



Artwork by George Gingras

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Oxen (*Bos taurus*) were the animals most commonly used by the Métis to haul goods. The **Michif** word for an ox is “aen beu.” A **Red River** Cart pulled by oxen could transport more than 500 kilograms of cargo. This load was a great deal more than the 200 kilograms a horse could pull. By using oxen, the Métis had the ability to haul all kinds of trade goods throughout the western half of North America. The oxen were also very useful during bison hunts. Together, one after another, Red River Carts pulled by oxen hauled thousands of kilograms of bison meat. Using oxen-pulled Red River Carts allowed the Métis to travel hundreds of kilometres to bison hunting grounds in what is now North Dakota. Once they were done hunting, the Métis loaded up their carts and returned to the Red River or the South Saskatchewan River Valley.

### Other Resources:

Pelletier, Joanne. *Métis Historical Booklet Series: The Buffalo Hunt*. Regina: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 1985. (Available online at [www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

Racette, Sherry Farrell. *The Flower Beadwork People*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2009.

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

