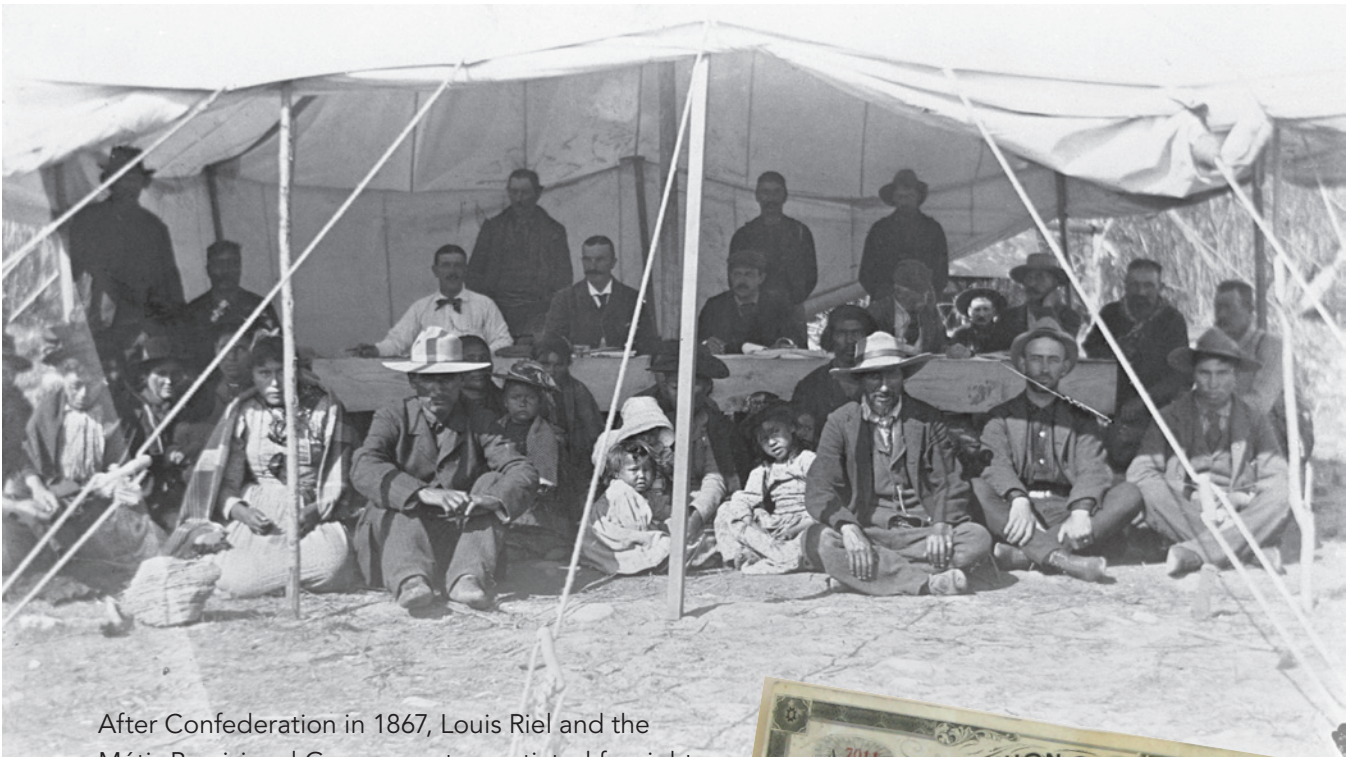


MÉTIS LAND: RIGHTS & SCRIP CONFERENCE

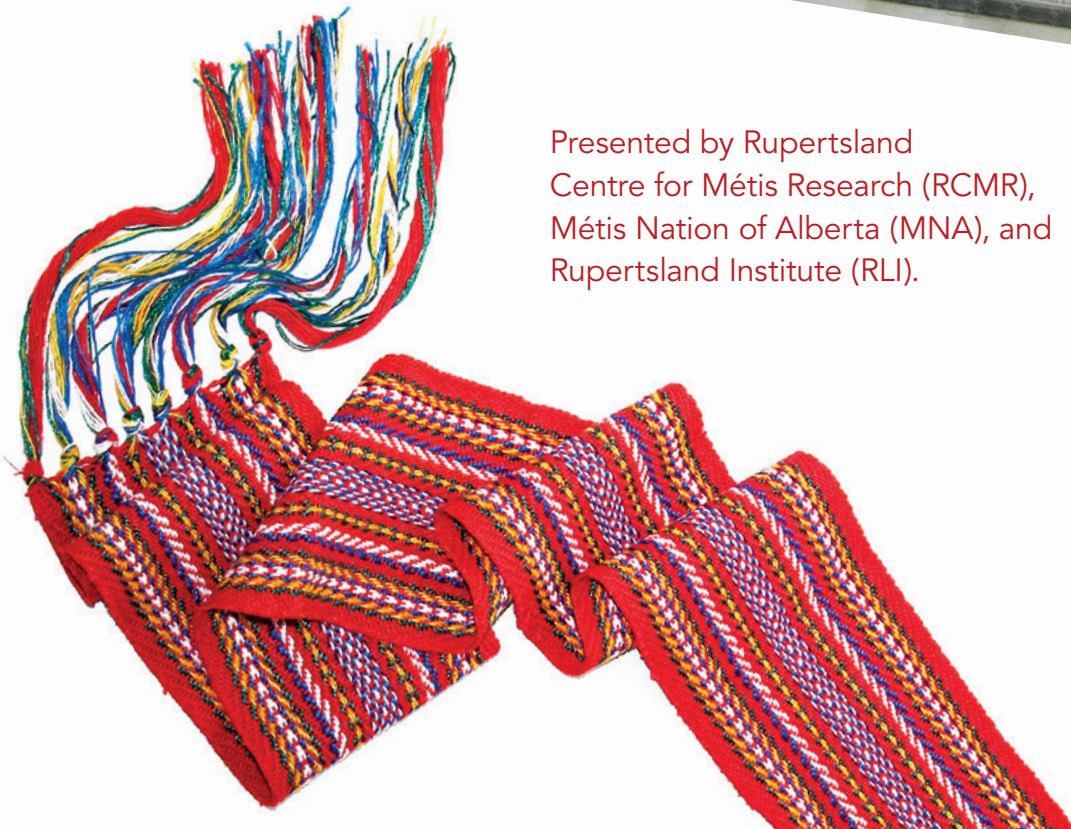
FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019 • LISTER CONFERENCE CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA





After Confederation in 1867, Louis Riel and the Métis Provisional Government negotiated for rights to their homeland. As a result, Canada promised land to the "Half-breeds." This promise was poorly executed and many Métis families lost their land.

The Métis Land: Rights & Scrip Conference brings together experts and community members to discuss how Half-breed Scrip impacted Métis in Alberta and what Canada is doing about it now.



Presented by Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research (RCMR), Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), and Rupertsland Institute (RI).

AGENDA - DAY 1

9:00 - 9:05am	Welcoming Remarks by Nathalie Kermoal	1:00 - 2:15pm	HISTORY OF MÉTIS LANDS IN ALBERTA Moderator: Lisa Cruickshank Dr. Kisha Supernant , Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Alberta <i>Métis Archaeology, Land, and Rights in Alberta</i> Dr. Alice Glaze , Senior Associate, Know History <i>Families on the Move: Scrip and Stories of Migration</i> Leah Hrycun , MA Student, FNS <i>Métis Scrip and the Edmonton River Lot Inhabitants</i>
9:05 - 9:15am	Prayer by Norma Spicer, Knowledge Keeper	2:15 - 2:45pm	Q&A
9:15 - 9:30am	OPENING REMARKS Dr. Chris Andersen, Dean, Faculty of Native Studies (FNS) Audrey Poitras, President, MNA	2:45 - 3:00pm	Break
