

Manitoba Métis Road Allowance Communities

These communities are characterized as ones where the Métis lived on unused Municipal or Crown land or on the road allowances. In a 1959 report Jean Lagasse refers to “Métis living on the fringe of white settlements” where the communities are unwilling or unable to provide housing for the Métis population.¹ These Road Allowance communities were characterized by racial segregation, the nearby community refusal to provide adequate education by voting against money by-laws or by sending their own children to be educated elsewhere; and high mobility of Métis moving in and out of the community. The communities were characterized by inadequate housing, little no collection of taxes, and scarcity of Municipal or Provincial services.²

Each White community had pejorative and colorful appellations for these Métis fringe communities. Names such as Melonville, Bannock Town, Rooster Town, Stovepipe, Dog Patch, Tuyau (pipe), Little Chicago, China Town, Mud Flats, Shaughnessy Heights, Fort Rouge, La Coulée, Pumpville, Tintown, Turkey Town, or The Flats were just some of the terms used in referring to these settlements.

The Lagasse report did not study the living situation of Métis living within large predominantly white communities such as Selkirk (1,500 Métis), Portage la Prairie (616 Métis) Carman (197 Métis), Cranberry Portage (197 Métis), Dauphin (125 Métis), Kinosota (250 Métis), Gypsumville (132 Métis), Lundar area (220 Métis), Ste. Rose du Lac area (211 Métis), The Pas (612 Métis), Winnipegosis (140 Métis), Woodridge (140 Métis) and Winnipeg (3,500 Métis).

1958 Survey of Métis Road Allowance Communities on Fringe of White Settlement

Community	Métis on Road Allowance	Community	Métis on Road Allowance
Amaranth	157	Onanole	12
Binscarth	170	Ochre River	40
Bissett	82	Pigeon Lake	29
Bowsman	10	Pine Falls	300
Buchan	58	Roblin	55
Cowan	61	Ste. Anne	135
Deloraine	54	St. Claude	75
Gladstone	56	Ste. Eustache	434
Glenboro	20	St. Lazare	220
Great Falls	20	Swan River	100
Langruth	85	Wekusko Falls	8
Mafeking	75	Young's Point	42
McGregor	48		
National Mills	20	Total	2,535

¹ Social and Economic Research Office, *A Study of the Population of Indian Ancestry Living in Manitoba*, under the direction of Jean H. Lagasse. Vol. I. (Winnipeg, MB: Department of Agriculture and Immigration, 1959) pp.68-71.

² Water, sewer, electricity, roads, telephone, fire department, and garbage

1958 Survey of Métis Road Allowance Communities on Fringe of Indian Reserves

Locality	Métis Population	Indian Reserve	Indian Population	No Road Access
Anama Bay	47	Little Saskatchewan	50	X
Bacon Ridge	90	Ebb and Flow	261	
Berens River	131	Berens River	449	X
Big Eddy	125	The Pas	675	
Bloodvein	5	Bloodvein	176	X
Brochet	99	Barrens Land	286	X
Cedar Lake	87	Chemawawin	194	X
Cross Lake	101	Cross Lake	1,050	X
Ebb and Flow	77	Ebb and Flow	261	
Elk Island	18		27	X
Elphinstone	84	Keeseekoowenin	198	
Erickson	29	Rolling River	185	
Fisher Bay	53	Fisher river	261	
Hodgson area	244	Peguis	1,270	
Gods Lake	23	Gods Lake	631	X
Grand Rapids	236	Grand Rapids	174	X
Hollow Water	48	Hollow Water	293	X
Little Grand Rapids	30	Little Grand Rapids	351	X
Moose Lake	282	Moose Lake	164	X
Nelson House	37	Nelson House	657	X
Norway House	428	Norway House	1,308	X
Oxford House	5	Oxford House	555	X
Peguis Reserve	40	Peguis Reserve	1,270	
Pelican Rapids	200	Shoal River	311	X
Pickerel Narrows	10		55	X
Poplar River	25	Poplar River	241	X
Red Sucker Lake	2		160	X
Scanterbury	25	Brokenhead	293	
Shamattawa	10		257	
South Indian Lake	101	(O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation)	230	X
Timberton	20	Valley River	249	
Umpherville	35	The Pas	675	X
Vogar	152	Lake Manitoba	301	
Total	2,899			

Note: In 1958, the Métis of Elk Island, Pickerel Narrows, Red Sucker Lake, Shamattawa and South Indian Lake were living beside Indian Settlements that were not yet reserves.

In northern Manitoba there were numerous Métis living in unorganized territory where the land was not yet surveyed, thus they could not purchase the lots on which they were living.

1958 Survey of Métis Communities along the Hudson's Bay and Lynn Lake C.N.R. Lines

Locality	Métis Population	Locality	Métis Population
Amery	9	Lyddal	2
Arnot	6	Lynn Lake	164
Athapap	14	McClintock	1
Atik	1	McVeigh	3
Atkameg Lake	3	Odhill	2
Bird	11	Patterson	11
Bylot	10	Pikwitonet	106
Churchill	310	Ponton	8
Cormorant	163	Pukatawagan	1
Cromarty	10	Rafter	9
Drybrough	3	Root Lake	1
Dunlop	6	Ruddock	4
Fay Lake	3	Silcox	6
Garraway	1	Schist Lake	3
Gillam	52	Sherridon	132
Halcrow	7	Snow Lake	64
Heaman	4	Split Lake	3
Heming Lake	4	Stitt	5
Herchmer	11	Thicket Portage	167
Hone	3	Turnberry	1
Ilford	22	Wabowden	209
Jetait	1	Wekusko	13
La Perouse	24	Westray	1
Lawledge	4	Wivenhoe	5
Luke	2	Total	1,605



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Compiled by Lawrence Barkwell
 Coordinator of Métis Heritage and History Research
 Louis Riel Institute