

Métis Archaeology, Land, and Rights in Alberta



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FEBRUARY 8, 2019
TREATY 6 AND MÉTIS HOMELAND
MÉTIS LAND AND SCRIP CONFERENCE

Why Métis Archaeology

Explores different perspective on Métis history

Connects elements of Métis daily life to the material record

Fills in gaps missing from other records

Demonstrates Métis presence on the land through time

Provides evidence for Métis homeland



The Silences of Métis History

Tends to focus on politics

Written primarily by outsider men

- Priests
- Fur trade factors
- “Adventurers”
- Non-Métis historians

Tends to not capture full extent of the homeland

Scrip includes valuable information but doesn't capture daily life

When these are **combined with archaeology**, new evidence can be produced about a Métis homeland

Archaeological research on the Métis

Research conducted in the 1970s and 1980s

Emphasis on use of European objects

Emphasis on creole/hybridity of material culture and architecture

Dismissal of Indigenous traditions at Métis sites by some authors

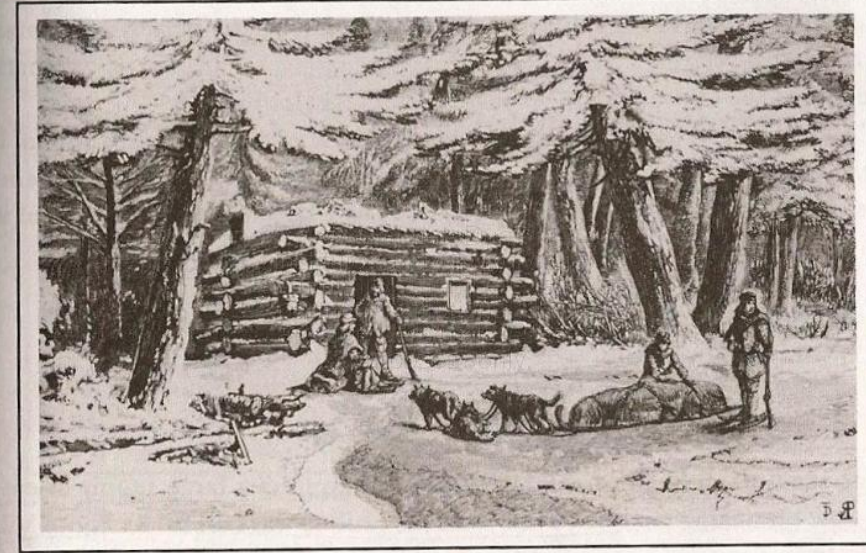
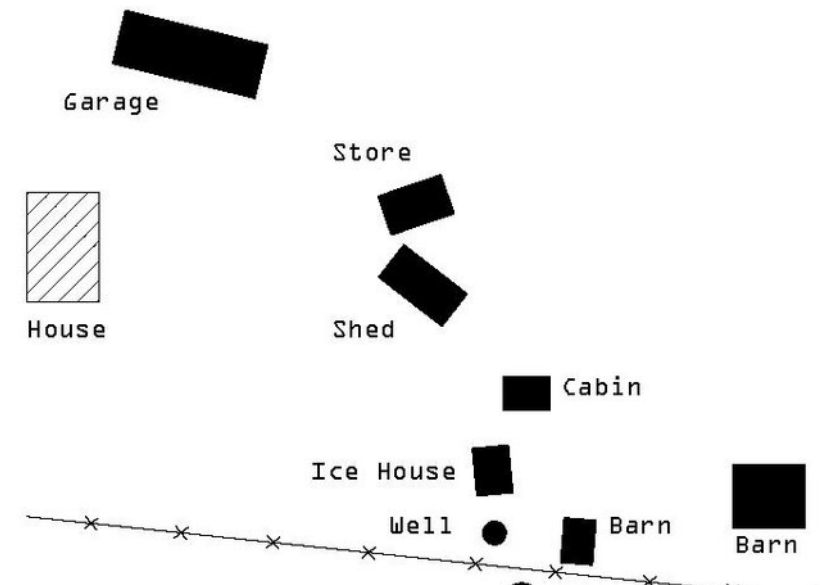


Figure 34: Winter Cabin North of Shell River, Saskatchewan, 1862-3 (Courtesy of Glenbow Archives, Calgary, NA-1240-3.

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E. Fiddler Farm / Métis



Exploring Métis Identity Through Archaeology (EMITA) Project

Working with various Métis organizations and groups in Alberta and Saskatchewan

Specifically chose research questions that could have a positive impact on the Métis community

