OUR TIMELINE

OUR HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY AND FORMATION

1600s-1700s:
Métis people emerge as a distinct group in the early fur trade era, primarily through unions between European (mostly French) fur traders and First Nations women.

1816:
The Battle of Seven Oaks, (referred to by the Métis as the Victory of the Frog Plain) near present-day Winnipeg, marks the first significant organization of the Métis as a nation.

RED RIVER RESISTANCE AND AFTERMATH

1869:
Riel emerges as a leader of the Métis, opposing the transfer of Rupert's Land to the Canadian government without Métis consultation.

1869-1870:
The Red River Resistance, led by Louis Riel, results in the creation of the province of Manitoba and recognition of Métis land rights through the Manitoba Act.

1870:
Under the leadership of Louis Riel the Métis establish a Provisional Government with laws and a court.

1872:
Riel is elected to parliament but never takes his seat.

1874:
Riel is re-elected to the Canadian House of Commons but again cannot take his seat.

1884:
Riel returns to Canada at the request of the Métis in the Saskatchewan Territory, who are concerned about their land rights and political representation.

1884-1885

Louis Riel

NORTHWEST RESISTANCE

1837-1906

Gabriel Dumont

1885:
The North-West Resistance, led by Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont, takes place in Saskatchewan. The Métis fight against the Canadian government for recognition of their rights.

MARCH 19, 1885:
Riel establishes a second Provisional Government at Batoche.

MARCH 26, 1885:
The Battle of Duck Lake marks the beginning of the North-West Resistance.

MAY 9-12, 1885:
The Battle of Batoche. Canada uses the Gatling gun for the first time ever, resulting in the defeat of Riel's forces by Canadian government troops. The defeat of the Métis leads to Riel's capture and subsequent execution.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

EARLY 1920s:
Staggering poverty, land rights and scrip lead the Métis in southern Saskatchewan to begin organizing.

1931-32:
The Half-breeds of Saskatchewan is formed by the Métis in Regina to represent their interests.

1937:
The Half-breeds of Saskatchewan draw up their first constitution and become the Saskatchewan Métis Society (SMS), representing Métis in southern and central Saskatchewan and lobby the government as a collective Métis voice. Leaders organize Saskatchewan's Métis through "Locals", a community-based representative structure borrowed from organized labour.

1939:
By this time, there are over twenty Locals in rural and urban centers, reflecting a growing sense of political awareness and social activism. Throughout the 1930s, the SMS works to address issues of poverty, lack of education, lack of employment, land displacement and hunting issues.

Saskatchewan Métis Society

MID TO LATE 20TH CENTURY

S. 35(1)
The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.

THE CONSTITUTION ACT, 1982
LA LOI CONSTITUTIONNELLE DE 1982

1960s-1970s:
The Métis Society of Saskatchewan (MSS) represent Métis living in southern and central Saskatchewan, while the Métis Association of Saskatchewan (MAS), represent northern Métis and non-status Indians.

1967:
MSS and MAS merge, keeping the name of Métis Society of Saskatchewan.

1975:
MSS restructures as the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan.

1982:
The Constitution Act, 1982, recognizes and affirms the existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The Aboriginal peoples of Canada includes the Métis. This marks a significant milestone in the recognition of Métis rights.

1988:
The Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan returns to the Métis Society of Saskatchewan

1993:
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan is formed and after extensive consultations and research, the MN–S constitution passes and becomes law. This recognizes and demonstrates we are a self-determining people with the inherent right to establish our own government and laws.

Métis Nation Saskatchewan

MÉTIS NATION–SASKATCHEWAN RECENT HISTORY & KEY MOMENTS

1988:
The Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan returns to the Métis Society of Saskatchewan.

2001:
The Métis Act is passed in Saskatchewan, providing the legislative framework for the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and becomes effective in 2002.

2003:
The Supreme Court of Canada's decision in R. v. Powley establishes criteria for **Métis rights under Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982,** strengthening the legal recognition of Métis rights.

2008:
The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan enters into a Framework Agreement with the Government of Canada aimed at improving socio-economic conditions for Métis people. This agreement establishes a foundation for collaborative efforts to enhance the socio-economic well-being of Métis people in Saskatchewan. It focuses on improving Métis education, health, and economic opportunities while fostering government-to-government relationships.

2016:
The Supreme Court of Canada rules in Daniels v. Canada that **Métis and non-status Indians are "Indians" under Section 91(24),** which has significant implications for Métis rights and self-governance.

2017:
The Canada-Métis Nation Accord is established to create a collaborative relationship between the federal government and the Métis Nation, including the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S). This Accord addresses key priorities and advances reconciliation. It covers a range of topics such as governance, health, education, economic development, and child and family services.

JULY 20TH, 2018:
Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and Canada sign the **Framework Agreement for Advancing Reconciliation.**

2019:
The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan sign a **Métis Government Recognition and Self-Government Agreement** with the Government of Canada, formally recognizing the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan's self-government.

FEBRUARY 2023:
Métis Nation–Saskatchewan and Canada sign the **Métis within Saskatchewan Self-Government and Recognition and Implementation Agreement.**

JUNE 21, 2023:
Bill C-53: An Act respecting certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts is introduced to the House of Commons.

APRIL 2024:
MN–S pulls support for Bill C-53 in favour of pursuing a self-government agreement and legislation with Canada independently.

MAY 2024:
Kishchi Mashinaayikun Ooshchi Michif – The Sacred Document from the Michif.
MN–S continues self-government negotiations with Canada and announces the Michif name of the modern Treaty.

2025:
MN–S continues to work on behalf of Saskatchewan Métis citizens to formalize the rights, responsibilities, and relationship between MN–S and the Canadian government.

THE SACRED DOCUMENT
KISHCHI MASHINAAYIKUN OOSHCHI MICHIF
FROM THE MICHIF