

Glossary of Terms – L - N

Louis Riel Institute – This is the heritage, education and cultural wing of the Manitoba Métis Federation created by an Act of the Provincial Legislature of Manitoba. The Institute runs courses, teaches about Métis culture and acts as a general clearing house for Métis cultural and heritage issues.

Manitoba Keewatinook Ininew Okimowin (MKIO) MKIO is the political organization which represents 28 First Nation communities in the north.

Manitoba Métis Federation – With Head offices located at 150 Henry Street in Winnipeg and with over 150 employees, the Federation is the governing body and service and political lobby group for the Métis in Manitoba.

Métis – People born of, or descended from both European and First Nation parents. According to the Métis Nation of Manitoba a Métis person is one who self-declares as a Métis, who is accepted by the Métis community as a Métis and who has provable Métis ancestry in the Red River area.

Métis National Council (MNC) – The political body representing its members and affiliates which include the Métis Nation of British Columbia, the Métis Nation of the North West Territories, The Métis Nation of Alberta, the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, The Manitoba Metis Federation, The Metis Women's Secretariat, The Metis National Youth Advisory Council and the Métis Nation of Ontario. It also represents the interests of Métis Settlements in Alberta not affiliated to the Métis Settlement General Council.

Métis Settlements – Eight distinct geographic

areas in northern Alberta covering approximately 1.25 million acres with a total population of 6,500 in 1995. Under the 1989 Alberta *Métis Settlements Accord* and resulting 1990 Legislation, the Settlements collectively acquired title to the Settlement areas and were established as corporate entities with broad governing powers. The Settlements were originally created during the Depression as a means of providing relief to the Métis.

Michif – Michif is the Métis language. It combines French with Cree, Saukteaux or other Aboriginal languages. For example, St. Laurent Manitoba Michif speakers speak a form of Michif based on Saukteaux and old French.

Mixed Blood – Pejorative term based on the colonial experience of Canada. It is used much the same as 'half-breed' and in recent years has been used to represent people who have mixed European and Aboriginal ancestry. Although less offensive than 'half-breed' it still identifies people based on a biological premise.

National Aboriginal Day – In May 1996, the Government of Canada declared June 21 of every year to be National Aboriginal Day. This day is a celebration of the cultures and heritages of the First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, whose unparalleled contributions to Canada have helped make the country unique.

National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) – The NAFC works to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal peoples in an urban environment by supporting activities that encourage equal access to and participation in Canadian society, and which respect and strengthen the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness. Centres began in the mid 1950's and are now located in more than 115 urban locations across Canada, offering a broad scope of programs and services.

Native – In Canada after 1960 and before 1982, this term came to be used to identify groups of Aboriginal people with common ancestry who were socially, culturally, politically and linguistically united.

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) – The national voice for Aboriginal women, NWAC is made up of other organizations as a 'Grandmother's Lodge'. NWAC is designed to enhance, promote and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis women within the Aboriginal and mainstream Canadian societies.

Non-Status Indian – An Indian person who is not registered as an Indian under *The Indian Act*, either because s/he or his/her ancestors were never registered, or because status was lost through marriage or other provisions of *The Indian Act*.

Nunavut – The new territory created in the Canadian North on April 1, 1999 when the Northwest Territories was divided in two. 'Nunavut' means 'our land' in Inuktitut. The Inuit, whose ancestors inhabited these lands for thousands of years, make up 80 percent of the population of Nunavut.

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