Focus on lesser known places, such as Métis wintering sites

Helps fill in the gaps of what is missing from written documents

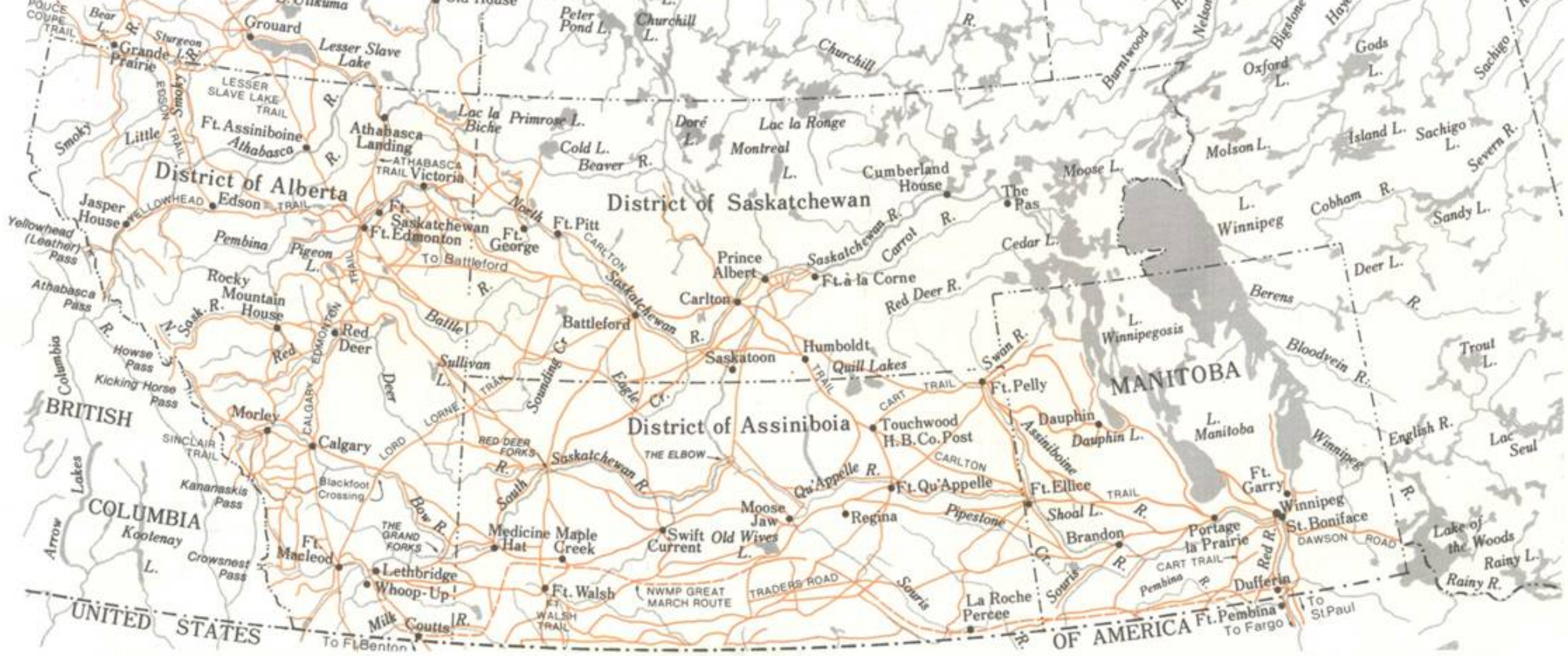


The Métis Cultural Landscape



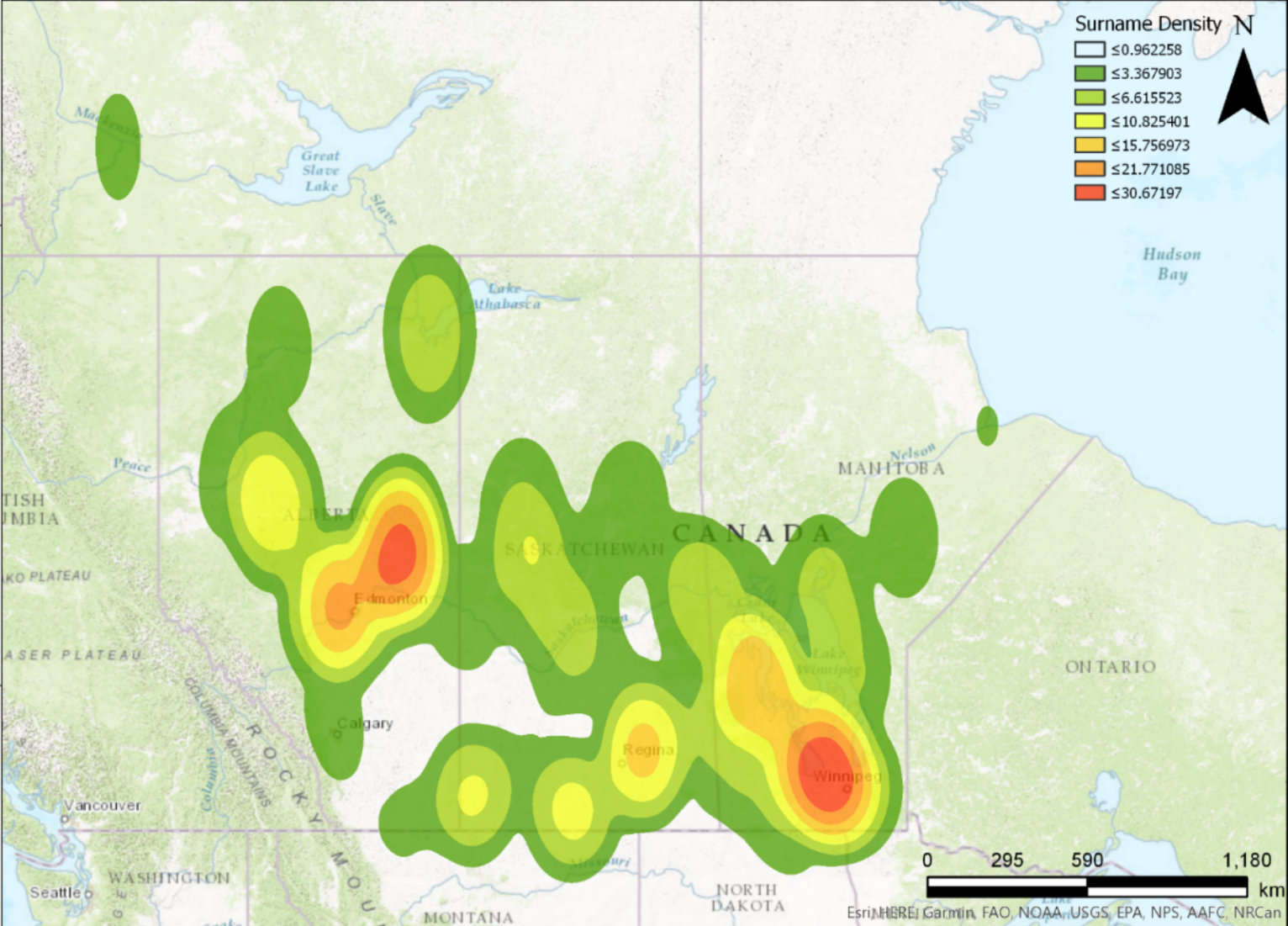


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Métis Mobility: Trails

