

MÉTIS CONTEMPORARY ISSUES

Learning goal: Students will understand the diversity of contemporary issues that face the Métis.

Suggested timeline: 3 x 75-minute periods

Subjects: Canadian History, Law, Civics, Society

Lesson opener

See it:

Who are the Métis in Section 35 of *The Constitution Act, 1982*?

This question of who the Métis are was discussed at length before the Court. Many of the lawyers for the various governments argued that there were no Métis “peoples”; that there were only individuals with mixed Indian and European heritage. The Supreme Court did not agree with these arguments, nor did it set out a comprehensive definition of who the Métis people are. Instead, the Court set out who the “Métis” are for the purposes of s. 35. The Court said that the term “Métis” in s. 35 refers to distinctive Métis collectives who, in addition to their mixed ancestry, developed their own customs, way of life, and group identity—separate from their Indian, Inuit or European forebears.

Métis Nation of Ontario

metisnation.org/rights/the-powley-story

Winnipeg-based filmmaker, Janelle Wookey, has created some short videos for the CBC program, 8th Fire. Watch these videos to get a good understanding of the Métis identity prior to looking at contemporary issues.

The Métis , Past Present and Future—Margaret Froh

youtube.com/watch?v=1ujC6cMN_fU Who are the Métis? (36:30–44:41)

MNO Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government—Ottawa Engagement Session—Margaret Froh Excerpt—Where the Métis Came From

goo.gl/79f2TB

Full video

youtube.com/watch?v=-7Bb7QZJ7KA

The Agenda interview with Gary Lipinski, Jason Madden and Kelly Campignaro

youtube.com/watch?v=4uk-gPzeXoE&feature=youtu.be

MNO Youth Testify Before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal People

youtube.com/watch?v=n4H_nkNMaKU&feature=youtu.be%20

Strategy/Lesson activity

Feel it:

As a class, discuss what is meant by “contemporary issues.” Start by discussing personal issues, family issues, community issues, provincial issues, Canadian issues, and Global issues.

Survey their knowledge of Indigenous issues at the local level, provincial level, Canadian level and International level. Are they aware of any of the contemporary issues? Are they aware of any Métis issues?

Know it:

Create jigsaw groups and have students take a look at a list of Contemporary Métis Issues. (You can use “WORKSHEET Contemporary Métis Issues” but should add any new issues to the list.) Each student in a group will select one of the issues and do some research on the issue. They will share their information with other students, from other home groups with the same topic. The students will then go back to their home group and provide their group members with a brief summary of the Contemporary Issue.

Assessment**Do It:**

Students select one of the Contemporary Issues and chose one of the activities from the Choice Board “WORKSHEET Contemporary Issues Choice Board.” You could have students select one “WRITE” activity and one “CREATE” activity.

Suggested Resources:

Métis Nation of Ontario
metisnation.org

Métis Nation of Ontario Historic Resource
metisnation.org/registry/citizenship/historicresources

Métis Nation of Ontario—Citizenship (National Definition of Métis)
metisnation.org/registry/citizenship

Métis Nation
metisnation.ca

Plainspeak On The Daniels Case January 2013
metisnation.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Daniels-Plainspeak-FINAL.pdf

R. v. Powley, A Summary of the Supreme Court of Canada Reasons for Judgment
albertametisgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Summary-of-R-v-Powley.pdf

The Powley Case [youtube.com/watch?v=12K7I0-IHXA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12K7I0-IHXA)

The Senate of Canada “The People Who Own Themselves: Recognition of Métis Identity in Canada” (2013)
parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/appa/rep/rep12jun13-e.pdf

The Agenda interview with Gary Lipinski, Jason Madden and Kelly Campignaro
[youtube.com/watch?v=4uk-gPzeXoE&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uk-gPzeXoE&feature=youtu.be)

MNO Youth Testify Before the Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples
[youtube.com/watch?v=n4H_nkNMaKU&feature=youtu.be%20](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4H_nkNMaKU&feature=youtu.be%20)

Event—Mica Bay Incident
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/mica-bay-incident

