

**Louis Riel and
the Métis People**
February 2008

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This bibliography may be photocopied for educational, non-profit purposes.

BOOKS

General

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VIDEOS, DVDs & CD-ROMs

Batoche: Four bloody days in May. [Videocassette] [DVD]. (1998). Toronto: Good Earth Productions. 1 VHS or DVD (24 min.) + information sheet. SUMMARY: Through archival footage, historical sequences, documentary and interviews, this program presents the story of the rebellion in Batoche, Saskatchewan in May 1885 when Canadian troops under the command of Major Frederick Middleton crushed the Métis and their allies who were under the command of Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. Audience: Grades 7 – 12.

Booking # 1522 or # D-1522

From sea to sea. [Videocassette]. (2001). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 1 VHS (60 min.) + 1 grades 5 – 9 teacher's resource binder + 1 grades 10 – 12 teacher's resource binder. SUMMARY: Through presentations of historical fact and dramatic re-enactment, this series traces Canadian history from the arrival of the first peoples to the end of the twentieth century. This episode, covers the years between 1867-1873. Segment two depicts the return of Louis Riel to Rupert's Land where settlers have begun to arrive. In 1869, Riel organizes an armed rebellion and seizes Hudson's Bay Company headquarters at Fort Garry. Segment three describes William McDowgall's illegal claim to Rupert's Land; Ontario settlers, including Thomas Scott's opposition to Louis Riel; and the steps taken by Riel to counter the settlers and secure power for his provisional government in December 1869. Segment four portrays the events which led to the execution of Thomas Scott for treason, the great anger the execution created in Canada, and the negotiated settlement of the Rebellion which culminated in the declaration of Manitoba as a province. Riel flees into exile. Audience: Grades 5 – 12.

Booking # 4766

Gabriel Dumont: Prince of the prairies. [Videocassette]. (1998). Toronto: Magic Lantern. 1 VHS (45 min.) + 1 lesson plan. SUMMARY: Profiles the life and times of Métis leader, Gabriel Dumont, who became the chief military strategist of Louis Riel. Describes his early years and the influence of his culture and family upon him, his marriage to Madeleine Wilkie, and how his leadership of the Métis in Saskatchewan contributed to the organization of the community of St. Laurent. Discusses his relationship with Louis Riel and documents the events that led to the 1885 Rebellion. Briefly outlines Dumont's later years, concluding with his death in 1906. Audience: Grades 10 – 12. **Booking # 7899**

The great enterprise; From sea to sea. [DVD]. (2001). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 1 DVD (180 min.). SUMMARY: Disc 2: On the heels of Confederation, John A. Macdonald and his powerful ally George-Etienne Cartier look westward for their

conquest but are severely tested. Canada blunders in seeking to take over the west without the consent of its inhabitants, especially the Métis of Red River and their leader, the charismatic Louis Riel. Audience: Grades 5 – 12. **Booking # 3264**

The great possibility: Louis Riel and the Métis resistance. [Videocassette]. (1996). Strange Empire. 1 VHS (48 min.). SUMMARY: Told from the Métis perspective, this program uses archival footage, historical sequences and documentary to depict the life and times of Louis Riel. Describes his early life, education and influence of family upon him, and notes the development of his lifelong sense of religious mission and concern for Métis rights. Tells how Louis Riel assumed leadership of the Métis and forced the federal government to negotiate land concessions. A peaceful solution seemed possible until Riel's provisional government executed Thomas Scott for treason. The act sparked a chain of events that culminated in the Northwest Rebellion when Canadian troops crushed the Métis resistance at Batoche, Saskatchewan. Riel was tried for treason and sentenced to death by hanging. Intersperses Riel's story with discussion pertaining to the political issues and Métis history of the time. Audience: Grades 10 – 12. **Booking # 2418**

Louis Riel. Part one: Manitoba: The Red River Rebellion. [Videocassette] [DVD]. (2000). Coquitlam, BC: Classroom Video. 1 VHS or DVD (28 min.) + 1 teacher's notes. SUMMARY: Known as the Father of Manitoba, Louis Riel was the centre of the Métis rebellion that led the establishment of Manitoba as Canada's fifth province. Archival photographs are used throughout this video to tell the story of this charismatic individual, from his birth in 1844 in St. Boniface and his schooling in Montreal, to his election as a Member of Parliament and his exile from Canada. This program relates the story of the Red River Settlement, including the establishment of the Provisional Government of 1869, the capture of Fort Garry by Riel's Métis soldiers, the role of Prime Minister John A. Macdonald, and the execution of Thomas Scott. Audience: Grades 9 – 12. **Booking # 7428 or # 1171**

