



Artwork by George Gingras

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The Infinity Flag is one of the most recognizable symbols of the Métis people. It is the oldest flag native to Canada. In **Michif**, the Infinity Flag is known as “li paviyoon di Michif.” The first Métis flag originally was a white infinity symbol on a red background. The **Oral Tradition** maintains that the Métis themselves developed the flag. Some historical documents show that Alexander MacDonnell, a **North West Company** (NWC) employee, first gave the Métis this flag in 1812. The NWC was a Scottish fur-trade company based out of Montréal. Most Métis in what is now Western Canada were either NWC employees or supplied the company with pemmican.

The Infinity Flag signifies the coming together of First Nations and Europeans to create a new people. Throughout history, the Métis have used many different flags. The Infinity Flag has outlasted them all. Today, it is the official flag of the **Métis Nation**. In Saskatchewan, most Infinity Flags are blue and white, although the original red and white flag is used in other provinces.

### Other Resources:

Barkwell, Lawrence J., “The Métis Infinity Flag.” *The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

Chartrand, Paul. *Pierriche Falcon: The Michif Rhymester*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2009.

Racette, Calvin. *The Flags of the Métis*. Regina: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1987. (Available online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

Taanishi Books Emergent Reader Series (*Where is the Métis Flag?*, *High in the Sky*, *Let’s Make a Métis Flag Pin*). Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2014.

*The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

