The Métis

The Métis people originated in the 1700s when French and Scottish fur traders married Aboriginal women, such as the Cree, and Anishinabe (Ojibway).
The Métis

Developed a distinct culture, and became a people in the Northwest prior to that territory becoming part of Canada.

• Distinct language, art, flag, territory
• Collective consciousness
The Métis

- Distinct Métis communities developed along the fur trade routes.
- Métis Homeland
The Métis

• One of Canada’s three distinct Aboriginal peoples
  • 550,000+ Métis in Canada
  • 110,000+ Métis in Alberta

• We are
  • Buffalo hunters
  • Gatherers
  • Traders
  • Entrepreneurs
  • Explorers
  • Crafters
  • Agriculturalists
The Métis Nation of Alberta

To pursue the advancement of the socio-economic and cultural well-being of the Métis people of Alberta
The Métis Nation of Alberta

- Founded in 1928
- Comprised of six regions
- Alberta has 8 Métis Settlements
The Dream

- Began many years ago
  - Leaders wanted a “Place”
  - Share the Métis Story
- MNA Millenium Voyage
  - Completed 1999
Hub of an overall
MNA Tourism Strategy

REGION VI
SITES

REGION I
SITES

REGION V
SITES

REGION II
SITES

REGION IV
SITES

REGION III
SITES

Métis Crossing
Our Land

• Opportunity for Land (2001)
  • Provincial Council decided to make the “Dream” a reality

• Riverlots homesteaded in 1860s
  • Cromarty / Erasmus / Norn / Flett
Our Land

Victoria District National Historic Site
Our Mission

Métis Crossing is a major initiative of the Métis Nation of Alberta. It will be a premier centre for Alberta Métis cultural interpretation, education, gatherings, and business development. Our 512 acres site is designed to engage and excite visitors. Our programming will encourage active participation of visitors in activities promoting an appreciation of our people, customs, and celebrations.
Our Goals

Métis Crossing will:

1. Share our Métis story with all people
2. Be a gathering place
3. Achieve financial sustainability
4. Minimize capital debt
1. Share our story - Reconciliation

- Métis
  - Affiliates and citizens

- Education Centre
  - Land-based learning
  - Curriculum based fieldtrips
  - Teacher training / PD

- Visitors
  - Local / Regional / International

- Corporate / Government
  - Métis 101
2. Be a Gathering Place

- Celebrations
- Festivals
- Family events
- Workshops
3. Achieve financial sustainability

• Business approach
• Cultural sensitivity
• Authentic experiences
• Partnerships
Partners

• Rupertsland Institute
  • Curriculum based field trips
  • Professional Development for Teacher Qualification Standards

• Experiential Interpretive Plan
  • Defining the Métis story
  • Heart, hands, hunger and heart
  • Paddle into the Past
Partners

K – 12 Education

• Curriculum based field trips
• Land-based learning
• Teacher Quality Standards
Phase I: Centennial Opening 2005

- Historic building restorations
  - Homesteads (Cromarty and Sinclair)
  - Barn
  - Outbuildings
- Heritage Village
- Nature trails / playground
- Stage
- Campground
Groundbreaking Celebration
May 14, 2018
Phase II: Cultural Gathering Centre 2019

Spaces for experiences – 11,000 square feet

• Gathering hall
• Exhibit spaces
• Classroom
• Meeting room
• Commercial kitchen
Phase II: Cultural Gathering Centre 2019
The spaces outside
Land based learning

Same content; multiple “texts”
Learning from the resources that are out our back door
NATURAL LESSONS FROM THE LAND

As gatherers, the Metis understood the natural resources and how critical they were for our survival.
Lessons from the land show us an intricate balance and connection.
Rediscover our senses
The Metis were explorers and relied on knowing the lay of the land and how to read nature to navigate.
A natural supplies of medicines
A winter supply of medication
The land gives us Shelter
Traditional skills are now called survival skills
The Metis were skilled hunters
Expert Horseman!
Flower Bead work people, the metis produced beautiful beaded patterns
PAINTED WARRIORS
“MOTHER EARTH IS OUR GREATEST TEACHER”
WELCOME TO OUR WORLD!
Located on 82 acres in the foothills of the Rocky mountains one hour from Calgary Alberta
We operate Year Round
Thank you! Marsee!

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