



Did You Know?

National Indigenous History Month 2021

Did You Know? is a series run by the University of Waterloo Indigenous Initiatives Office for the duration of Indigenous History Month 2021. “Did You Know” posts were uploaded weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays, featuring information on various topics pertaining to Indigenous histories in Canada. Please share this resource widely.

THE MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL



*Métis National Council President Clément Chartier at Parliament introducing [Bill C-92](#), 2019.
Credit: [Métis National Council](#)*

Prior to Canada’s crystallization as a nation, a new Indigenous people emerged out of the relations of First Nations people and European settlers.

While the initial children of these unions were individuals who simply possessed mixed ancestry, subsequent intermarriages between those of mixed ancestry resulted in the creation of a new Indigenous people with a distinct identity, culture, and consciousness – [The Métis Nation](#).

For generations, the Métis Nation has struggled for recognition and justice in Canada. In 1982, the existing [Aboriginal and Treaty rights](#) of the Aboriginal peoples in Canada were recognized and affirmed in [Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982](#). This was a turning point for the Métis Nation, with the explicit recognition of the Métis as one of the three distinct Aboriginal peoples.

Before the [Métis National Council](#) (MNC) was formed, Métis had been involved in pan-Indigenous lobby groups and organizations. This did not allow the Métis Nation to effectively represent itself. As a result, the MNC was formed in March 1983.

The [Métis National Council General Assembly](#) adopted the following “National Definition” in 2002:

“Métis” means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Indigenous peoples, is of historic Métis Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by the Métis Nation.

Since 1983, the MNC has represented the Métis Nation nationally and internationally.

Find more resources by browsing the [Indigenous History Month resources webpage](#).