9:30 - 10:10am	KEYNOTE PRESENTATION Moderator: Dr. Nathalie Kermoal Frank Tough , Professor, FNS <i>"The history of scrip speculation and devaluation is a sorry chapter in our nation's history": The Failure of History and Law in Respect to Métis Nation Rights to a Land Base</i>	3:00 - 3:50pm	HISTORY OF MÉTIS LANDS IN ALBERTA (Cont'd) Moderator: Lisa Cruickshank Dr. Nathalie Kermoal <i>An Alternative to Scrip: Saint-Paul-des-Métis</i> Hereward Longley , PHD Candidate, University of Alberta, Dr. Tara Joly , Research Director, Willow Springs Strategic Solutions Inc., and Almer Waniandy , Elder <i>The Moccasin Flats Evictions: Métis Home, Forced Relocation, and Resilience in Fort McMurray, Alberta</i>
10:10 - 10:30am	Q&A	3:50 - 4:30pm	Q&A
10:30 - 10:45am	Break	4:30 - 7:00pm	Standing Reception
10:45 - 11:30am	SCRIP AND THE HISTORY OF THE MNA Moderator: Dr. Nathalie Kermoal Audrey Poitras , President, MNA, Jason Madden , Managing Partner, Pape Salter Teillet LLP <i>Understanding the Legacy of Métis Scrip: The Alberta Métis Perspective</i>		
11:30am - 12:00pm	Q&A		
12:00 - 1:00pm	Lunch break		

AGENDA - DAY 2

9:00 - 9:05am Welcoming Remarks by
Nathalie Kermoal

9:05 - 9:15am Prayer by Norma Spicer,
Knowledge Keeper

9:15 - 10:15am **LAND CLAIMS**
Moderator: Aaron Barner

Thomas Isaac, Cassels Brock &
Blackwell LLP National Law Practice
*The Need for a Unique Métis
Claims Process - Minister's Special
Representative Report (2016) on
Métis Section 35 Rights*