Métis kinscapes and familial connections



Overwintering

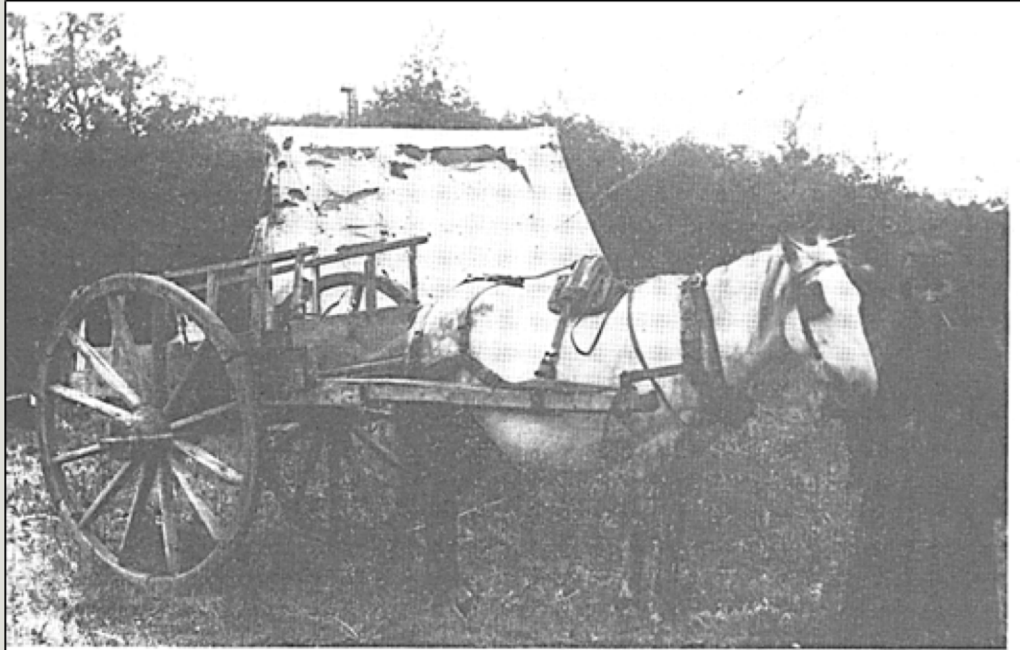


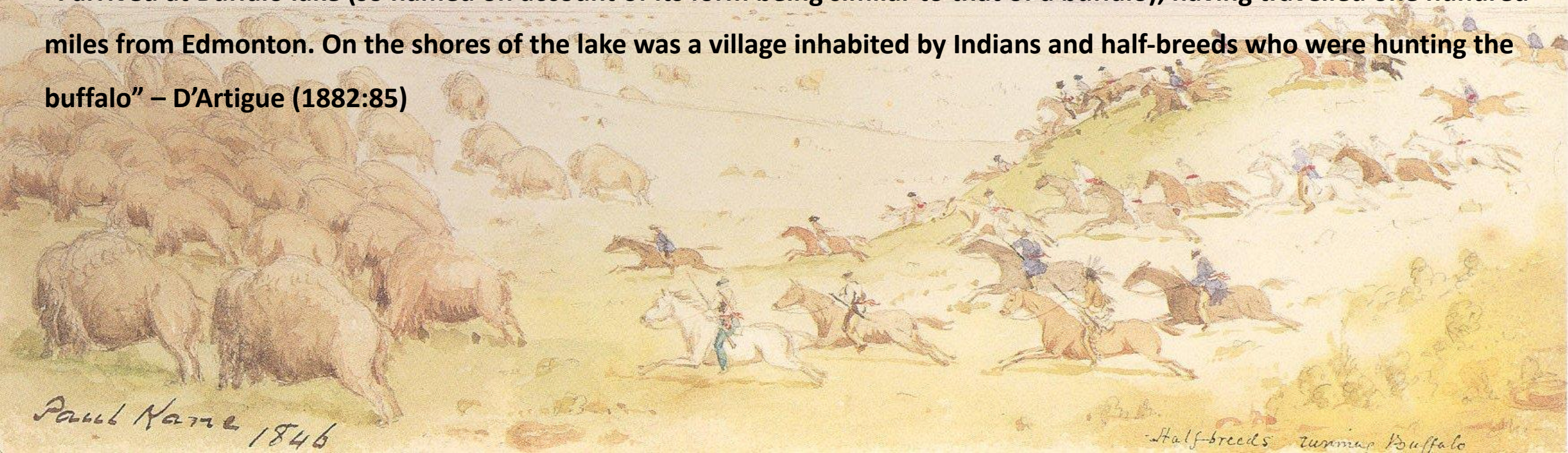
Figure 7a. Mrs. Michel Vivier, resident of Buffalo Lake, 1873-1878, with cayuse, tent, and Red River cart. Provincial Archives of Alberta, B.1042, E. Brown Collection.

