

Timeline of Metis Resistance

1811

Lord Selkirk received land grant of 116,000 square miles near the Red River Valley for an agricultural settlement and source of provisioners for the furtrade.

1816

Battle of Seven Oaks led by the Metis Cuthbert Grant Jr. over issues restricted Metis hunting and trading practices.

1821

Amalgamation of HBC and NWC resulting in a influx of families at the Red River Settlement. Scottish Metis joined with French Metis to defend common interests against the governing Hudson's Bay Company authorities. Ties between the two groups were reinforced by frequent intermarriage and common economic pursuits such as the buffalo hunt, overland freighting, the fur trade boat brigades, guiding, interpreting and farming.

1845

Metis free traders and merchants became the most articulate proponents of a growing Metis nationalism. They petitioned the Governor of The Red River Settlement for recognition of their special status.

1849

Metis led an armed body of Metis horsemen who surrounded a court house where Guillaume Sayer was being convicted for trafficking in furs, prompting his release without sentence and a declaration of free trade by the Metis.

1857

The Metis case for rights was presented to the British Parliamentary Select Committee on the Hudson's Bay Company by Alexander Isbister, a Metis lawyer, who had taken up residence in London.

1869

Hudson Bay Company sold its right to Rupert's Land to the Dominion of Canada for a small sum of money and 1/20 of the territory's fertile land.

1869-October

Formed a national Metis Committee and called for an independent Republic of the Metis Nation.

1869-November 2

The National Metis Committee occupied Fort Garry.

1869-December 8

The Metis for it's own provisional government with a newspaper of it own *The New Nation*.

1870

Metis Drafted List of Rights for prime minister Sir John A. MacDonald in Ottawa.

1870-April

Metis delegates arrived in Ottawa for negotiations with MacDonald and Sir George Etienne Cartier. They agreed that Red River Settlement would enter Confederation as the new Province of Manitoba. As well as official languages of English and French.

1870-May 2

The Manitoba Act including most of the demands in the Metis list of Rights was introduced in the House of Commons.

1870-May 12

The Manitoba Act became law.

Metis Land rights recognized. Denominational schools recognized.

1870-July 15

Manitoba became Canada's fifth province.

1870-1885

Steady dispersal of the Manitoba Metis from Red River area. More than 1,200 members of troops entered Red River an many stayed due to opportunity to received military land grants.

1872

Saskatchewan Metis petitioned for an inalienable colony of 1, 800, 000 acres of land.

1873-May 3

John Fisher and ten others on behalf of Half-breeds of North-West send petition to A.M. Burgess, Deputy Minister of the Interior

1874-September 11

Half-breeds of Qu'Appelle Valley send petition to Govenor Alexander Morris (31 signatures)

1877-September 19

Half-breeds of Blackfoot Crossing sent petitions to Lt. Govenor Laird (43 signatures)

1878

The National Policy was based on providing a protective tariff system for Canadian industry, completion of a transcontinental railway and massive settlement of the Canadian west. This National policy concerned residents of the west especially regarding land claims

1878

Settlers and Residents of Prince Albert sent petition to Governor General of Canada. (148 signatures)

1878-January 15

Settlers and residents of Prince Albert send petition to Minister of the Interior (80 signatures)

1878-February 1

Gabriel Dumont and Halfbreeds of St. Laurent sent petition to Lt. Governor Laird

1878-August 1

Halfbreeds of Cypress Hill sent petition to the North West Council (276 signatures)

1880

Halfbreeds of Manitoba Village, NWT sent petition to John A. MacDonald, Minister of the Interior (16 signatures). Halfbreeds of Prince Albert and Edmonton sent petition to John A. MacDonald Ministers of the Interior (102 signatures)

1881

Halfbreeds of Qu'Appelle Valley sent petition to marquis Lorne, Governor General (118 signatures)

1881-March 4

Residents of Battleford, NWT sent petition of 73 signatures to John A. MacDonald Minister of the Interior

1881-October 18

Residents of Prince Albert petition John A. MacDonald, Minister of the Interior (25 signatures)

August 1882

Halfbreeds of Qu'Appelle Valley petition Edgar Dewdney, Lt. Governor of NWT. (44 signatures)

1882-September 4

Halfbreeds of District of Prince Albert (St. Antoine de Padou) sent petition to John A. MacDonald Minister of the Interior (45 signatures)

1883-November 19

Halfbreed farmers and residents of St. Louis petition George Duck, Land Agent in Prince Albert. (32 signatures)

1884-May 6

A resolution was passed by the the French and English Metis of the Northwest to obtain Louis Riel's assistance to negotiate with Canada

1884-July 5

James Isbister, Gabriel Dumont and Moise Ouelette and Micheal Dumas were selected to go to St. Petter's Mission in Montana to bring back Riel.

1884 Summer

Riel held meetings with the English and French-speaking settlers regarding pressuring the Canadian government to negotiate a settlement. Riel was monitored by the NWMP

1884-December

Riel and Henry Jackson drafted a petition listing the grievances of the inhabitants of the area. The government responded by appointing a committee to investigate Metis claims and list those who did not take scrip in Manitoba.

1885-March 8

Riel put forth a motion for the formation of a provisional government and Bill of Rights

1885-March 19

Riel was informed that the halfbreed petitions would be met with bullets. The provision government was immediately formed with Pierre Parenteau as president and Charles Nolin as commissioner, Gabriel Dumont as general, Philip Garnot as Secretary and twelve other Metis men as members of the council.

1885-March

The settlers and English-speaking halfbreeds withdrew support of the Provision government. Riel established his headquarters in the church at Batoche. Riel demanded the surrender of major Crozier

1885-March 26

Crozier sent a party of mounted police to Duck lake and a scuffled occurred between the Metis and NWMP. Troops shortly arrived in the North West.

1885-April 24

Dumont and Middleton battle at Fish Creek. The Metis were located along the coulee of the creek and fired down on Middleton's troops.

1885-May 5

Dumont and the Metis lowered a cable across the river and knock down the stacks of the steamer which carried military supplies.

1885-May 9

Military attacked Batoche and the fighting lasted four days and ended on May 12, 1885. The military charged with bayonets and then burned and destroyed property in the region. Dumont escaped to the United States. Riel surrendered three days after the battle at Batoche. Women and children hid to avoid capture.

1885-July 20

The juried trial of Louis Riel began based on the charge of treason.

1885-November 16

Louis Riel was executed for treason. Many Metis disperse to United States and other northern communities