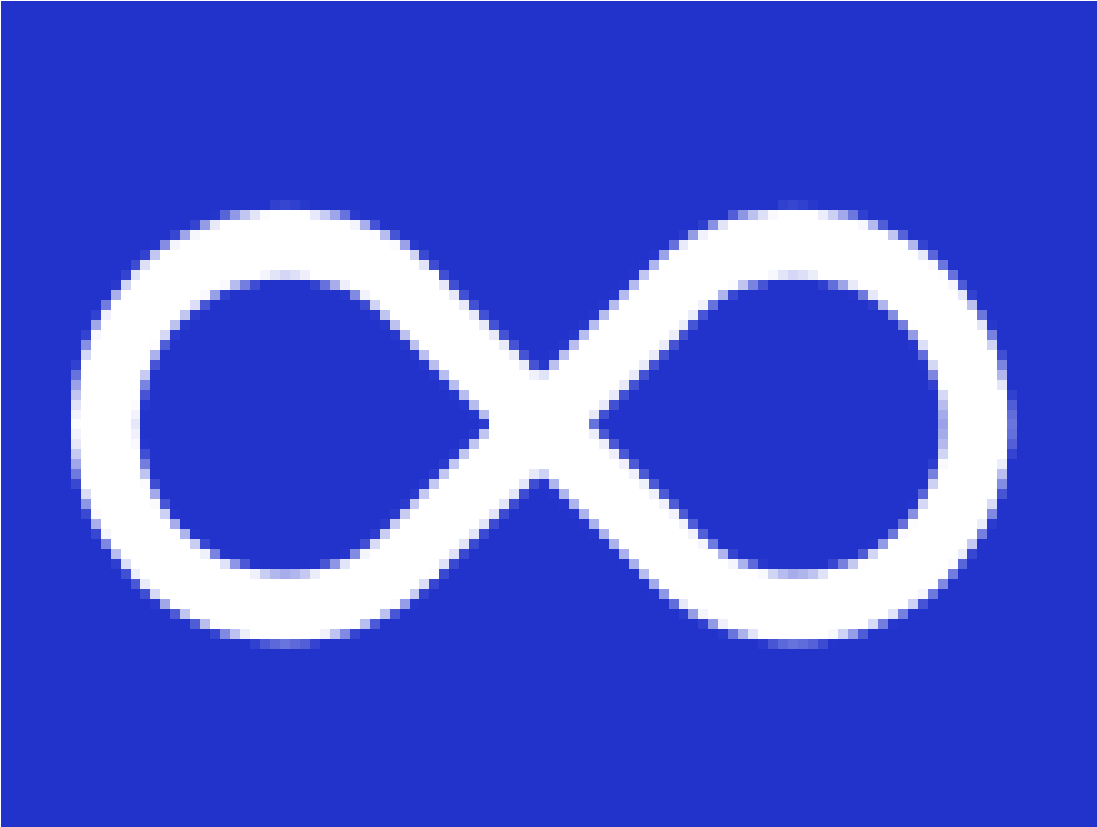


Métis





Aboriginal

First Nations

630 FN communities

52 Nations, 50

Languages

Métis

Inuit

Cree

Ojibwa

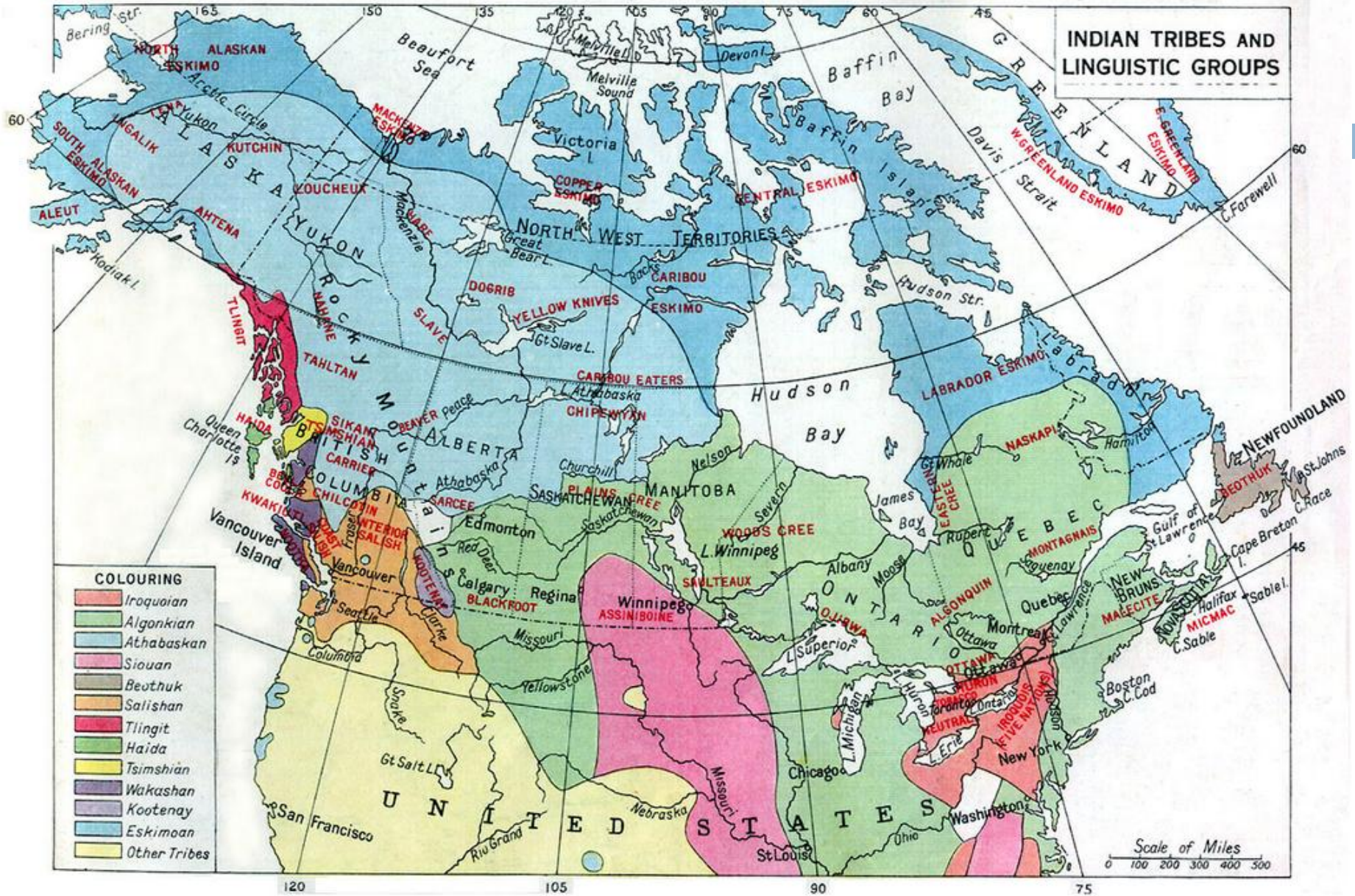
Blackfoot

Haida

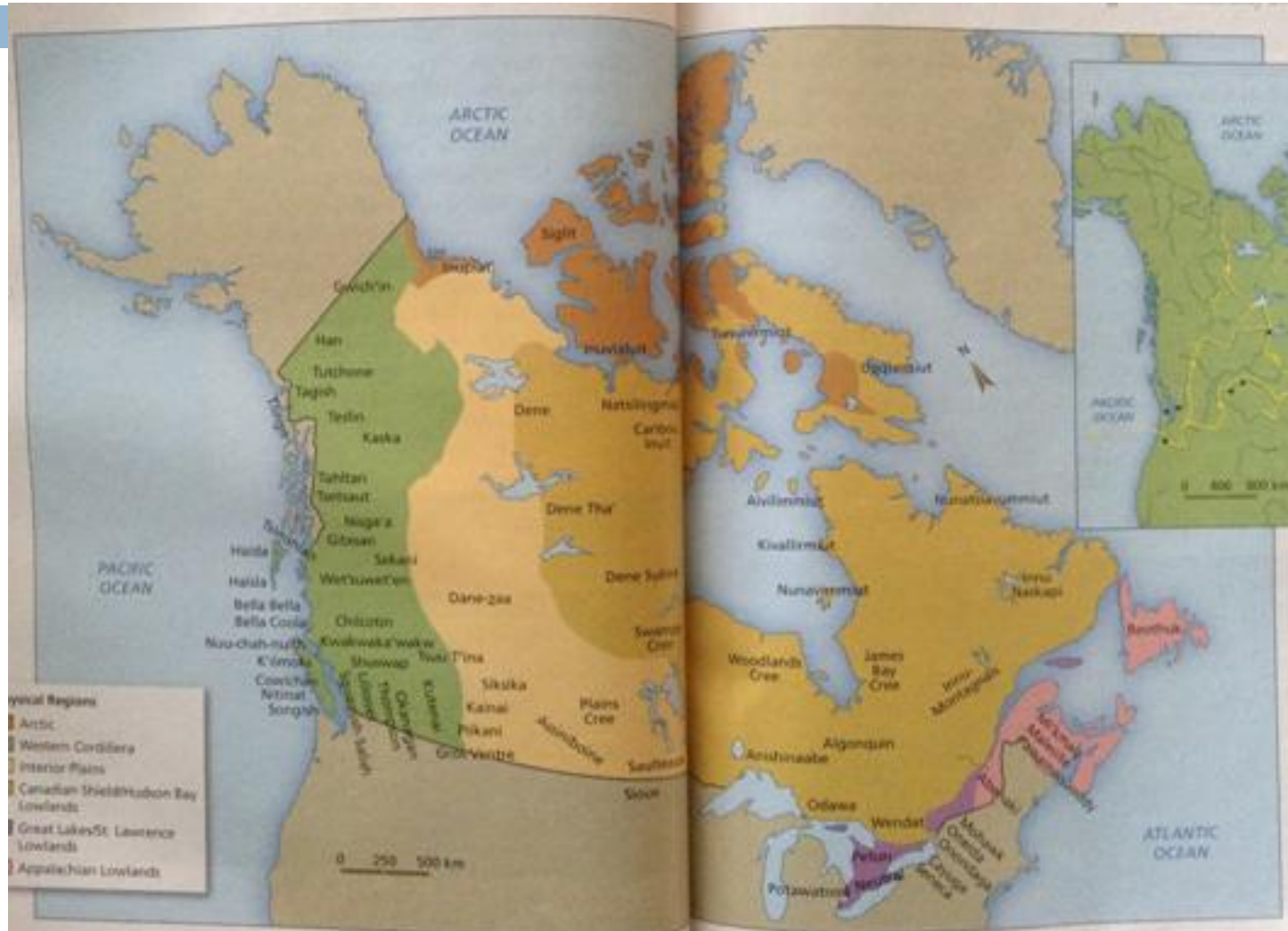
Iroquois

Anishinaabe





Map Pre-Contact



Who were the Métis?

- A Nation of people who were formed following contact between the First Nations and Europeans
- Occurred before Canada was a country
- Was primarily French and British Europeans

- Métis means “free people”

Who were the Métis?

- The term was initially described to describe any First Nations and European union
- Over time, a new culture developed with its own language, traditions and lands
- Métis is NOT a term to describe any mixed-race

Métis Unions

Mothers

- Cree
- Ojibwe
- Algonquin
- Saulteaux
- Menominee
- Mi'kmaq
- Maliseet

Fathers

- French
- Scottish
- British
- Irish

- Métis come from woman
- A Native man could marry a white woman and keep his rights
- A Native woman would lose her rights when they married a white man