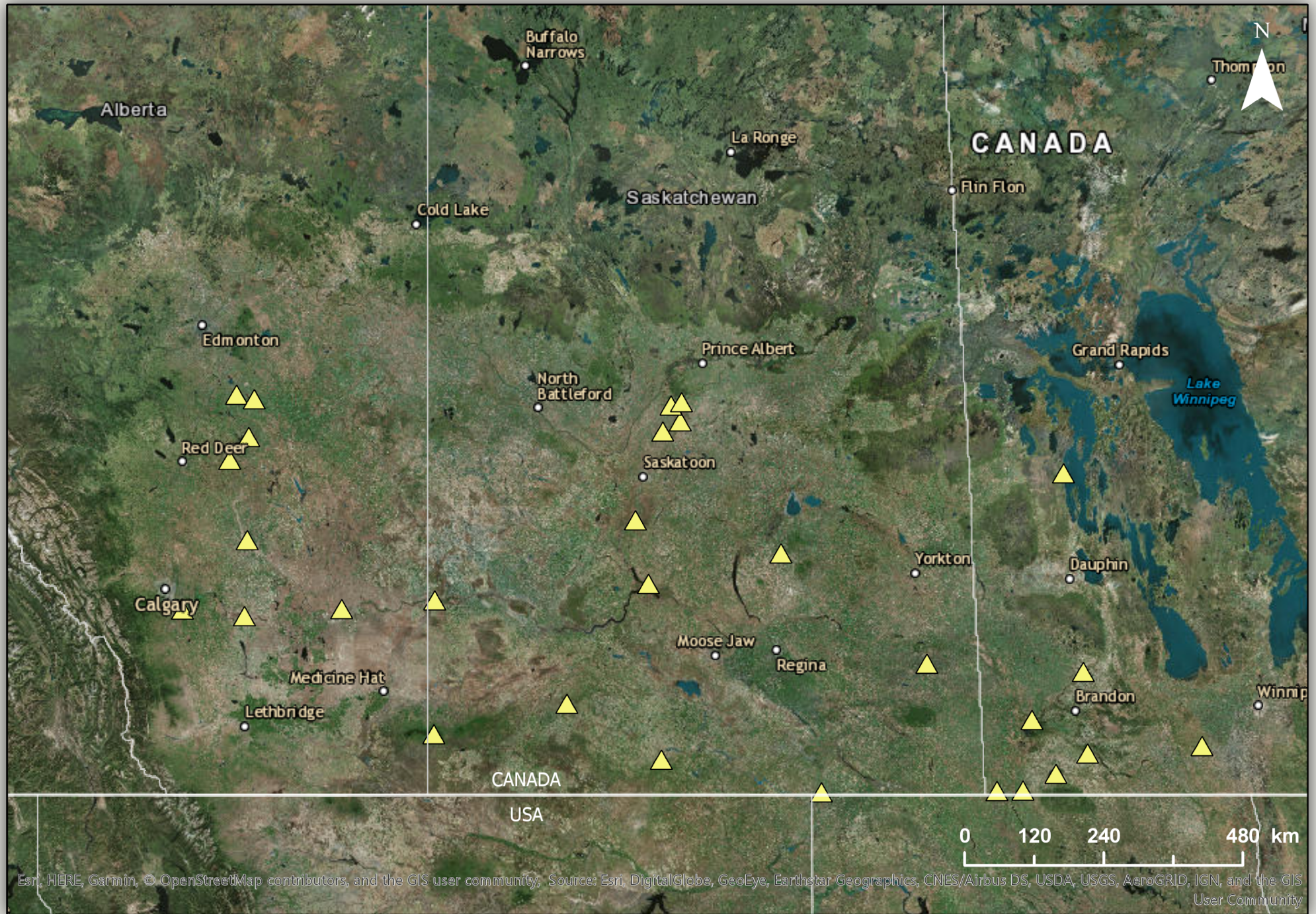


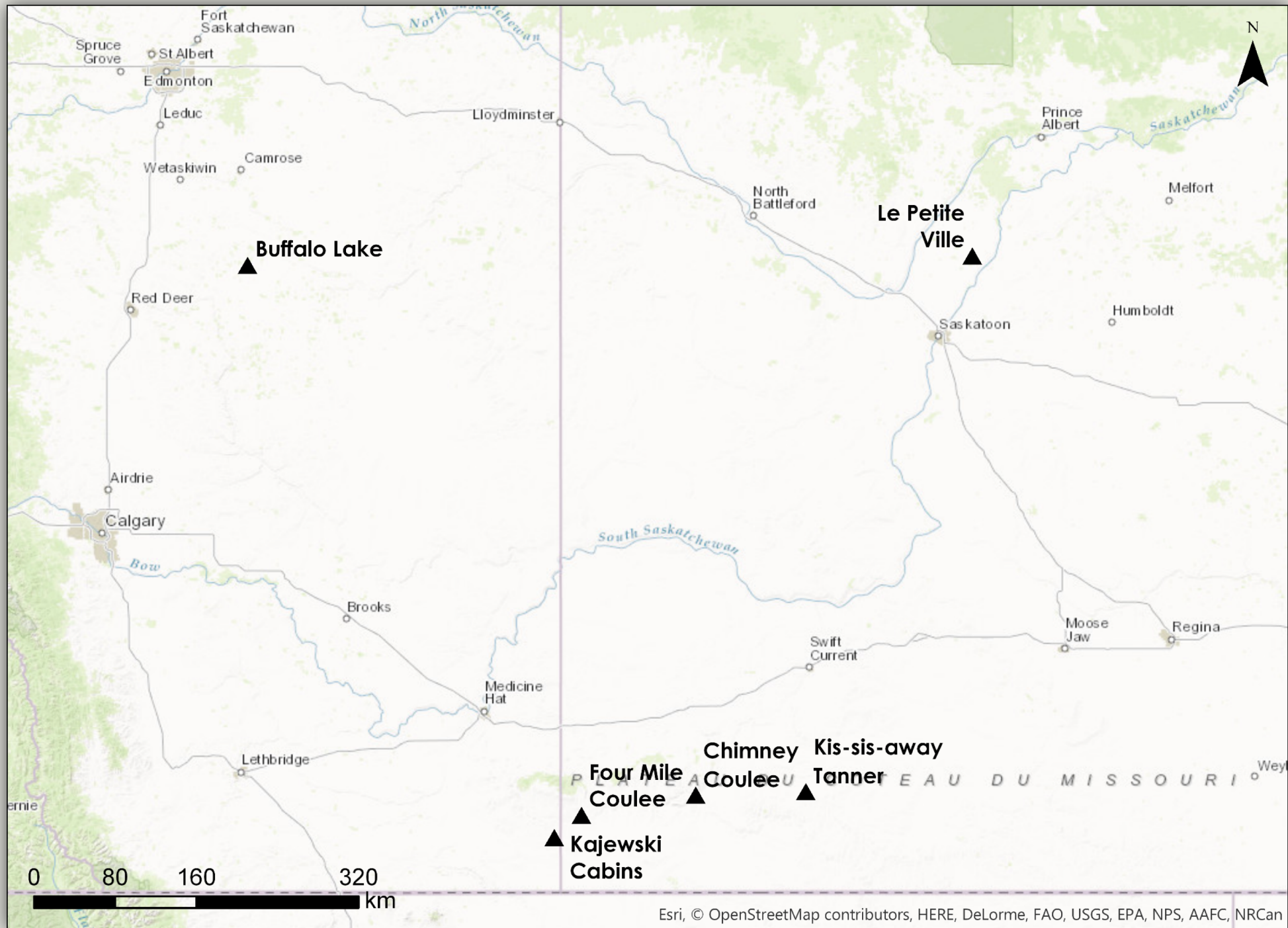
Métis Buffalo Hunting Brigades

“On the 15th of June, 1840, carts were seen to emerge from every nook and corner of the settlement, bound for the plains...from Fort Garry the cavalcade and camp-followers went crowding onto the public road. Here the roll was called, and general muster taken, when they numbered, on this occasion, 1,630 souls” – Alexander Ross (1856:245)