Zachary Davis, Senior Associate,
Pape Salter Teillet LLP
*Métis Scrip: A Claim Against
the Crown*

10:15 - 10:45am Q&A

10:45 - 11:00am Break

11:00am - 12:30pm **LAND CLAIMS** (cont'd)
Moderator: Aaron Barner

Douglas Eyford, Queen's Counsel
*Reconciling Métis Rights: Strategies
for Negotiations with the Crown*

The Honourable Harry Slade,
Queen's Counsel, Chairperson
*A Framework for Recognition of
Métis Rights and Aspirations*

Ryan Shackleton, Director,
Know History Inc.
*MNA's Registry - A Digital Approach
to Connecting Historic and
Contemporary Communities*

12:30 - 1:00pm Q&A

1:00 - 2:00pm Lunch break

2:00 - 3:00pm **TALKING CIRCLE**
Moderator: Marilyn Dumont

Lloyd Cardinal
Robert Ferguson
Doreen Bergum
Elsie Paul

3:00 - 3:45pm Q&A

3:45 - 3:55pm Elder Prayer by Norma Spicer,
Knowledge Keeper

3:55 - 4:00pm **CLOSING REMARKS**
Dr. Nathalie Kermoal

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Frank Tough

“The history of scrip speculation and devaluation is a sorry chapter in our nation’s history”: The Failure of History and Law in Respect to Métis Nation Rights to a Land Base

SUMMARY: This earnest confession to a sorry chapter by the Supreme Court in *R. v. Blais*—which actually sought to extricate the Métis from a constitutional livelihood rights claim—simultaneously portends closure. Rather, the history of *land scrip* throughout much of the Métis Nation Homeland was more accurately and precisely “a course of fraud and forgery and personation.” The rather unique role that certain Alberta Métis individuals played in seeking redress cannot be truly appreciated without some prior description of the fundamentals of the scrip system. This presentation will attempt to rectify, through an empirical reconstruction of the “sharp dealings” during land scrip entitlement process along with the concomitant high-level political-legal cover up of widespread fraud, fundamental flaws on what we think we know about “scrip”.

BIO: Dr. Frank Tough is a professor in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, and Principle Investigator for the Métis Archival Project (MAP) Lab. For several decades, Tough’s academic curiosity and expertise has focused on three distinctive empirical/disciplinary pairings: (1) history and law; for example, a legal history of the dispossession of Indigenous peoples; (2) history and geography, such as the historical geography of Aboriginal people’s participation in frontier resource capitalism; and (3) history and economics, as illustrated by an economic history approach to the individualization of collective property rights. These subfields are unified by historical methodology emphasizing unpublished manuscript sources. Along with academic research, Tough has served as an expert witness in several court cases concerning Aboriginal and treaty rights. In particular, his expertise concerning the economic history and the historical geography of the Métis has been deployed to address evidentiary claims to unextinguished Aboriginal rights. Several cases (*R. v. Morin*, *R. v. Laviolette*, *R. v. Belhumeur*, and *R. v. Goodon*) resulted in judicial recognition of Métis harvesting rights. Tough’s formal teaching focuses on practical research methods courses, but he also provides students with applied research employment in the MAP Lab, as well as learning experiences gained during field trips to archives.

SPEAKERS



Audrey Poitras

Understanding the Legacy of Métis Scrip: The Alberta Métis Perspective

BIO: Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) President, Audrey Poitras is one of the highest profile Métis women in Canada. Audrey was elected as the first female President in 1996, becoming the longest-serving President of the MNA; A strong statement displaying the trust and leadership she has gained. Audrey has been a strong advocate for Métis rights and will continue to move the Métis rights agenda forward with the help of the Daniels Supreme Court decision in 2016. President Poitras successfully negotiated partnerships with colleges and universities, for Métis Endowment funds of \$22 million. She also oversaw the creation of the MNA's Rupertsland Institute, Métis Centre of Excellence, which is a unique partnership with the University of Alberta promoting education, training and research.

Audrey is recognized within Alberta as a leader committed to building a better economic future for the Métis Nation. She has been supportive in developing business relationships, including the establishment of a business vendor database opening doors for Indigenous people's involvement in the natural resource sector.

She has received numerous awards and achievement milestones throughout her leadership, including a National Aboriginal Achievement Award.

One of Audrey's greatest achievements, in the preservation of Métis culture, history, and language, was the creation of Métis Crossing, a multi-million dollar cultural interpretive site along the banks of the North Saskatchewan River near Smoky Lake, Alberta.

Under her leadership, the MNA continues to be a model of success in representing and pursuing the social, political, and economic interests of the Métis people in Alberta. The credibility of the MNA continues to increase, as evidenced by activities over the past 22 years with President Poitras at the helm, where the legitimacy and accountability of the MNA has risen to unprecedented heights.

