



Métis Nation of Ontario

Days of Significance for the

School Year



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Month	Day	Métis Significance
September	Terry Fox Second Sunday of September	Did you know that Terry Fox has Métis ancestry? The Terry Fox Foundation and Métis Nation British Columbia announced the release of a customary Métis sash in Fox's honour. The Foundation is in charge of overseeing the millions that Fox continues to donate to cancer research.
	Powley Day September 19	On October 22, 1993, Steve Powley, a Métis hunter, and his son killed a bull moose outside Sault Ste Marie, Ontario. One week later, the Powleys were charged by Conservation Officers for hunting moose without a license and unlawful possession of moose contrary to Ontario's Game and Fish Act. On September 19, 2003, in a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed the constitutional protection for the harvesting rights of the Métis people. Section. 35 of the constitution is a substantive promise to the Métis, recognizing their distinct existence and protecting their Aboriginal rights.
	TRC/Orange Shirt September 30	Established in 2021, September 30 honours the lost children and survivors of residential schools, their families, and their communities. The federal government has designated September 30 as a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Orange Shirt Day is a commemorative day that honours the children who survived residential schools and remembers those who did not.
November	Treaty Week	This week, the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) draws attention to an important but often ignored part of Ontario's treaty history—the 1875 Halfbreed Adhesion to Treaty No. 3. What sets this Adhesion apart from other Canadian treaties is that it is the only case where a Métis community, known as the "Halfbreeds of Rainy Lake and River," formally entered into a treaty. This important step allowed the Métis people of Rainy Lake and River to secure recognition and protection of their lands and rights as a unique Métis community, rather than just as individual members, in the Fort Frances region of Northwestern Ontario.



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		<p>This annual event recognizes the significance of treaties and educates students and residents of Ontario about treaty rights and relationships.</p>
	National Indigenous Veterans Day - November 8	<p>It was established in 1994 as a national day for recognition and remembrance of more than 200 years of military service in Canada by First Nation, Métis and Inuit communities.</p>
	Remembrance Day November 11	<p>As we mark Remembrance Day, we invite all to share in a moment of silence as we honour those who have bravely served in war and peace. Defending Canada and its people before there was Canada, our Métis veterans risked their own lives to protect the freedom of our nation and ensure the safety of our people. Our democracy today is built on their sacrifices. This November 11th, please take the time to thank our friends, neighbours, and all of our relations who have served and continue to serve. Lest we forget.</p>
	Louis Riel Day November 16	<p>Born on October 22, 1844, Louis Riel was a Canadian politician. He was also a founder of the province of Manitoba and a political leader of the Métis people in Canada. Louis Riel Day is observed on November 16. This day is the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution in 1885. MNO citizens, MNO Chartered Community Councils and communities hold events across the province to celebrate Métis culture, recognize the many contributions of the Métis to Canada, and highlight the struggles that Métis continue to face. On this day, a special ceremony is held at the Provincial Legislature at Queen's Park in Toronto.</p>
December January	Holiday Season	<p>We acknowledge that these are celebrated, and traditions vary from family to family. For example, the "réveillons" are traditionally celebrated by some Métis families on Christmas Eve.</p>
February	National Flag Day February 15	<p>While the Canadian Flag is celebrated on this day, the Métis Infinity Flag was created 150 years before the red maple leaf flag. The infinity flag is the oldest Indigenous flag in Canada.</p>



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	Métis Nation of Ontario Incorporation February 25	The Métis Nation of Ontario was established in 1993 through the will of Métis people and Métis communities, who came together throughout Ontario to create a Métis-specific governance structure.
March	World Water Day March 22	<p>On World Water Day, we honour water and bring attention to the 2.2 billion people who do not have access to clean water. It involves acting to address the world's water crisis. World Water Day is about accelerating change to solve the water and sanitation crisis in the world, and because water affects us all, we need everyone to take action.</p> <p>Within the Métis Nation of Ontario, The Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch coordinates program development to understand and respond to climate change and its effects on Métis communities across the province. Through ongoing engagement with MNO communities, this work focuses on the local knowledge held by our communities to ensure the voices of Métis help guide the development of MNO environment and climate change policy and programs.</p>
	Indigenous Languages Day March 31	<p>This is a day in Canada to celebrate and honour Indigenous languages. The decade from 2022 to 2032 is also designated as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages to increase the use of Indigenous languages worldwide.</p> <p>Michif is the language of the Métis people. It was once spoken all across the homeland. Still, like most Indigenous languages, the number of Michif speakers declined due to the colonization process that attempted to stamp out the use of languages other than English and French in Canada. Thankfully, efforts are now underway to preserve the Michif language and introduce it to Métis youth and a new generation of speakers. As part of that effort, the Métis Nation of Ontario has created online Michif resources that are available for anyone wanting to learn.</p>
April	Daniels Decision April 14	Métis leader Harry Daniels was a celebrated Métis politician and activist who fought for the rights of the



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		<p>Métis people. He initiated the Daniels case in 1999. Following trial and appeal court decisions, on April 14, 2016, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled that the Federal Government has Constitutional responsibility for Métis and Non-Status Indians, marking a historic victory for Indigenous peoples in Canada and ending a 17-year legal battle. As a result, the Federal Government is now legally accountable for Métis and Non-Status First Nation Indian interests. Daniels Decision.</p>
	<p>Earth Day April 22</p>	<p>Earth Day, which was first observed on April 22, 1970, is the beginning of the environmental movement. Earth Day has grown to be the world's biggest environmental movement, with participation over the years to assist people as well as organizations in reducing their environmental effects.</p> <p>Within the Métis Nation of Ontario, The Lands, Resources and Consultations (LRC) Branch is coordinating program development to understand and respond to climate change and its effects on Métis communities across the province. Through ongoing engagement with MNO communities, this work focuses on the local knowledge held by our communities to ensure the voices of Métis help guide the development of MNO environment and climate change policy and programs.</p>
<p>May</p>	<p>Red Dress Day (MMIWG2S) May 5</p>	<p>First observed in 2010, Red Dress Day takes place on May 5. Red Dress Day is a day to raise awareness and encourage learning to end violence against Indigenous women, girls, two-spirit, and gender-diverse people. It also honours the thousands of murdered and missing Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people in Canada.</p> <p>Métis artist Jaime Black's REDress Project installation, in which she hung empty red dresses to represent missing and murdered women, inspired Red Dress Day. As a result of her installation, red dresses have come to represent the crisis.</p> <p>The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report's Call to Action 41 urges the Canadian federal government to launch an investigation into the numerous instances of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.</p>



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	<p>Mental Health Week 1st week of May</p>	<p>The Canadian Mental Health Association's CMHA Mental Health Week is an annual national event that takes place during the first week in May to encourage people from all walks of life to learn, talk, reflect and engage with others on all issues relating to mental health.</p> <p>The Métis Nation of Ontario's (MNO) Healing and Wellness branch facilitates and coordinates programs, services, and activities to address the holistic needs of Métis people in Ontario at the provincial, regional, and local levels. To us, holistic Indigenous health encompasses the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and cultural aspects of one's life. Through an understanding of self, a vision of wellness, and a balanced body, mind, and spirit, the MNO promotes a vision of health and wellness through the healing continuum.</p>
June	<p>National Indigenous Peoples Day June 21</p>	<p>National Indigenous Peoples' Day was established in 1996 to recognize the history, heritage, and diversity of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples in Canada. It allows us to share our stories and respect one another.</p>
	<p>MNO Self-Government Agreement Signing Day June 27</p>	<p>On June 27, 2019, the Métis Nation of Ontario and the Government of Canada signed the MNO-Canada Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement.</p>