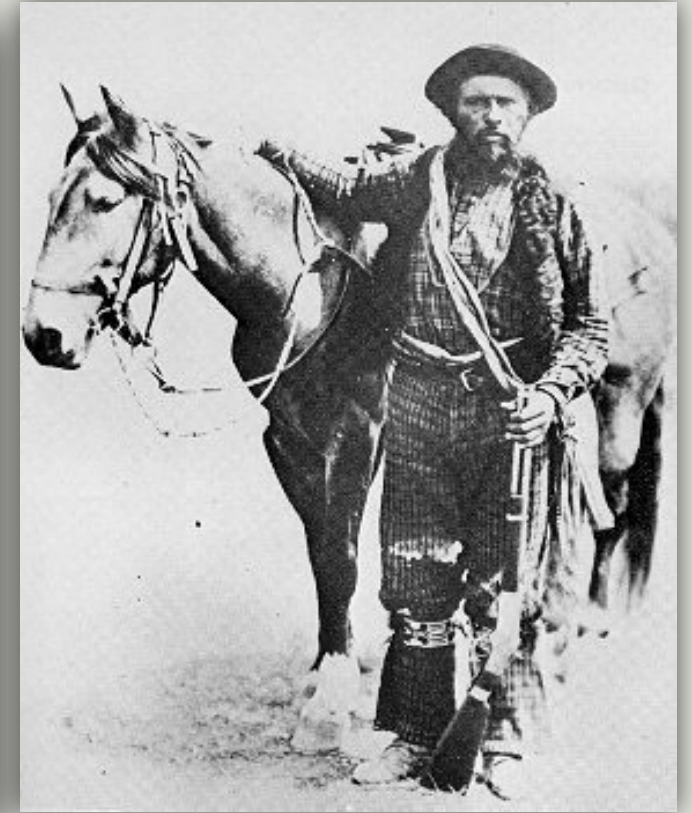
“I arrived at Buffalo lake (so named on account of its form being similar to that of a buffalo), having travelled one hundred miles from Edmonton. On the shores of the lake was a village inhabited by Indians and half-breeds who were hunting the buffalo” – D’Artigue (1882:85)







Understanding Métis material culture



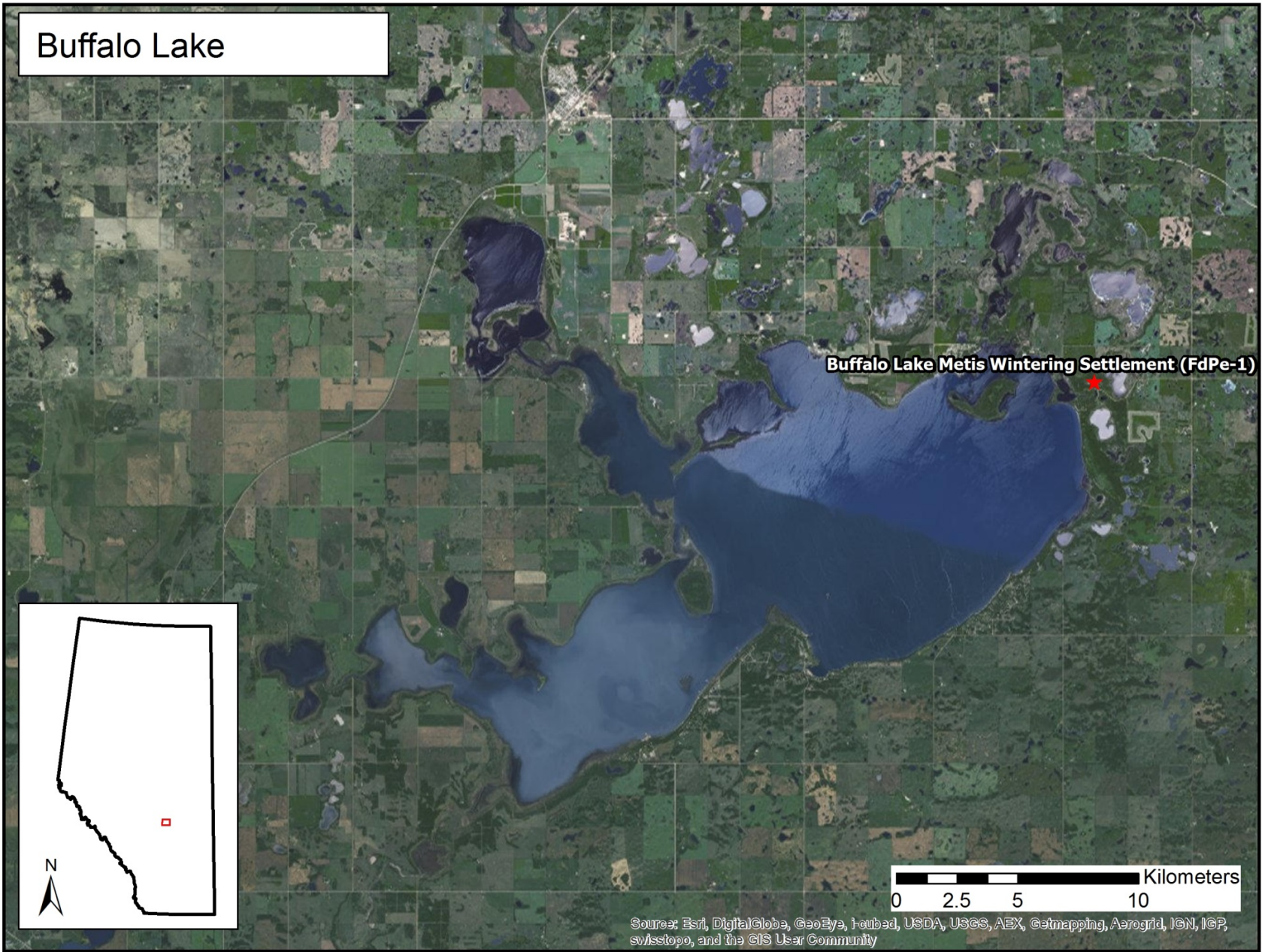
“We arrived at Buffalo Lake after dark, and were searching amongst the **four hundred cabins** to find John Ashton’s store when we heard the sound of dance music and directed our steps to a large log cabin in which a lively wedding dance was going on. Two rows of young men and women were on the floor footing **Lord Macdonald’s Reel to the most rapid time possible, as was the custom among the hunters.**” (Steele 1915:86)





