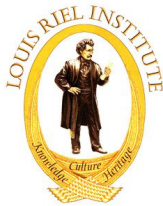## Edmonton House (Fort Augustus, Fort des Prairies):

In the summer of 1795, Angus Shaw of the North West Company constructed Fort Augustus near the present-day city of Fort Saskatchewan on the North Saskatchewan River. The next autumn, the Hudson's Bay Company constructed Edmonton House near Fort Augustus, where the Sturgeon River meets the North Saskatchewan River. It was named fort Edmonton by William Tomison, the HBC Inland Master. He headquartered there until 1899, when he left for Europe after being stabbed in the leg by a Native man.

Fort Edmonton was also called Fort-des-Prairies by the Metis and *Amiskwaskahegan* or "Beaver Hills House" by the Cree Indians during the 19th century. It was the end point of the Carlton Trail, the main overland route for Metis freighters between the Red River Settlement and the west and an important stop on the York Factory express route from London between Hudson Bay and Fort Vancouver. At any given time this fort had between 60 and 80 Metis employees who lived nearby with their families. To supplement the provisions supplied by the Metis bison hunters the Metis also operated a fishery for the fort to the west at Lac Ste. Anne. The fort was also a centre for the manufacture of York boats.

In 1801, both forts were moved upstream to the vicinity of present day downtown Edmonton because of a lack of firewood. This area had been a gathering place for Aboriginal people in the region for thousands of years. Chief Factor John Rowand first worked at Fort Augustus from 1804 to 1806; he was stationed there again from 1808 onward, then after amalgamation was at Fort Edmonton from 1823 to 1854.

Due to floods in the late 1820s, the Fort on the Rossdale flats had to be moved to higher ground. This fifth and final fort was built on the site that now houses the Alberta Legislature building.

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