

Riel's Convention of Twenty-Four, November 16, 1869.

On November 6, 1869, Riel as Secretary of the council of French speaking population of Rupert's Land asked for 12 representatives from the English speaking parishes and Winnipeg to meet with them on November 16 in the Court House at Fort Garry.

The convention that met was made up of the following representatives:

English Members

Town of Winnipeg	Henry McKenney
	H.F. O'Lone
Kildonan	James Ross
St. John's	Maurice Lowman
St. Paul's	Dr. Bird
St. Andrews	Donald Gunn
St. Clement's	Thomas Bunn
St. Peter's	Henry Prince
St. James'	Robert Tait
Headingly	William Tait
St. Ann's	John Garrioch

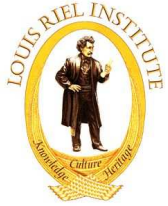
French Members

St. François Xavier	François Dauphinais
	Pierre Poitras
	Pierre Léveillé
St. Boniface	W.B. O'Donoghue
St. Vital	André Beauchemin
	Pierre Parenteau Sr.
St. Norbert	Louis Lacerte
	Baptiste Tourond
St. Anne des Chênes	Charles Nolin
	Jean Baptiste Perrault

John Bruce : President
Louis Riel : Secretary

No agreement was reached on how to proceed on the first day and the convention adjourned until November 23, 1869. At this meeting Riel proposed the formation of a provisional government to negotiate with Canada. After this meeting, it subsequently broke again and resumed deliberations on December 1, 1869. At this time the delegates produced a Bill of Rights which was agreed to by a majority of two. However, the convention could not agree that William McDougall, the Lieutenant Governor designate should not be admitted to the colony until the provisional government's demands were met. The convention dissolved with Riel shouting to the English members:

“Go and return peacefully to your farms. Stay in the arms of your wives. Give this example to your children. But watch us act. We are going ahead to work and obtain the guarantee of our rights and yours. You will come to share them in the end.”



Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
Louis Riel Institute