NAME	PERIOD	KINSHIP	ACTIVITY OR CIRCUMSTANCE	LOCATION	PAGE
DUMONT FELIX GABRIEL	APRIL 4, 1876	FRANCOIS GABRIEL DUMONT (SON) JUDITH NAULT (WIFE)	SON'S BAPTISM	BUFFALO LAKE	125
DUMONT FRANCOIS GABRIEL	APRIL 4, 1876	FELIX GABRIEL DUMONT (FATHER) JUDITH NAULT (MOTHER)	BAPTIZED BY F. FAFARD IN THE PRESENCE OF PIERRE GABRIEL DUMONT (GODF.) ANA CALIGNON (GODM.) BIRTHDAY: MARCH, 1876.	BUFFALO LAKE	125
DUMONT GABRIEL	FEB. 9, 1876	PIERRE DUMONT (FATHER) ANA CALIGNON (MOTHER)	BAPT. BY F. FAFARD IN THE PRESENCE OF PIERRE ST SALVEUR (GODF.) MAGDELINE BRUND (GODM.) BIRTHDAY: JAN 15, 1876.	BUFFALO LAKE	124
DUMONT LOUIS	FEB. 28, 1876	VITAL DUMONT (FATHER) ADELAIDE GAGNON (MOTHER)	MARRIED PHILOMENE CARDINAL IN THE PRESENCE OF VITAL DUMONT ALEXANDRE HAMELIN BY F. LESTANE	BUFFALO LAKE	131
DUMONT PIERRE	FEB. 9, 1876 APRIL 4, 1876	GABRIEL DUMONT (SON) ANA CALIGNON (WIFE)	SON'S BAPTISM GODFATHER TO FRANCOIS GABRIEL DUMONT	BUFFALO LAKE	124 125
DUMONT ROSALIE	JAN. 1, 1877	PHILIPPE WHITFORD (HUSBAND) ISABELLE WHITFORD (DAUGHTER)	DAUGHTER'S BAPTISM	TAIL CREEK	145

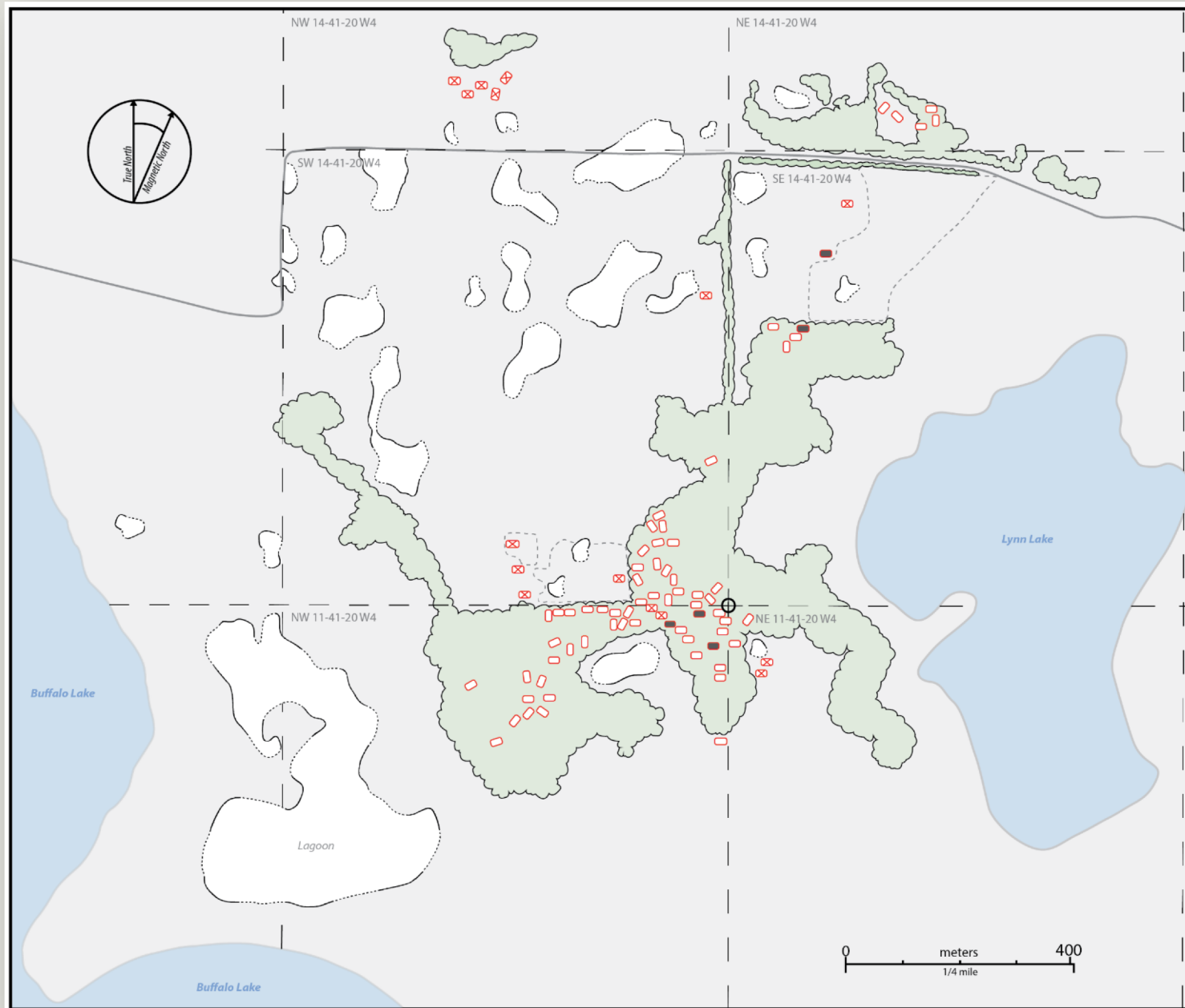
Buffalo Lake



Buffalo Lake Metis Wintering Settlement (FdPe-1)

