

First Metis Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba The Honourable W. Yvon Dumont O.M.

In January 1993, W. Yvon Dumont was appointed by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney as the lieutenant governor of Manitoba, becoming the first Metis to ever hold that position. He held this position from 1993 to 1999. Dumont is also the youngest Native North American to enter into Native political leadership. At the age of sixteen (1967) he was elected secretary-treasurer of the St. Laurent local of the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF). At twenty-one he became president of the Native Council of Canada.

Yvon was born January 21, 1951 in the town of St. Laurent, Manitoba. St. Laurent is located on Lake Manitoba about 47 miles northwest of Winnipeg, with a population of 1,100, three-quarters of which is Metis.

Yvon was a founding vice-president of the Native Council of Canada and is a past president of the Manitoba Metis Federation and the Metis National Council (MNC) He was MNC President from 1988 to 1993. He has been awarded an Honourary Doctor of Laws and was Governor of the Metis National Council. He was the first Chief Executive Officer of the Louis Riel Institute and was appointed to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation board. He was recipient of a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service in 1996.

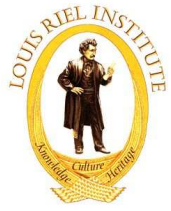
His family has a history of political involvement. His mother Therese came from the Chartrand family who were involved in negotiating Metis land agreements at the time Manitoba joined Confederation (1870). His father, Willie Dumont, helped to form the Manitoba Metis Federation in the 1960s.

In 1967, at the age of 16, Yvon was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the MMF, St. Laurent Local. In 1972 he was elected to the MMF-Interlake Region board and was also elected as Vice-President of the Native Council of Canada. In 1973 he served as Executive Vice-President of MMF. He was elected President of MMF in 1984 and held this position until 1992 when he was appointed to serve as the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba. He subsequently held the appointment of Governor of the Metis National Council.

In 1972, Yvon was elected as a director of MMF for the Interlake Region and became Vice-President in 1973. He served as MMF President from 1984 to 1992. He ran again for the presidency in 2003 but was defeated by the incumbent David Chartrand.

Mr. Dumont has served on the Board of Governors of the University of Manitoba and was honoured with the title of Knight of Justice within The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in September of 1995. His efforts at cleaning up Winnipeg Seine River earned him a Community Service Award from the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects in 1995. In 2001 he was appointed Co-Chair of the

North American Indigenous Games held in Winnipeg in 2002. In 2001 he was appointed to the Order of Manitoba.



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