Louis Riel. Part two: Saskatchewan: The Northwest Rebellion. [Videocassette]. (2002). Coquitlam, BC: Classroom Video. 1 VHS (31 min.) + 1 teacher's notes. SUMMARY: This final episode in the two part series on the life of Louis Riel begins with his exile in the US and details his descent into madness, his recovery in the asylums of Quebec, his marriage, and the contentment he found as a teacher in Montana. In the summer 1884 he travelled to the South Saskatchewan valley, where Métis settlers were locked in a struggle for their rights with the federal government. When Riel's efforts to negotiate for his people failed, he spearheaded the Northwest Rebellion. This program follows the progression of the rebellion, including the Battle of Duck Lake, the Battle of Fish Creek, and the Battle of Batoche. It concludes with Riel's arrest, trial and hanging. Audience: Grades 9 – 12. **Booking # 7439**

Making history: Louis Riel and the North-West Rebellion of 1885. [CD-ROM]. (1997). Montreal: Monro Multimedia. 1 CD-ROM + 1 guide. SUMMARY: This disk is organized in the format of a Pavilion which is the archive of extensive information related to the Northwest Rebellion. It contains a huge collection of rare and old photographs, nearly two hours of interactive movies, hundreds of historic documents and lots of surprises related to the North-West Rebellion in 1885. After picking up a Journal upon entering the Pavilion, students can collect almost anything they find in the facility and use these items to build their own multimedia version of history. Audience: Grades 6 – 12. **Booking # 0062**

Métis fingerweaving. [Videocassette]. (2003). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont, c2003. 1 VHS (40 min.). SUMMARY: Designed to introduce viewers to traditional Métis art forms. This program illustrates that by combining Aboriginal finger weaving techniques with European materials the fur trade sash remains an integral and highly symbolic aspect of Métis identity and culture. Join artist and teacher Penny Condon as she instructs grades 7 and 8 students from

St. Frances School in Saskatoon in making a sash and in the art of finger weaving. This video provides a brief historical overview of the main uses of the sash as well as in-depth demonstrations and step-by-step instructions on how to finger weave a Métis sash. Audience: Grades 9 – 12, Professional Development. **Booking # 11115**

Métis silk embroidery. [Videocassette]. (2003). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute. 1 VHS (50 min.). SUMMARY: Designed to introduce viewers to traditional Métis art forms. This program reveals that using predominately floral designs, Métis women have long practiced the vibrant art of silk embroidery. Decorating their personal and household items, these women experimented with embroidery designs and colours, creating a unique artistic tradition. Viewers learn basic embroidery stitches and receive direction in working with patterns, designs, needles and fabrics. Discusses the importance of preserving and promoting this traditional Métis art form. Audience: Grades 9 – 12. **Booking # 11114**

Métis summer. [Videocassette]. (1993). Winnipeg: Métis Women of Manitoba. 1 VHS (28 min.). SUMMARY: Set at the Forks National Historic Park in Winnipeg, this program presents the July 1992 celebration of Métis culture in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the death of Louis Riel. Displays of music, dancing, singing, food, crafts and “strong man” competitions are combined with narrative explanation of Métis history, life and culture. A Métis wedding is performed and its significance explained. Audience: Grades 4 – 12. **Booking # 7814**

Métis tour guide. Part 1. [Videocassette]. (1985). Winnipeg: Media Productions. 1 VHS (25 min.). SUMMARY: Takes viewers on a tour of historic landmarks in the Winnipeg area which commemorates important events in the history of the Métis. Students learn of the significance of the Cross of Freedom, Chapel Du Bon Secours in St. Norbert, the La Verendrye, Fort Douglas cairn, Ross House, and other historic sites. Audience: Grades 6 – 12. **Booking # 7256; Duplication # VT-0720**

Métis tour guide. Part 2. [Videocassette]. (1985). Winnipeg: Media Productions. 1 VHS (26 min.). SUMMARY: Continues the heritage tour of the historic Métis. Explores historic sites in Winnipeg, and other parts of Manitoba. Viewers visit St. Andrew’s rectory and church, the home of Métis explorer, Captain William Kennedy, Lower Fort Garry, Assiniboine Park, the Historical Museum of St. James Assiniboia, the White Horse statue, Riel’s statue on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislative Assembly, and more. Audience: Grades 6 – 12. **Booking # 7259; # Duplication # VT-0721**

Music of the Indian and Métis. Part 1. [Videocassette]. (1983). Winnipeg: Manitoba Department of Education. 1 VHS (21 min.) + 1 teacher guidebook. SUMMARY: This program traces the history of traditional North American Indian music through an examination of songs and dances, closely linked with stories and legends that have been handed down for many centuries. Audience: Grades 4 – 6. **Booking # 6999; Duplication # VT-0923**