0 2.5 5 10 Kilometers

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, IGN, GeoEye, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- Excavated Cabin
- Unexcavated Cabin
- Obliterated Cabin
- ⊕ Datum
- Township/Range Lines
- Road
- Dense Brush
- Aspen Forest
- Slough

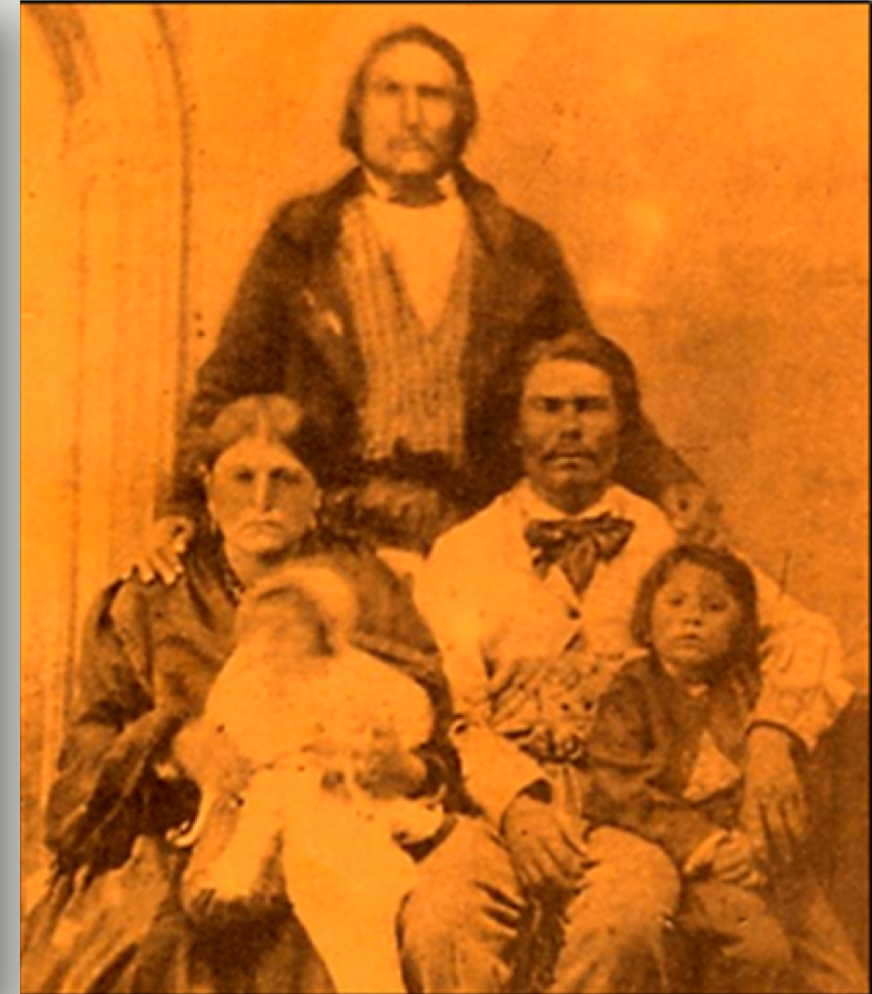
Author Aaron D. Coons

Date October 17, 2013

Source Doll et al. 1988
 "The Buffalo Lake Métis Site"
 Figure 4
 Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism

Note All locations and sizes approximate





Métis Lifeways

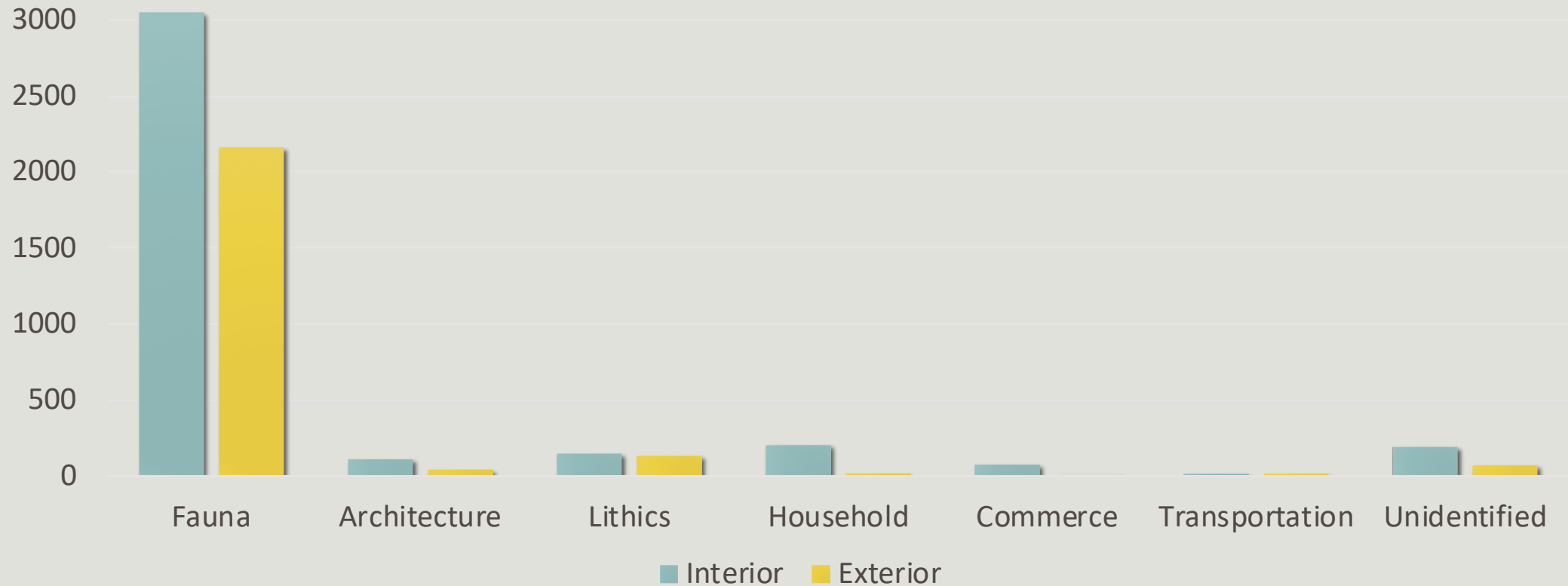




Cabin 3 materials - with beads



Cabin 3 Materials – no beads



Lac Ste Anne as a centre of Métis kinscapes



Métis knowledge, kinship, pilgrimage



July 1933 - Father Philpott, OMI, saying mass in the second shrine.