- The Irishmen were often voyageurs, and moved back home and left their Métis children behind
- The Scotsmen were more honourable

History

- Most unions were created when the coureurs des bois, transporting goods for the fur trade, married First Nations women
- This was encouraged by the Northwest Company (Montréal based fur trading company)
- Discouraged by the Hudson's Bay Company (British fur trading company)

History Continued

- The new *Métis* formed settlements near trading or fishing sites
- or lived on land not controlled by the Crown
- They lived across many geographical locations including the Plains, Ontario and Quebec

- Originally there were two groups:
 - French *Métis* / Voyageurs (French fathers)
 - Anglo-*Métis* / Countryborn (British/Scottish fathers)

Occupation within the Fur Trade

- In the 1700's Métis families settled around the Great Lakes
 - ▣ Interpreters or guides
 - ▣ Suppliers of goods
 - ▣ Transporters of fur

Work After 1821

- The two fur trading companies amalgamated and many Métis were laid off
- Many began work in commercial fishing, logging and guiding
- Others continued working in fur trading in:
 - ▣ Thunder Bay
 - ▣ Fort Edmonton
 - ▣ Red River Area (southern Manitoba)

Life in Red River

- Pemmican: A nutritious and light weight food
- Dried bison meat and berries
- Fuelled the men working in the fur trade who transported food long distances
- Managed the Bison Hunt
- The Bison hunt helped the Métis by selling the goods (robes and tongues) to the fur traders in Red River

Loss of Land

- During the 1860's the government was acquiring land and planned to give the Métis land at Red River to the English
- Louis Riel led the Métis who formed their own government and tried to protect their land (which was still owned by the British)
- An agreement was made in 1870, The Manitoba Act

The Manitoba Act

- July 1870
- Confirmed Métis ownership of lands they already owned
- Promised an additional 560 000 hectares of land for Métis children

- The government continued to give away their land!