Music of the Indian and Métis. Part 2. [Videocassette]. (1983). Winnipeg: Manitoba Department of Education. 1 VHS (23 min.) + 1 teacher guidebook. SUMMARY: This program examines the historical development of the Métis peoples as a distinct and uniquely Canadian ethnic group. Through a blending of European and Native Canadian musical forms, there emerged a distinctive style. Contemporary Métis performers sing and play the music of yesterday and today. Audience: Grades 4 – 6. **Booking # 7006; Duplication # VT-0924**

The re-trial of Louis Riel. Part 1. [Videocassette]. (2002). Toronto: CBC Newsworld. 1 VHS (58 min.). SUMMARY: A re-enactment of the trial of Louis Riel based on Canadian law of the present day. The case is argued by Edward Greenspan for the defence and Alan Lenczner for the prosecution and is presented before former BC Supreme Court Judge, Thomas Berger. Both lawyers present their arguments, cross-examine Riel played by Quebec lawyer Guy Bertrand, and give their closing arguments. Louis Riel addresses the jury, and the judge gives

his summation of the case. Includes brief comments from the audience as to Riel's guilt or innocence at the end of the program. Audience: Grades 7 – 12. **Booking # 0620**

The re-trial of Louis Riel. Part 2. [Videocassette]. (2002). Toronto: CBC Newsworld. 1 VHS (41 min.). SUMMARY: In this program, set at the St. Boniface Museum in Winnipeg, an audience of Métis of all ages and backgrounds, including descendents of Riel, meet in an open forum with moderator Anne Petire to discuss the life and legacy of Riel. This gathering gives a different perspective on Riel as a role model, an inspiration, and a voice for the Métis and for their cause to be recognized as a distinct people and culture. Also considers the results of the vote taken by a studio audience and an internet poll to determine whether Louis Riel was guilty or innocent of the charges of treason, as a result of the re-enactment of Riel's trial for treason in a previous episode. Audience: Grades 7 – 12. **Booking # 0624**

Riel. [Videocassette]. (197-). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 1 VHS (150 min.). SUMMARY: In 1868, the Hudson's Bay Company agreed to relinquish its holdings in the Northwest but the transfer was not legally complete. Sir John A. Macdonald's plans for Confederation and a railroad connecting all parts of Canada threatened the livelihood of the Métis and forced the Federal government to negotiate land concessions. A peaceful solution seemed possible until Riel's provisional government executed Thomas Scott for treason and sparked a chain of events that led to the Northwest Rebellion. Audience: Grades 9 – 12. **Booking # 6909**

Riel country. [Videocassette]. (1996). Montreal: National Film Board. 1 VHS (50 min.) + 1 guide. SUMMARY: This program features students from R.B. Russell Vocational School and Francophone students from École Précieux-Sang working on a play entitled *First Métis* that was presented at the Festival du Voyageur in a program to honour the 125th anniversary of Louis Riel's founding of Manitoba. As they work to produce the play, the students reveal their concerns about such issues as intolerance, racism, discrimination and differing values and beliefs to better understand each other's point of view. As well, they share their experiences about being part of a multicultural/multiracial society and touch upon how their minority cultures can co-exist within the prevailing societal structure. Interspersed with scenes from the Festival du Voyageur and Peter Warren's Action Line radio show dealing with living next door to the Francophone community. Audience: Grades 9 – 12. **Booking # 7546**

St. Laurent: A Métis community. [DVD]. (2006). Winnipeg: Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth. 1 DVD (20 min.) + 1 teacher's guide. SUMMARY: This program explores the Métis community of St. Laurent. Presented through a series of voice-overs and interviews with individuals from the community, this program captures the oral tradition of the Métis community and weaves together an engaging story of St. Laurent's history and contemporary life. Segment one focuses on Métis history and the importance of Louis Riel in Métis culture, Métis musicians' pride in their ethnic identity, St. Laurent's representation at one of the largest gatherings of Native peoples in Washington, DC, the summer festival, Métis Days, and traditional foods and activities. Segment two features an interview Jules Chartrand, a Métis historian who tells of the differences in pronunciation between the Michif and French languages. Also shows residents of St. Laurent performing traditional dance and fiddle music, and participating in a variety of sports and an ice fishing festival. Audience: Grades 4 – 12, Professional Development. **Booking # D-10399**