SPEAKERS



Jason Madden

Understanding the Legacy of Métis Scrip: The Alberta Métis Perspective

BIO: Jason is managing partner of the law firm Pape Salter Teillet LLP with offices in Toronto and Vancouver. He is a graduate of Osgoode Hall Law School and is called to the bar in Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and the Yukon. Jason is recognized as being at the forefront in the advancement of Métis rights in Canada. He has acted as legal counsel in many of the cases dealing with Métis rights from Ontario westward, including, *R. v. Goodon*, *R. v. Laviolette*, *R. v. Belhumeur* and *R. v. Hirsekorn*. He has also appeared before the Supreme Court of Canada in all of the cases dealing with Métis rights issues over the last fifteen years. Jason is currently legal counsel for the Métis Nation of Alberta, the Manitoba Métis Federation and the Métis Nation of Ontario in their negotiations with Canada on Métis rights, lands and self-government issues. For his work, he has been recognized by Canadian Lawyer Magazine as one of the 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada. He is also a recipient of a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Osgoode Hall Law School Dianne Martin Award for the Advancement of Social Justice through Law. Jason is a citizen of the Métis Nation from Northwestern Ontario and a descendant of the 'Halfbreeds of Rainy River and Rainy Lake' who collectively adhered to Treaty No. 3 in 1875.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Kisha Supernant

Métis Archaeology, Land, and Rights in Alberta

SUMMARY: The outcomes of archaeological research have played a role in legal claims to rights and title for First Nations in Canada over the past several decades. First Nations communities are also often consulted on archaeology and cultural heritage protection during developments such as pipelines, powerlines, and oil sands. However, the legal battles for Métis rights have not been informed by archaeological research, nor is the Métis Nation of Alberta consistently consulted on issues relating to archaeology and cultural heritage. Using examples from my research on Métis archaeological sites in Alberta, I will discuss how archaeology can support Métis rights by demonstrating the scope and scale of the Métis homeland. Artifacts associated with Métis wintering cabins, for example, can show a significant Métis presence throughout the prairies in the 1850s-1880s. These archaeological signatures of the Métis strengthen rights claims and help tell the stories of Métis history in Alberta.

BIO: Dr. Kisha Supernant is Métis and an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alberta. She was a Research Fellow for the Rupertsland Center for Métis Research from 2017-2018. Her research with Indigenous communities in Canada explores how archaeologists and communities can build collaborative research relationships. Her research interests include the relationship between cultural identities, landscapes, and the use of space, Métis archaeology, and heart-centered archaeological practice. She specializes in the application of mapping methods to the human past and present, including the role of digital mapping and geographic information systems (GIS) spatial analysis in archaeological research. Her current research project, Exploring Métis Identity Through Archaeology (EMITA), takes a relational approach to exploring the material past of Métis communities, including her own family, in western Canada. She has published in local and international journals on GIS in archaeology, collaborative archaeological practice, and indigenous archaeology in the post-TRC era. She is also co-director of a new interdisciplinary research project on Métis kinscapes of Lac Ste. Anne with a team of Indigenous scholars.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Alice Glaze

Families on the Move: Scrip and Stories of Migration

SUMMARY: Scrip records, as rich historical documents, tell us stories of both people and places. The biographical details recorded in scrip applications, including places of importance listed by applicants, reveal much about their geographical history: where they were born, where they were married, where they lived and worked, and where their children were born. Later scrip commissions also often included baptismal and burial extracts, providing geographical context for those life events, and witnesses' statements provided further details of applicants' lives. In many cases, these biographical details illustrate a life of migration and allow us to trace the paths of thousands of people across Alberta or even the western Plains. This presentation will explore these stories of migration, building on research into, and cross-referencing of, scrip applications for multiple generations of Métis families in northern and central Alberta. Mapping their travels between important historical settlement hubs like Lac La Biche, Lesser Slave Lake and St. Albert, and along well-used travel corridors, such as the Peace and Athabasca Rivers, brings out common threads in their migration stories. The places and routes embedded in scrip records demonstrate the high degree of mobility in Métis families in the late nineteenth century, and also provide further evidence of how tightly knit Métis families and communities were, even on the move.

BIO: Dr. Alice Glaze is a Senior Associate at Know History, an historical research firm with offices in Ottawa and Calgary. Born and raised in Saskatoon, she holds a BA and MA from the University of Saskatchewan and a PhD in History from the University of Guelph (Ontario). With an interest in digital history and expertise in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Alice's work at Know History focuses on social network analysis and mapping as it relates to Métis kinship, community and history in western Canada.

