lead the way.

The Treaty along with its fiscal provisions will provide secure stable funding. As it currently stands, governance funding is often unstable or unpredictable and, at times non-existent depending on the federal or provincial government in power.

The Treaty also sets up a process to negotiate future agreements for long-term self-government jurisdiction and authority in providing programs and services to our Citizens such as health, and economic and social development, and finding new ways to support you and your family, and advance our Nation.



Alexander Ross wrote a hundred sixty-seven years ago (in 1856) in his book: *The Red River Settlement*:

"Experience could not but have taught them, that however insignificant and powerless these people were while scattered by twos and threes about their distant parts, yet, assembled together in one place with one common interest, one common object in view, they must soon become formidable either as friends or foes."

A New Nation is Born (Battle of Seven Oaks or Victory at Frog Plains – La Victoire de la Grenouillère)

The Battle of Seven Oaks is one of the earliest instances where the Red River Métis proclaimed ourselves *la nouvelle nation* – the new nation – with the right to live and trade as we wish and to travel freely in our Homeland, regardless of settlers, HBC or NWC expectations. It was in this Battle that our blue Red River Métis Infinity Flag was first flown.



The Red River Resistance and the Provisional Government

The National Committee of the Red River Métis is established in St. Norbert.

The Red River Resistance arises when Canada tries to bring our Homeland into Canada without our peoples' consent. After consultation with our people, John Bruce and Louis Riel, form the *National Committee of the Red River Métis*, the Provisional Government of our Homeland.



A List of Rights is drafted and taken to Ottawa by Father Ritchot, the lead negotiator appointed by the Red River Métis Provisional Government.

The Manitoba Act

"The Government had not properly fulfilled its obligations in the treaty with the Manitoba Métis. The Government neither protected them nor gave them justice."

-Louis Riel

From the Manitoba Act of 1870:

s31. [...] to appropriate a portion of such ungranted lands, to the extent of one million four hundred thousand acres thereof, for the benefit of the families of the half-breed residents, [...]"

s31. [...] 1,400,000 acres, au bénéfice des familles des Métis résidents, [...]"



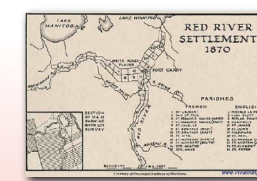
"There were two societies who treated together. One was small, but in its smallness had its rights. The other was great, but in its greatness had no greater rights than the rights of the small ..."

Louis Riel, 1885



Red River Métis recognized as one of the Aboriginal People of Canada

Under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, the Métis are recognized as one of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada after intense lobbying by Red River Métis leader Harry Daniels with Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau.



MMF Grassroots Endorses Self-Government

The MMF Citizens directed at an Assembly for the MMF to "endorse the concept of Métis Self-Government and demand the Right of the Red River Métis people to Self-Determination [...]". This direction from our Citizens remains unchanged to this day.



The Victory at the Supreme Court of Canada – "our time has come"

On March 8, 2013, after 32 years in the courts, the historic injustice described by Louis Riel in his memoirs was finally recognized and President Chartrand's promise to complete the Red River Métis land claim is honoured as the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) MMF v Canada Decision recognized "the unfinished business of reconciliation of the Métis people with Canadian sovereignty is a matter of national and constitutional import."



Step Towards Self-Government

In 2019, resolutions are passed at the Annual General Assembly in which Citizens guided the course the MMF was toward self-government and protection of our unique and distinct identity.



Self-Government Resolution

Citizens at the Annual General Assembly pass a resolution that affirms the MMF is The National Government of the Red River Métis Declaration.

"The Red River Settlement, now Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the birthplace of the Red River Métis and the heart of the Red River Métis Homeland".

"For over two centuries the Red River Métis has exercised its rights of self-determination and self-government, and protected its rights and its identity [...]"

This same Declaration also recognized the MMF as being "the successor of our ancestors' Métis self-government structures growing for over two hundred years from roots deep in the late 1700s and early 1800s at the beginnings of the historic Métis Nation."



1816

1844

1849

1869

1870

1885

1967

1982

1985

1988

2013

2014

2019

2021

2022

2023

We are Red River Métis

After deadly encounters with the Sioux, Grant wrote a series of nation-to-nation letters as leader of the Métis of the Red River. He clearly knew who he was and who his people were. From the beginning, there was no doubt: we were then, as we are today, the Red River Métis.



Sayer Trial

The Sayer Trial was a significant victory against the restrictions on free trade that the HBC attempted to impose on the Red River Métis. Though the court ruled in HBC's favour, Mr. Sayer was set free and was greeted outside the courthouse by other Red River Métis with shouts of "le commerce est libre" – trade is free.



Manitoba Métis

After the Red River Métis negotiated the entry of the North-West into Canada and created Manitoba, we became known as the Manitoba Métis. This nickname honours our achievement as the only Indigenous people to establish a province. To honour our history the MMF, the National Government of the Red River Métis, continues to use Manitoba Métis in our name.



Manitoba Métis Federation is Formed

The Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) was established in 1967 to address the inequity and injustice facing our People and to reclaim our rightful place as the People who govern themselves. The MMF was required to incorporate under provincial law in Manitoba in order for Canada and other governments and entities to work with the MMF and to facilitate funding arrangements and to establish intergovernmental relationships.



David Chartrand first elected

Inspired by his older brother Elbert, a young David Chartrand is first elected to the Manitoba Métis Federation Board of Directors, from the Winnipeg Region.

In 1997, he was elected as the President of the Manitoba Métis Federation – a role he has been re-elected into for seven further election cycles. Among his promises is a commitment to **restart the land claim case** on behalf of Red River Métis Citizens.



Red River Métis – no matter where you are...

Citizens at the Annual General Assembly pass a resolution refusing to accept the borders and boundaries which are not Red River Métis made, taking an important step in defining who we are as a people. Today, we are defined by our distinct identity as Red River Métis and not by these boundaries. No matter where we live, the MMF is our National Government.



Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement

July 6th, 2021, President Chartrand signs the Manitoba Métis Self-Government Recognition and Implementation Agreement with Canada. This agreement gives immediate recognition the Manitoba Métis Federation as the sole National Government of the Red River Métis.

