



Métis Nation of Ontario

Education and Training

Riel Day: Suggested Activities

Overview

Riel Day is celebrated by the Métis annually on November 16th, the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution in 1885. Louis Riel was an important historical leader of the Métis, and remains a powerful figure in Métis culture today. The Métis celebrate Riel Day to honour our important leader, to show pride in Métis identity, and to draw attention to the continued struggle for Métis rights and visibility.

Materials

- 2 Page Biography of Louis Riel
- Riel Day Poster and Social Media advertisements

Suggested Activities

We at the MNO are happy to support your efforts to celebrate Riel Day! Below we have outlined some activities you may want to consider when thinking about an in-person component to Riel Day at your school.

Recommended in-person activities:

- A Flag Raising Ceremony. One of the common activities during Riel Day is a raising of the Métis Flag. This symbolizes the endurance of the Métis Nation, and recognizes Riel's important role in fighting for the rights of the Métis.
- A Métis specific cultural workshop, for example, Floral Beadwork, Fingerweaving, Dot Art, Blanket Stitching, Jigging, Traditional Games, etc. Infinite Reach facilitators on your campus and/or your local Métis Community Council can help host Métis workshops.
- A panel conversation or keynote related to Louis Riel and the Métis National movement. This could explore the various ways that Riel has been judged and rehabilitated over the last 150 years, or perhaps examine the contemporary political struggles and victories of the Métis Nation.
- If you are planning to host an in-person Riel Day event on your campus, we recommend reading the included biography at the beginning to give context to your activity.
- If you have an Infinite Reach Facilitator at your school, you can ask if they would like to participate or collaborate in the planning of your event.
- Your Métis Community Council(s) can also be contacted to see if they want to participate in your Riel Day activities.
- If there are Métis faculty or staff at your institution, you can ask if they would like to speak or contribute something to the event.