Dr. Adam Gaudry “Are the Métis Treaty People?”(2016) [1:04:03]
[youtube.com/watch?v=oU8b5QFB53g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oU8b5QFB53g)

The Métis Nation of Ontario “Twenty Years of Achievement” (2013)
[youtube.com/watch?v=WSniHvhnAaU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSniHvhnAaU)

The Canadian Encyclopedia “Métis”
thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/metis

Winnipeg Free Press “The Métis question: Defining the uniquely Canadian people who founded Manitoba is no easy task” (2015)
winnipegfreepress.com/special/long-reads/The-Metis-question-291731281.html

Winnipeg Free Press “PM sees ruling on Métis, non-status as ‘landmark’”
winnipegfreepress.com/canada/chartrand-jubilant-at-rulings-impact-on-manitobas-80000-

[metis-375710581.html](#)

Winnipeg Free Press “Chronology of court case as Métis, non-status Indians win status”
[winnipegfreepress.com/canada/chronology-of-court-case-as-metis-non-status-indians-win-status-375726151.html](#)

Jean Teillet “Métis Law in Canada” (2013)
[albertametis.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/M%C3%A9tis-Rights_MMVsCanada_PapeSalterTeillet.pdf](#)

Leah Dorion “Métis Land rights and Self-Government”
[metismuseum.ca/media/db/00725](#)

Institute on Governance “‘Duty to Consult’, Environmental Impacts, and Métis Indigenous Knowledge” (2009)
[iog.ca/docs/April2009_DutytoConsult-Chretien_Murphy.pdf](#)

Canada’s Residential Schools: The Métis Experience
The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
Volume 3
[metisnation.org/media/649793/volume_3_métis_english_web.pdf](#)

Métis History and Experience and Residential Schools in Canada (2006)
[ahf.ca/downloads/metiseweb.pdf](#)

Indigenous Foundations, UBC “Métis”
[indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/metis](#)

Jen Gerson, National Post “Métis have long fared better than status Indians, so why do they want to be treated the same?”
[news.nationalpost.com/news/canada/metis-have-long-fared-better-than-status-indians-so-why-do-they-want-to-be-treated-the-same](#)

“You’re Métis? So which of your parents is an Indian?”
[apihtawikosisan.com/2011/12/youre-metis-so-which-of-your-parents-is-an-indian](#)

Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture
[metismuseum.ca](#)

Ministerial Special Representative’s Report on Métis Section 35 Rights: [metisnation.org/news-media/news/ontario-métis-applaud-ministerial-special-representative-s-report-on-métis-section-35-rights](#)

A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Report of the Minister’s Special Representative on Reconciliation with Métis: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision
[aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ-AI/STAGING/texte-text/report_reconciliation_1467900423818_eng.pdf](#)

Métis Voyageur (Back issues)
[metisnation.org/news-media/the-metis-voyageur](#)

Three Métis Nations Sign Historic Self-government Agreements in Ottawa
[aptnnews.ca/national-news/three-metis-nations-sign-historic-self-government-agreements-in-ottawa](#)

Indigenous Voices on Treaties—Margaret Froh
[youtube.com/watch?v=P3oaaE2A0UI&feature=youtu.be](#)

MNO Secretariat Act
The Métis, Past Present and Future—Margaret Froh
[youtube.com/watch?v=1ujC6cMN_fU](#) (46:46–50:25)

Daniels v. Canada, 2016
The Métis, Past Present and Future—Margaret Froh
[youtube.com/watch?v=1ujC6cMN_fU](#) (50:46–57:29)

Métis Rights and Self-Government
MNO Commission on Métis Rights & Self-Government—Ottawa Engagement Session—Margaret Froh
Full video [youtube.com/watch?v=7Bb7QZJ7KA](#)
Excerpt on Métis Governance [goo.gl/SfwPyz](#)

Excerpt on the Unfinished Business of Confederation (Daniels v. Canada, Isaac Report, Manitoba Métis Federation v. Canada, Moving Forward Nation to Nation) [goo.gl/vRggcs](#)