Taking the West. Hour one. [Videocassette]. (2000). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 1 VHS (60 min.) + 1 grades 10 – 12 teacher's resource binder + 1 Grades 5 – 9 teacher's resource binder. SUMMARY: This episode deals with the settlement of the Canadian West from 1873 to 1896. Segment seven describes how conditions confronting the Native populations, the settlers and the Métis contributed to the discontent that would erupt in the Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and how Louis Riel was chosen as its leader. Audience: Grades 5 – 12. **Booking # 5364**

Taking the West. Hour two. [Videocassette]. (2000). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 1 VHS (60 min.) + 1 grades 10 – 12 teacher's resource binder + 1 Grades 5 – 9 teacher's resource binder. SUMMARY: The second hour of this episode continues to deal with the settlement of the Canadian West from 1873 to 1896. Segment one focuses on the return of Louis Riel to the prairies. Shows the support of the Métis and the settlers for a peaceful negotiation with Ottawa and the efforts of Riel to entice the Native populations to join their cause. Ottawa's lack of attention to Riel led to his declaration of a Métis provisional government at Batoche, and armed confrontation at Duck Lake, Saskatchewan and the loss of the settler's support. Segment two describes the response of the settlers to the threat of an Indian uprising, and traces the events which occurred at Frog Lake. Segment three depicts the mobilization of the Canadian forces to Batoche and describes how, despite resistance, they crushed the Métis and their Indian allies who were led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont. Segment four considers the fate of Louis Riel, and how he was charged with high treason. In segment five, Riel is executed and shows the division which occurred in this country as a result. Segment six describes Sir John A. Macdonald's meeting with Crowfoot and the legacy which Riel's death left to the Plains Indians and to legislation in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories with respect to the Roman Catholic religion and French language rights. Audience: Grades 5 – 12, Adult.
Booking # 5365

Taking the West; The great transformation. [DVD]. (2001). Toronto: Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. 2 DVDs (240 min.). SUMMARY: Disc 1: The 1870s and 1880s are a time of trial for the young Dominion of Canada. The country's first Prime Minister, John A. Macdonald, faces economic depression in the factories of the east and a new revolt in the west led by Louis Riel. The suppression of the Northwest Rebellion and Macdonald's single-minded insistence that the French-speaking Catholic Riel must hang for treason threatens to tear apart the fragile bond between Quebec and English Canada. During the same era, debates over provincial powers and the Manitoba Schools Question rage, and a dream is realized: the Canadian Pacific Railway. Audience: Grades 5 – 12. **Booking # 3555**

The trial of Poundmaker. [Videocassette]. (2002). Montreal: National Film Board. 1 VHS (47 min.). SUMMARY: Narrated by Tom Jackson, we experience the trial of Poundmaker in Regina, where he stood accused of leading the Cree in support of the Riel Rebellion. The role of Poundmaker is played by a direct descendent, Tyrone Tootosis. Audience: Grades 7 – 12.
Booking # 10227

Winnipeg and the Red River settlement. [Videocassette]. (1991). Mississauga, ON: Goldi Productions. 1 VHS (26 min.). SUMMARY: Designed to introduce viewers to Canadian communities. This program portrays historic and modern day Winnipeg. Young students explore and learn about places of interest in Winnipeg, including the Red River, Lower Fort Garry, the St. Boniface Museum, the Manitoba Legislature, and Riel House. Discusses the role of York boats and Red River carts in the lives of the early settlers, and looks at the Winnipeg Strike and the Red River floods. Audience: Grades 4 – 9. **Booking # 9717**

OTHER AUDIOVISUAL MATERIALS

Drops of brandy and other traditional Métis tunes. Volume one. [Compact Disc]. (2001). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute. 2 CDs (139 min.): digital. SUMMARY: Presents traditional Métis fiddling tunes performed by Frederick Genthon, Richard Calihoo, Gilbert Anderson, Henry Gardipy and Emile Lavellee. Audience: All Grades. **CD 781.6297 D76 v.1**

Drops of brandy and other traditional Métis tunes. Volume two. [Compact Disc]. (2002). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute. 2 CDs (139 min.): digital. SUMMARY: Volume two of this title presents two CDs of traditional Métis fiddling tunes performed by John Arcand, Richard Lafferty, Homer Poitras, Mel Bedard, Garry Lapine, Hap Boyer, and Ed Lafferty. Audience: All Grades. **CD 781.6297 D76 v.2**

Expressing our heritage: Métis artistic designs. [Kit]. (2002). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute. 50 study prints, 1 sash + 1 resource manual. SUMMARY: Introduces students and teachers to traditional Métis clothing and accessories, revealing the significance of this tradition to Métis culture and identity. The 50 prints cover 28 topics and outline traditional clothing, adornment, and accessories of the Métis. Manual contains maps, glossary, biographies, additional background reading and extended bibliography and activities for further review. Audience: All Grades. **K 391.008997 T76r**

