

Overview of Metis Curriculum Resources Developed for Internal Use
in Gabriel Dumont Institute Programs: (1980-1998)

I. ABORIGINAL RIGHTS PACKAGE

When the Gabriel Dumont Institute opened in 1980, the curriculum and research unit received a program developed by the Association of Metis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (AMNSIS). The program was a grassroots educational initiative which was developed for implementation by instructor/facilitators selected by each area who would, following training and orientation to the course materials, teach an extensive course in Metis History / Aboriginal Rights at the local level. The developers who worked on the program were: Ron Bourgeault, Larry Heineman and Lyle Mueller. The program included the following components: Instructor / Facilitators guidebook, slide sets, and tapes. The course and support materials were organized as follows:

Topic I: A Historical Overview of the Metis People

Study Session 1: The Development of Metis Culture (76 slides)

Study Session 2: Aboriginal Rights in Canada (62 slides)

Study Session 3: The History of Rupertsland and the Northwest
(48 slides)

Study Session 4: The Metis of the Northwest and their Conflict with
Canada (71 slides)

Study Session 5: Canada's Dealing with the Metis People (47 slides)

Topic II:

Study Session 1: The Birth of the Metis Nation (70 slides)

Study Session 2: The Union of the Metis Nation with Canada
(66 slides)

Study Session 3: The Metis Movement Outside Manitoba (61 slides)

Study Session 4: (missing)

Study Session 5: Metis Struggles in the Past 50 Years (? slides)

Topic III: Government Policies Towards Native Peoples

Study Session 1: The Development and Purposes of Colonial Policies
(47 slides)

Study Session 2: Government Policy Behind Scrip Issues (50 slides)

Study Session 3: The Policies of Extinguishment of Native Rights Up to
1870 (39 slides)

Study Session 4: (missing)

Study Session 5: Policies from the 1900's to Present (? slides)

Strengths: Lots of resources, information on key topics in Metis history

Weaknesses: Poorly indexed, slide information not part of instructor package, cumbersome, no copyright information on slides, production, etc.

II. METIS CULTURAL AWARENESS PACKAGE

In 1981, the curriculum unit developed a package which reworked the aboriginal rights package into a more condensed format with more attention to instructional strategies. Lesson plans were developed which were organized in a standardized format which included: Aims, Objectives, Teaching Methods (body of lesson, resources, etc.) and Performance Criteria. Keith Turnbull, Crystal Barber and Don Mclean worked on the package. The package was organized into the following components:

Part One: (no title)

Introduction

1. Identity
2. Identifying Issues

Topic 1: Cultural Overview

1. Names and Labels
2. Logistics
3. Stereotyping
4. Methodology and the Island
5. Linguistics and Cultural Groupings
6. Culture
7. People of Saskatchewan: Subarctic
8. People of Saskatchewan: Plains
9. Newcomers

Topic 2: Historical Overview

1. What is History?
2. Fur Trade Economics
3. Fur Trade and Metis Nationalism
4. “
5. “
6. Metis Middle Class
7. Hudson’s Bay Company’s Role as Government
8. Events Preceding the 1870 Resistance
9. The Red River Resistance
10. Events Leading up to the Resistance of 1885
11. Resistance of 1885
12. 1885 to the Present
13. Historical and Cultural Overview

Topic 3: Metis Culture

1. Origins
2. Making a Living
3. The Role of Women

4. Metis Technology
5. Customs and Traditions

Topic 4: Land Expropriation

1. The Canadian Constitution
2. (New Policy--the White Paper?)
3. The Rupertsland Transfer and the Issue of Scrip
4. The Treaties
5. Land Claims Settlement in the Prairie Provinces
6. Historical Overview

(Floating Lesson: Major Government Legislation and Policies Affecting Native Peoples)

Strengths: Background essays were written for many of the topics. These are brief, and packed with important information and written at an accessible reading level. For example, the topic 'Making a Living,' includes a short paper on Metis Farming which examines farming at White Horse Plains and includes significant facts which would only be obtained through extensive research (at least 30 partial or complete crop failures between 1812 and 1870). Another essay presents the historical background and political organization of St. Laurent.

Lessons include some really interesting activities suitable for ABE and adult students.

Includes most references and other copyright information.

Weaknesses: Only exists in draft form, cumbersome, includes a lot of xeroxed material from magazines and books, most are at too high a reading level for many students and many are outdated. Lesson plan format outdated. Poorly organized and indexed. Difficult to find information on specific topics.

III. PHOTO AND SLIDE INDEXES

1. Two large binders of negatives and contact sheets (some missing) for what appears to be the GDI photo collection. This is significant as I believe the photo collection is missing a lot of photos. It would appear that GDI has negatives for a lot of archival photos. The coded index includes descriptions of the subject of the photograph (location, identity of people, etc) but does not include archival and copyright information. Most appear to be from the Saskatchewan Archives, Manitoba Archives, RCMP Museum and the Hudson's Bay Company Archives.

This is a very comprehensive sweep of Metis photographs in archival collections.

2. Image index of slides and photographs with topic, some source information and accession numbers. These are the same numbers on the slide sets for the Aboriginal rights package. The lid of each slide set has each slide listed by accession number.

IV. NATIVE STUDIES: STEP PROGRAM

A Native Studies curriculum guide was developed for the STEP training programs offered through GDI. A core of topics were identified and a few optional units were developed for different program interests. Course developers were Dr. Walter Currie, Sherry Farrell, Calvin Racette and Crystal Barber.

V. METIS ART SLIDES

Four sets of slides from the Lower Fort Garry Collection of the Hudson's Bay Company collection as part of the project, "With Beads, Silk and Quills: The Traditional Arts of the Metis." Some were used for the study print series published by the curriculum unit. There are 51 slides in the set, 40 of Metis/Metis style bead, quill or silk work, 4 Inuit beaded parkas, and 7 of paintings depicting Metis lifestyles from the collection of the Hudson's Bay Archives and the Beaver magazine. These are not numbered and no information accompanies the slides.

VI. METIS STUDIES: A THREE CLASS SEQUENCE

A three class sequence in Metis Studies was developed for possible accreditation through the Saskatchewan Indian Federated College. These were developed by Calvin Racette. Each course is accompanied by relevant resources (primarily scholarly articles on topics). The articles were organized in labelled files or envelopes.