SPEAKERS



Leah Hrycun

Métis Scrip and the Edmonton River Lot Inhabitants

SUMMARY: The history of Edmonton is closely intertwined with the history of the fur trade and the history of the Métis. Many Métis employees lived in the West long before Red River existed as a place of Métis settlement. As the fur trade developed in the upper North Saskatchewan River region, a Métis population started to establish itself in the area. Settled in the vicinity of the forts, this Métis population provided its labour, fish, furs, buffalos and robes, as well as pemmican, to the fur trading posts. In the 1870s the land comprising the Edmonton Settlement was being settled by Métis families and individuals who created river lots similar to those established in other Métis settlements across the West. When official surveyors arrived in 1882 to validate the land claims of the river lot inhabitants who had settled on the North Saskatchewan River, many of the north side inhabitants had their land claims validated while most of the south side inhabitants did not. Those that did have their claims validated were able to begin the process of obtaining title to their river lots. In 1885, scrip was made available to the Métis residents in the West and many of the river lot owners, despite already owning their lots, received entitlements to scrip. Our research explores what the Métis river lot inhabitants did with their scrip entitlements and the relationship between power and land. By doing so, we hope to broaden the conversations regarding Métis land tenure.

BIO: Leah Hrycun is an MA student in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. Her Masters research focuses on the repatriation of Métis material culture to Métis communities. Her other research interests include Métis histories and land dispossession of the Métis in Alberta. Leah worked as part of the research team with the Rupertsland Centre for Métis Research, in conjunction with the Métis Nation of Alberta, to publish a booklet on Métis Scrip in Alberta.

SPEAKERS



Dr. Nathalie Kermoal

An Alternative to Scrip: Saint-Paul-des-Métis

SUMMARY: In 1895, saddened by the destitution of Métis people in the Canadian West, Oblate missionary Father Albert Lacombe proposed a plan for the “redemption” of the Métis people to establish a “reserve” to help them make the transition from a nomadic to a sedentary lifestyle. Saint-Paul-des-Métis was established in 1896 on 92,160 acres of land that had been set aside for the Métis by the federal government. The land remained the property of the Crown; yet Father Lacombe had signed a 99-year lease with the government for \$1 per year. The lands could neither be sold nor mortgaged. Four other lots were set aside for the church, the school, and the rectory. Each family was to receive 80 acres in addition to livestock, farming machinery, and access to communal lands for the production of hay and timber and to use as pastureland. In this presentation, using archival and oral sources, as well as secondary sources, we will try to understand the reasoning behind the creation of Saint-Paul-des-Métis and why this colony, as an alternative to scrip, failed.

BIO: Nathalie Kermoal is a full professor in the Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta. She holds a PhD in History from the University of Ottawa. She has published three books (the latest *Living on the Land: Indigenous Women Understanding of Place* is co-edited with Isabel Altamirano-Jimenez, Athabasca University Press, 2016) and numerous articles in academic journal and collective volumes. Her areas of research interests are Métis issues, Canadian Aboriginal constitutional issues, urban Indigenous history, and Indigenous Women’s Issues. In 2011-2012, she was Interim Dean of the Faculty of Native Studies. In 2013-2014, she was special advisor on Aboriginal academic programs with the Provost’s office. Since 2009, Professor Kermoal has been the Associate-Dean Academic of the Faculty of Native Studies; since January 2016, she has been the director of the Rupertsland Center for Métis Research at the Faculty of Native Studies.

SPEAKERS

Hereward Longley / Dr. Tara Joly / Almer Waniandy

The Moccasin Flats Evictions: Métis Home, Forced Relocation, and Resilience in Fort McMurray, Alberta

SUMMARY: Based on a combination of oral history and archival research, this presentation describes the processes, justifications, and impacts of the forceful relocation of Indigenous peoples from an area known as Moccasin Flats in Fort McMurray, Alberta, during the oil boom of the 1970s. We show how Moccasin Flats was an important home for Métis people, supporting a way of life that depended on access to the river system. We documented the process by which the New Town of Fort McMurray and Northward Developments Ltd. (a subsidiary of Syncrude) evicted 14 families from Moccasin Flats between the late 1970s and early 1980s, and the ongoing cultural and economic impacts of the evictions. We will argue that the Moccasin Flats evictions are exemplary of the history of Métis road allowance communities and settler colonial expansion in the Canadian North.



HEREWARD LONGLEY BIO: Hereward Longley is a PhD candidate in environmental history at the University of Alberta. Longley's research examines the political, economic, and environmental dynamics that have shaped the history of the Athabasca oil sands industry. He is interested in understanding the consequences of development for nature and Indigenous peoples in the Athabasca region, and how these impacts and conflicts have influenced subsequent development. Hereward collaborates with the Fort McMurray Métis, and consults with other Indigenous communities in the Athabasca region, to address historical issues relevant to Indigenous peoples. Hereward works as a research consultant specializing in Indigenous land use, historical research, and impact assessment. His work is supervised by Dr. Liza Piper, and supported by a Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholarship, the Northern Scientific Training Program, and the University of Alberta.