April 1956 - Second Shrine - enclosed. Also new church and rectory.



LAC ST ANNE PILGRIMAGE

July 22 - 27, 2017

Saturday, July 22, 2017
 3 pm: Pipe ceremony and Flag Raising (Chief Tony Alexis and Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation)
 7 pm: Mass (Lac Ste. Anne Parish)
 9 pm: Benediction, Rosary, and Candle Light Procession

Sunday, July 23, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 9 am: Rosary (Pilgrims)
 10:30 am: Mass and Children's Program (Alexis & Paul Nakota Sioux First Nations)
 1 pm: Testimonies and Healing Prayers (Cursillo Community)
 3:30 pm: Oji-Cree Mass & Blessing of the Lake (Wasagamack, Garden Hill, & Island Lake, Manitoba)
 3:30 pm: Remembering our Deceased Loved Ones (Cursillo Community)
 7 pm: Mass (St. Peter Celestine Parish, Slave Lake, Alberta)
 9 pm: Candle Light Procession & the Way of the Cross

Monday, July 24
 9 am: Rosary (Pilgrims)
 10:30 am: Mass and Children's Program (Cursillo Community)
 1 pm: Mass (Our Lady of Candlelight Parish, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)
 3:30 pm: Dené Mass (Tlicho First Nation, Behchoko, North West Territory)
 6:00 pm: Mass (Youth Pilgrims)
 7 pm: Barbecue & Speakers for the Youth Pilgrims
 8 pm: Candle Light Procession & Rosary (Youth Pilgrims)

Tuesday, July 25, Feast of St. James, Apostle
 9 am: Rosary (Pilgrims)
 10:30 am: Mass and Children's Program (Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples, Edmonton, Alberta)
 1 pm: Mass (Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Parish, Maskwacis, Alberta)
 3:30 pm: Dené Mass (Buffalo River Dené First Nation, Dillon, Saskatchewan)
 5 pm: Prayers for the Sick (Cursillo Community)
 7 pm: Mass (Metis Nation of Alberta)
 8:30 pm: Prayers for the Faithful Departed and the Rosary

Wednesday, July 26, Feast of Saint Anne & Saint Joachim
 9 am: Rosary (Pilgrims)
 10:30 am: Mass and Children's Program (Enoch & Alexander First Nations, Alberta)
 1 pm: Mass (St. Theresa's Parish, St. Theresa's Point, Manitoba)
 3:30 pm: Mass (Blackfoot Confederacy, Piikani Nation, Brocket, Alberta)
 5 pm: Honouring St. Anne, St. Joachim, and all of our Grandparents (Cursillo Community)
 7 pm: Cree Mass (Pelican Narrows and Sandy Bay, Saskatchewan)
 8 pm: Lowering of the Flags (Chief Tony Alexis and Alexis Nakota Sioux First Nation)
 9 pm: Twelve-Step Pilgrimage and Pledges (Cursillo Community)

Thursday, July 27
 9 am: Mass (Pilgrims)

Matthew 5:8
 "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

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Keeoukaywin – the visiting way



Declaration by *Le Guesse Impuriant (nee Gladie)*
 Concerning her claim to participate in any grant
 to Half-Breeds who were residents on the 15th July,
 1871, of that portion of the North-West Territories
 ceded by the Indians under treaty with the Govern-
 ment of Canada.

1. What is your name and P.O. Address? *Le Guesse Impuriant Guesse Lake
 Edmonton Dec 1854*

2. When and where were you born? *Edmonton Dec 1854*

3. What was the name of your father? *Louise Gladie*

4. What was the name of your mother before her marriage? *Emilie Eric or Eric*

5. Was your father a Half-Breed or an Indian? *Half breed*

6. Was your mother a Half-Breed or an Indian woman? *Half breed*

7. When have you been living with your present husband? *in 1870 left Edmonton & came
 here where I have lived ever since -*

8. What has been your occupation? *wife of Ambrose Impuriant*

9. If married, when, where and to whom? *Married - June 1870 at Guesse Lake
 to Ambrose Impuriant*

10. How many children have you had? *Eight*

11. What party (or parties, names of both and names of children?)
None

12. What was the name of your mother-in-law or father-in-law, as the case may be?
*I am the father's mother
 and Ambrose Impuriant is the father.*

13. How many children had you who died?
None

14. What are the dates and places of birth and death of those who died, respectively?
None

15. Can you produce certificates of the birth and death of your children? If not, state reasons?
yes for my husband but produced none

16. If time had run you produce birth certificates? If not, state reasons. If all were given?
for my husband has produced them

17. Have you ever had a husband?
None

18. If so, what was his name?
None

19. Have you ever had a husband who was a Half-Breed or an Indian? If so, state name, when and how you acquired claim and what claims you have made?
None

20. Have you ever married for value of money, land, livestock, building, horses, cattle, &c.?
None, 1 year - \$50

21. Did you ever marry for value of money, land, livestock, building, horses, cattle, &c.?
None

22. Whether any money or value you have been paid, other than your own price above?
None

23. Do you render any services to Indian, or in any way participate in goods to Indian?
None

24. State whether Indian or your child, that you were with
None

25. What kind of land or grant apply for?
Money claim -

*Claim of my husband's father
 Ambrose Impuriant
 James Hall
 H.P.*



My great-great grandparents

Acknowledgements

SSHRC Insight Development Grant, Insight Grant

Marlene Lanz and members of the Métis Nation of Alberta

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My ancestors and my family

