

Access English Centre

Immigrant Centre Manitoba

Canadian Holidays: Louis Riel Day

60 – 45 minutes
High Beginner

Facilitator Note: This activity requires the participants to work together to learn about Canadian holidays such as Louis Riel Day in Manitoba. Culture sharing is a great way to get the group talking. Ask the whole group **“Who was Louis Riel?” “When is Louis Riel Day? What do people do on Louis Riel Day?”** After they are finished, they can come up to the front to present one of the pictures to the whole group. The key frame sentences are **“What will you do on Louis Riel Day?” “On Louis Riel Day, I will go to the Festival du Voyageur”**. Louis Riel Day celebrates the achievements and the life of Louis Riel, a Canadian politician who was a leader of the Métis people.

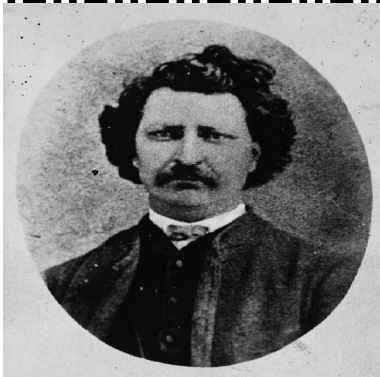
Warm-up/work-out:

Materials: Participants need: a set of Louis Riel Day pictures and a set of vocabulary cards
Facilitator needs: White board and white board marker, a set of Louis Riel Day pictures, and a set of vocabulary cards (**see the foot note about Louis Riel**)
Preparation needed: You will need to cut out the cards and pictures for each pair of participants.

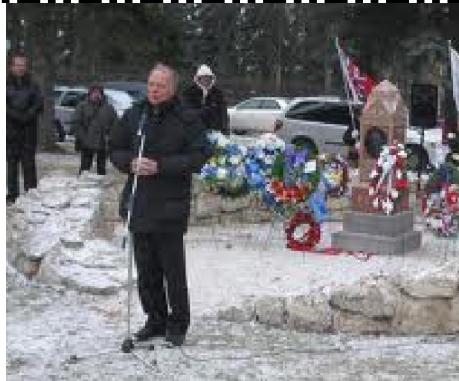
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| 15 min. | <p>Procedure: Warm-up activity: First, introduce the holiday by writing the following words on the board. Then ask the group to repeat with you several times. Define unfamiliar words.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. celebrate the life of Louis Riel 2. the Métis culture 3. show respect / honor 4. go to a party 5. go ice skating 6. go to the Festival Du Voyageur 7. take a short winter break 8. play curling on the ice 9. visit other family members <p>Play short videos on Louis Riel Day in Manitoba by clicking the link http://youtu.be/qPmuU5sySwo and http://youtu.be/OpK8_uupKdc</p> |
| 20 min. | <p>Whole class Practice Drill #1: Have participants repeat the verbal phrases, vocabulary and the sentences. Review Louis Riel Day vocabulary by holding up the pictures and words, and asking the whole group to repeat the prompts. “On Louis Riel Day, people honor Louis Riel.” “On Louis Riel Day, people visit family members.” Or “People take a short winter break. Or, “People go to the Festival Du Voyageur.” etc.</p> |
| 30 min | <p>Workout activity: Whole class Practice Drill #2: Have participants say the correct sentence that matches the picture prompt. Hold up one of the cards; for example, "family gather together ". “ Ask the group: “What do people do on Louis Riel Day?” so that they will reply “On Louis Riel Day, people show respect to Louis Riel.” Continue with the other cards. Alternate between asking the whole group, and individual students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say it – Ask the students to follow and repeat with you the words and phrases • Model it – have a few students work with you to model the exercise before they do the activities. • Repeat it -Partner Practice Drill: Each participant gets a set of the words and pictures. Ask participants to work with their partners to get a picture or word card from the pile and ask their partner to give the answer to the frame sentence “What do people do on Louis Riel Day?” “They take a short break.” |
| 10 min | <p>Additional activities: Introduce the future tense by asking “What will you do?” “I will visit my friends.”</p> |

“What do people do on Louis Riel Day?”
“On Louis Riel Day, people”

**Louis Riel Day is
on the third
Monday of
February.**



**celebrate the life of
Louis Riel**



go to a party



**Show respect to
Louis Riel**



**enjoy a short
winter break**



Play curling on the ice



go ice skating

**visit other
family members**

**go to the
Festival du**

Voyageur



Note to the facilitators:

Manitoba's government introduced a holiday in February in 2007. This was because there was a long period between New Year's Day and Good Friday when there were no holidays. A competition was held among school children to name the day. The winning name was 'Louis Riel Day' to commemorate this Manitoba politician. The date does not have any special connection to a particular event in Louis Riel's life. The first Louis Riel Day in Manitoba was in 2008.

Louis Riel was a leader of the Métis people of the Canadian prairies. These are an Aboriginal people with their own culture, language and heritage. The area, which was their ancestral homeland, is now in the Canadian provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia and the Northwest Territories and parts of the north-west of the United States. Louis Riel was also a founder of the province of Manitoba and a Canadian politician. However, during his lifetime, he was a controversial figure and lived in exile in the United States for a number of years. He was involved in a number of uprisings and, after a controversial trial, he was executed for treason in 1885.

Louis Riel Day is observed on or around November 16 in other areas of Canada, particularly Toronto. This is the anniversary of Louis Riel's execution in 1885. Louis Riel Day is held in Toronto to commemorate Louis Riel's life and to celebrate the Métis people's culture, language, heritage and ancestral homeland.

(Source: www.timeanddate.com)