TARA JOLY BIO: Tara Joly is a Research Director at Willow Springs Strategic Solutions, Inc. Joly is an environmental anthropologist whose research examines human-environment relations and epistemological encounters in northern Alberta and she has worked on a wide range of research projects related to Indigenous rights in the Circumpolar North. She works closely with Indigenous communities including the Fort McMurray Métis to plan and conduct community-based research projects, environmental monitoring and research, land use mapping studies, and oral history and ethnographic research. Joly holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Aberdeen and was formerly a Postdoctoral Fellow in Anthropology at the University of Saskatchewan.



ALMER WANIANDY BIO: Almer Waniandy is a McMurray Métis Elder who was born and raised in Fort McMurray, Alberta, and grew up at Moccasin Flats. In his younger years, Waniandy ran dog teams on the Athabasca River delivering supplies to trappers. Waniandy is retired from the Construction and General Workers' Union Local 92, where he worked at numerous oil sands plants around Fort McMurray. He now lives in Edmonton and visits Fort McMurray regularly.

SPEAKERS



Thomas Isaac

The Need for a Unique Métis Claims Process – Minister’s Special Representative Report (2016) on Métis Section 35 Rights

SUMMARY: This presentation will focus on Thomas’s 2016 Minister’s Special Representative Report to the Government of Canada dealing with Métis Section 35 Rights and the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) Decision, and the Report’s focus on the need for a distinct “Métis” Section 35-based approach by the federal and provincial governments, including the development of a distinct claims process focused on Métis rights and claims.

BIO: Thomas Isaac is a nationally recognized authority in the area of Aboriginal law and leads Cassels Brock & Blackwell LLP’s National Aboriginal Law Practice. Mr. Isaac has served as a mediator involving complex multi-jurisdictional Aboriginal-related disputes and has appeared before courts and regulatory bodies across Canada, including the Supreme Court of Canada. He has published extensively in aboriginal law, including 14 books and monographs, including the 5th ed. of his text *Aboriginal Law*. His published works on Aboriginal law have been cited with approval by Canadian courts, including the Supreme Court of Canada and the Federal Court of Appeal. Mr. Isaac was former Chief Treaty Negotiator for the Government of BC, former Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for establishing Nunavut for the Government of the NWT, and previously served in a senior capacity with the Government of Saskatchewan dealing with Aboriginal issues. In 2015 Mr. Isaac was appointed by Canada as the Minister’s Special Representative to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations regarding Section 35 Métis Rights and Reconciliation. His report - *A Matter of National and Constitutional Import: Section 35 Métis Rights and the Manitoba Métis Federation Decision* - was released in 2016. Mr. Isaac also served as the Minister’s Special Representative to the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and the Premier of the NWT regarding the Southeast NWT Region and the Akaitcho Dene and the NWT Métis Nation negotiations. His Report – *A Path to Reconciliation* – was released in 2017. Mr. Isaac is presently serving as the Minister’s Special Representative for the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations to conduct exploratory discussions regarding the *Gottfriedson* class action lawsuit against Canada relating to residential schools’ day students. Mr. Isaac is a member of the law societies of B.C., Alberta, NWT, Nunavut and Yukon. He holds a B.A. (Hons.), M.A., LL.B., and LL.M. and was named in 2018 as one of the “Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers” in Canada by *Canadian Lawyer*.

SPEAKERS



Zachary Davis

Métis Scrip: A Claim Against the Crown

SUMMARY: In *Manitoba Metis Federation v. Canada*, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that legal claims can be brought against the Crown to address historic injustices committed by governments against the Métis. Canada's policy of issuing scrip to Métis under the Dominion Lands Act in an attempt to extinguish the rights Métis have to land as Indigenous people was among the greatest injustices in Canadian history. Using an argument similar to that advanced in *Manitoba Metis Federation*, the scrip system can be exposed for what it was: a failure of the honour of the Crown. Negotiations being undertaken by the Métis Nation of Alberta and Canada offer an opportunity to reach a just settlement of this claim that advances reconciliation without the need for lengthy litigation. The legal argument that the scrip system amounted to a failure by the Crown to fulfill its constitutional duties to the Métis will be central to the success of those negotiations.

BIO: Zachary Davis is a senior associate with Pape Salter Teillet LLP who specializes in Indigenous rights law. Zachary's litigation practice focuses on a range of areas impacting Indigenous peoples, including constitutional law, administrative law, and self-government issues. Zachary has appeared before courts from coast to coast at all levels of appeal. He has also provided advice to Indigenous communities across the country regarding self-governance and rights assertions by helping with the development and implementation of Indigenous laws and policies in order to help communities assume effective control of their own governance and management. Zachary represents the Métis Nation of Alberta in its self-government negotiations with Canada.