Conflict in Saskatchewan

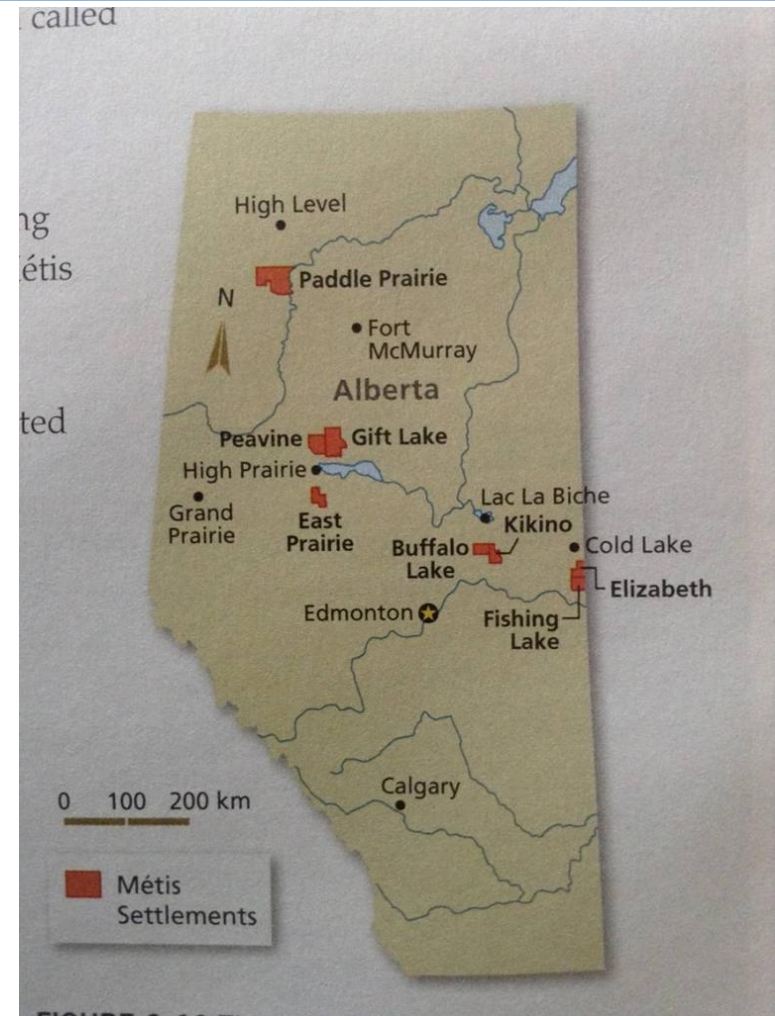
- In 1885, Riel moved west and assembled an armed force and government hoping to negotiate
- The Plains Cree, led by Chief Mistahimaskwa were trying to peacefully fulfil the Manitoba Act promises
- The federal government sent in the Mounted Police and several battles ensued
- The Métis surrendered after being outnumbered
- Riel was hanged, Chief was imprisoned
- The Métis continued to move further west to reclaim land

Scrips

- Scrips were pieces of paper that certified land possession
- Given to the Métis by the government for lands in Western Canada
- They could also be exchanged for money
- A scrip was for 100 hectares of unknown land
- The land was often swampland or unfarmed prairie
- Many Métis gave up the land and lost most of the lands

Ongoing Land Ownership Disputes

- By 1936, the Alberta government established farming settlements for the Métis
- The areas would support farming and would be free from interference from settlers



Current Land Ownership

- In the 1990's ownership of the 8 settlements from transferred from the government to the Métis
- In 1993, 41 437 square kilometres of land in the Northwest Territories was given to the Métis and the Sahtu Dene with hunting and fishing rights
- In 2004, Ontario issued Harvester Certificates
- Gives the right (to select Métis) to harvest animals, plants, medicines, fish and firewood for personal use within their traditional territories

Definition of a Métis

- Definition of Métis in the 1930's:
 - ▣ “anyone with any degree of Indian ancestry who lives the life ordinarily associated with the Métis” (living off the land, hunting, and fishing)

- Current definition of a Métis:
 - ▣ “a person who self-identifies as Métis, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples, and is accepted by the Métis Nation”

Currently

- 1 / 3 of all Aboriginal self-identify as Métis
- 86 000 Métis living in Ontario
- Granted citizenship cards from their provincial group/community
- Must have one Métis parents

Culture

- Each generation of Métis embraced the culture of BOTH sets of parents, as well as the influence of the land
- New language Michif
- New traditions
- Jigging, music, clothing

Language

- French or English
- A First Nations Language
- Michif Language

- Also Bungee and Gaelic

Métis Jigging

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6SUEq_gI9Bc
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xh0YPXLocPE>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7DakTUhh9w>

Clothing



ISPAYIN VIDEO

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3bLmco3li0>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgRVwF4w3Z4>