The Flower Beadwork people. [Kit]. (198-). Regina: Saskatchewan Education. 2 booklets + sound cassette. SUMMARY: Project of the five year action plan for Indian and Métis curriculum development. Developed under the guidance of the Indian and Métis Curriculum Committee. Designed to introduce students to the history, customs, and traditions of the Métis people. Audience: K – 6. **K 372.83 F56**

History of Manitoba picture collection. Riel. Part one. [Kit]. (1967-74). Winnipeg: E. Wells. 80 slides, 1 slide carousel, 1 listing. SUMMARY: Designed to introduce students to various aspects of Manitoba history. Part one focuses on the life and times of Louis Riel. Audience: All Grades. **K 971.27 W44 v.3 Part 1**

History of Manitoba picture collection. Riel. Part two. [Kit]. (1967-74). Winnipeg: E. Wells. 80 slides, 1 slide carousel, 1 listing. SUMMARY: Designed to introduce students to various aspects of Manitoba history. Part two focuses on the life and times of Louis Riel. Audience: All Grades. **K 971.27 W44 v.3 Part 2**

History of Manitoba picture collection. Riel. Part three. [Kit]. (1967-74). Winnipeg: E. Wells. 19 slides, 1 slide carousel, 1 listing. SUMMARY: Designed to introduce students to various aspects of Manitoba history. Part three focuses on the life and times of Louis Riel. Audience: All Grades. **K 971.27 W44 v.3 Part 3**

Riel. [Jackdaw]. (1967). Toronto: Clarke, Irwin & Company. 6 broadsheets, 2 pictures, 3 documents, 1 poster, 1 map, 1 translation sheet, 1 leaflet, 1 pamphlet, 1 sound disc + 1 guide. SUMMARY: Through a variety of exhibits and activities, the portfolio presents a study of Métis leader Louis Riel. Audience: Grades 7 – 12. **J 971.092 H6**

Singing to keep time: a collection of Métis songs. [Compact Disc]. (1996). Saskatoon, SK: Gabriel Dumont Institute. 1 CD (30 min.): digital. SUMMARY: Presents a collection of 13 traditional songs of the Métis. Performers include Alponse Carrier, Nap Gardiner, Joseph Naytowhow, Suzanne Bird and Dean Bernier. With instrumental accompaniment. Audience: All Grades. **CD 781.6297 S55**

WEB SITES

Aboriginal Canada Portal. ACP is a partnership between Canadian government departments and the aboriginal community that provides a gateway to Métis, Inuit and First Nations online resources, and government programs and services. Searching on the topics of Riel and the Métis results in a variety of information and links. Some highlights include video clips of heritage minutes, Michif audio lessons, teacher resources and links to Métis community profiles by province. Web Address: www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca/

Métis Culture & Heritage Resource Centre. The MCHRC is a Manitoba based non profit organization which supports a variety of Métis resources and services including a library, workshops, genealogy services, school programs and community outreach. The site features extensive information and links to a wide range of topics from biographies, historical maps, the Michif language and every aspect of Métis culture. Web Address: <http://www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca/>

National Historic Sites of Canada. Created by Parks Canada, this bilingual web site includes links to related historic sites such as Batoche and Riel House. Information includes online tours, historical information, educational resources, activities, special events, visitor information and related locations and links. Web Address: <http://www.pc.gc.ca/progs/lhn-nhs/>

The Northwest Resistance. This bilingual site contains a searchable database of materials held by the University of Saskatchewan Libraries and Archives. Many of these images and texts have been digitized and this site provides a detailed history of the Northwest Resistance of 1885, including important scenes and individuals as well as a chronology of events. Web Address: <http://library2.usask.ca/northwest/contents.html>

The Societe historique de Saint-Boniface. Heritage Centre. The Centre promotes and conserves cultural and historical resources related to Francophones in western Canada. This bilingual site features a biography of Louis Riel as well as a bibliography and related sites. Also links to the Riel House National Historic Site, including tour information and related school tours and activities. Web Address: <http://shsb.mb.ca/englishindex.htm>

The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture. Created by the Gabriel Dumont Institute, the museum is a comprehensive, bilingual site that includes numerous images, oral histories, detailed history of the 1885 resistance, interviews, folklore and learning resources. The section entitled “Back to Batoche,” designed specifically for students, includes a variety of interactive games, music, video clips, quizzes, activities and photographs. Web Address: <http://www.metismuseum.ca>