SPEAKERS



Douglas Eyford

Reconciling Métis Rights: Strategies for Negotiations with the Crown

SUMMARY: As the Métis work towards a renewed relationship with the Government of Canada based on recognition of rights, respect, cooperation, and partnership, it is important to place this important initiative in historical context. Since 1973, Canada has been negotiating comprehensive land claims or modern treaties with Aboriginal groups and provincial or territorial governments. With some notable exceptions, the Métis have been excluded from this process, despite having gained constitutional recognition of their rights in 1982. This historic anomaly can be explained by an indifferent approach on the part of the federal Crown to Métis rights and aspirations. In a 2015 report to the Government of Canada, Douglas Eyford addressed the inequities of the federal comprehensive claims policy, observing that despite succeeding more than 30 years ago in their quest for constitutional recognition, the Métis regard Canada as having failed to accept their status as an Aboriginal group with constitutionally protected rights. Mr. Eyford recommended that Canada develop a reconciliation process to support the exercise of Métis rights. That process of reconciliation is now underway. Mr. Eyford, who is a former chief federal treaty negotiator, will provide his perspectives about the history of treaty making in Canada and whether the approach adopted by the Government of Canada will provide an appropriate framework to recognise and address Métis rights and aspirations.

BIO: Mr. Eyford is a graduate of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Law and was admitted to the British Columbia bar in 1991. He has broad experience in civil litigation matters and has appeared as trial and appellate counsel at all levels of court in British Columbia as well as regulatory and administrative tribunals. He also has extensive experience in alternate forms of dispute resolution, representing clients at arbitrations and mediations.

In addition to his broad experience in civil litigation, Mr. Eyford provides strategic business and legal advice to First Nations, the Crown, and industry about transportation infrastructure and resource development projects. He was a chief federal negotiator for the Government of Canada in the comprehensive land claims process in British Columbia (2007-2014). In 2013, the Government of Canada retained Mr. Eyford to provide advice about Aboriginal participation in the development of oil and natural gas pipelines and related infrastructure in Alberta and British Columbia. His report to the Prime Minister was published in December 2013.

In July 2014, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development appointed Mr. Eyford to lead engagement with Aboriginal groups and key stakeholders for the review and reform of the comprehensive land claims policy. His report entitled *A New Direction: Advancing Aboriginal and Treaty Rights* was published in April 2015.

SPEAKERS



Harry Slade

A Framework for Recognition of Métis Rights and Aspirations

SUMMARY: This presentation will explore a framework for recognition of Métis rights and aspirations:

- 1) The sine qua non of negotiations: the power to compel.
- 2) Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996): Recommendation No. 2.4.29 Federal companion legislation to the royal proclamation provide for the establishment of an independent administrative tribunal, to be called the Aboriginal Lands and Treaties Tribunal.
- 3) Lessons learned: The Specific Claims Tribunal Canada.

BIO: Currently holding the title of The Honourable Harry Slade, Q.C., Chairperson, Justice Slade was initially appointed to the Specific Claims Tribunal in November 2009. He was appointed Chairperson in December 2009, and re-appointed to the Tribunal, as Chairperson, for a five-year term commencing November 2010. He has since been re-appointed Chairperson for two consecutive five-year terms, the most recent of which commenced in December 2015.

The Chairperson's role includes hearing Specific Claims brought before the Tribunal and assigning other members to hear claims.

Justice Slade was admitted to the Bar of British Columbia in 1974. His primary area of practice as a lawyer was Aboriginal Law. He has extensive experience in Specific Claims negotiation, including the British Columbia cut-off claims. He was active in the advancement of Aboriginal rights issues. His work included intergovernmental relations among First Nations, Canada and Provinces, including Treaty processes, self-government initiatives, and commercial development of reserve lands. As a lawyer, Justice Slade also worked with First Nations on ventures in forestry, fishing, and energy resource development. He practiced law at Ratcliff & Company, a North Vancouver law firm with an extensive aboriginal and environmental law practice.

Justice Slade was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1998 and became a Justice of the British Columbia Supreme Court in March 2001.

SPEAKERS



Ryan Shackleton

MNA's Registry – A Digital Approach to Connecting Historic and Contemporary Communities

