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# The Métis in Alberta

Indigenous Perspectives

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# The Métis in Alberta



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Alberta is the only province in Canada that has recognized Métis land. Alberta has the largest population of Métis people, having over 114,000 Métis people that live in the province.

- Buffalo Lake
- East Prairie
- Elizabeth
- Fishing Lake
- Gift Lake
- Kikino
- Paddle
- Peavine



# Michif: The Métis Language



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Michif was created by the Métis , said to have been originated on the plains during the 1800s. It is a blend of of French and Cree but also has a small portion of English and other indigenous language such as Ojibwe. French Michif (Métis French) and Plains Cree. Michif is mainly still spoken where by Métis people in parts of Saskatchewan, Manitoba, North Dakota and Montana.

Hello = taanishi or boon zhoor

Dandelion = Pisaañdlii

Deer = shivreu

Goodbye = miina kawapamitin

Caribou = aen kariboo

Moose = l'aariyaanl

Rabbit = aen lyayv

Thank you = maarsii

# The Métis Sash



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## About the Métis sash

The sash is a sign of honor and is worn with much pride. The sash is worn by Métis members as a symbol of nationhood and pride.



## Meaning of the sash colours

It is a red sash that consists of six colours including red, they all have their separate meanings. The red stands for the blood shed over the years and many battles. Blue is for the depth of spirit among metis people. Green is for fertility of the nation. White stands for their connection to the earth and creator. Yellow stands for prosperity. Black is for dark period of suppression and dispossession of Métis land.

# Culture: Food & Dance



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The Métis are very famous for their dances and music. The Métis fiddle is a combination of a variety of different types of fiddles, with Celtic and traditional French songs. The fiddle is played and creates a danceable rhythm for the jigglers. The most famous Métis song is the Red River. The origin is uncertain but it came from the 18th century and has been passed on by ear.

During the fur trade the Métis source of nourishment was primarily buffalo. More commonly consumed food included moose, deer, elk, rabbits, duck, geese, and upland game. They also gathered berries and other edible plants. Along with pemmican.

# Métis Governance



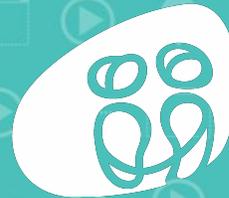
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Each Settlement elects a chairperson and a council to manage the affairs.

In Alberta, individuals self-declaring as Métis must prove their genealogy with a family tree during the application process. The Métis Nation of Canada's definition (2002) of Métis: " 'Métis' means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, and who is accepted by the Métis Nation."

In June 2019, the Federal government signed the historic Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement (MGRSA), bringing the Métis one step closer to self-government.

THANK YOU



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