

Manitoba



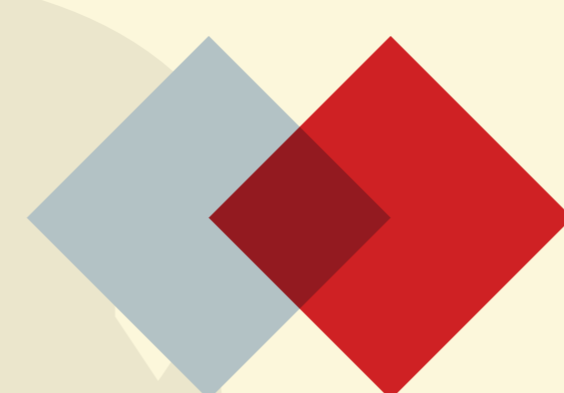
1870

LOUIS RIEL

Born in 1844 in the Red River Colony, he was the oldest son of Métis leader Louis Riel Sr. and Julie Lagimodière. On the recommendation of Bishop Taché, he pursued an education to join the priesthood, but his training came to an end in 1865 when he left the Collège de Montréal without having completed his studies. After working various jobs, he returned to Red River in 1868. He returned to a population in which religious, political and ethnic tensions were rising.

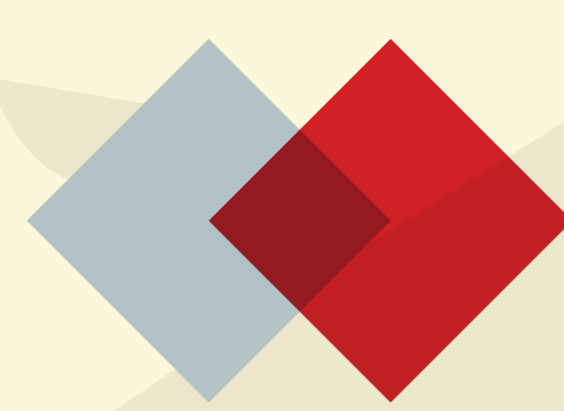
Educated, charismatic and well spoken, he quickly understood the threat that was facing the colony's French-speaking Métis and Catholics in 1869. Following in the footsteps of his father, he aspired to become their leader and to fight for their rights. With support from the Church, he worked to establish the Comité national des Métis, and then a provisional government. He was one of the main authors of the List of Rights and created the order established by the Provisional Government by forming a military.

Challenged by many opponents, he was never forgiven for the execution of Thomas Scott, despite the judgement having been made by a military tribunal. Today, he is considered the "father" of Manitoba and he is also responsible for having suggested the name "Manitoba".



JOHN CHRISTIAN SCHULTZ AND THE CANADIAN PARTY

John Christian Schultz was born in 1840 in Upper Canada to a Norwegian father and an Irish mother. An influential businessman who had moved to the Red River Colony in 1861, he was a strong defender of English Protestant Canada. He was the leader of the Canadian Party, a group that advocated for the annexation of the Red River Colony to Canada and for strong English immigration to the colony. He was Louis Riel's biggest critic and used Thomas Scott's execution as an opportunity to fan the flame of resistance against Metis and Catholics, particularly among the Orangemen of Ontario.



WILLIAM DEASE FRANCOPHONE MÉTIS OPPOSED TO RIEL

One of Louis Riel's strongest opponents, William Dease lost his father, an Anglophone loyalist, as a child and was raised by his mother, who was a Francophone Métis Catholic. He was a member of the Council of Assiniboia before it was dismantled by Riel's troops. William Dease was one of the three Métis who organized a public meeting on July 29, 1869. Most Métis became suspicious of him due to his alleged ties to John Christian Schultz.