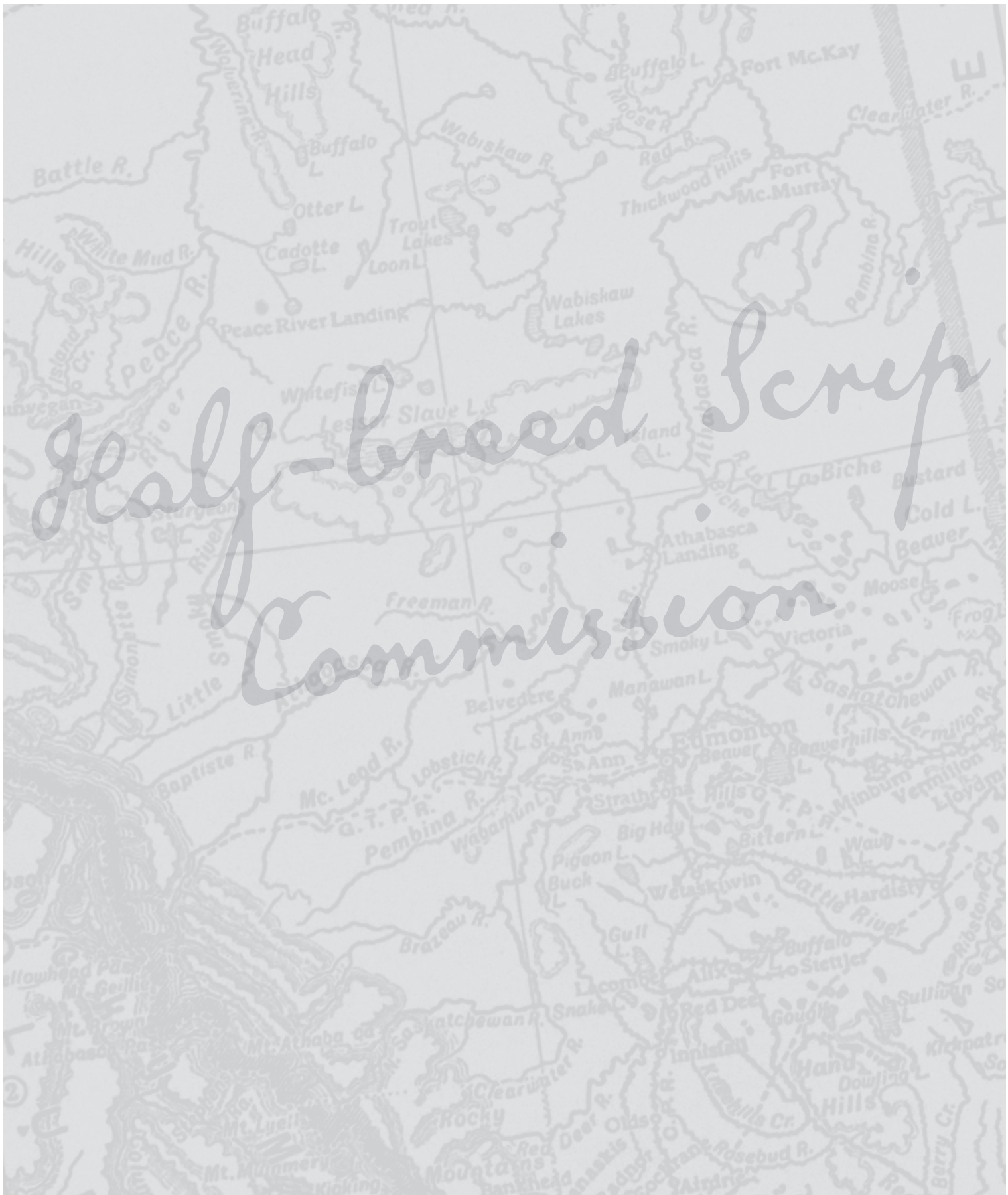
SUMMARY: The Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) has been steadily moving forward in negotiations with the Government of Alberta (GoA) on harvesting rights. In consulting with harvesters, the MNA heard about the difficulties created by the GoA policy around “contemporary connections,” which requires genealogical proof of connection to a historic community. A report on the MNA consultations found that: “Above all, harvesters found it discouraging to have to prove their ‘Métis-ness’ to the GoA”.

The genealogical history of the Métis reveals a tangled web of relationships. Indeed, Métis families in Alberta are often deeply interconnected, with citizens tracing to many Métis Ancestors across various MNA Regions. Know History has been working with the MNA for several years, identifying Root Ancestors and Métis Family Lines tied to specific regions. To date, almost 500 family lines have been identified. The MNA is now preparing to introduce a new program that will replace the paper-based registry system with a digital equivalent and streamline the registry process. More importantly, it will automatically connect the genealogy of contemporary Métis with their historic ancestors. This will simplify the application process, providing automatic identification of ancestral connections to different regions in Alberta.

This presentation will explore the identification of Root Ancestors and Métis Family Lines, the new system and touch upon the both the historic and contemporary interconnectedness of the Alberta Métis.

BIO: Ryan Shackleton is the founder and Director of Know History Inc., Canada's leading historical research firm.

Ryan has been a professional consultant for almost 20 years and in that time has completed hundreds of public history projects for all levels of government, Indigenous organizations, non-profits, corporations and individuals. He is a published and peer-reviewed author with specialization in Métis and Arctic histories and frequently lectures at universities and conferences. Ryan holds a Masters Degree from Carleton University, is co-Chair of the National Council of Public History (NCPH) Consultant's Committee, sits on Library and Archives Canada Service Advisory Committee, and is the former Chair of Canadian Historical Association Public History Group. In 2018, he received honorable mention for Excellence in Consulting by the NCPH for his work.



Half-Breed Scrip Commission