



Access English Centre  
Immigrant Centre Manitoba  
Activity Plan - Beginner  
Canadian Holidays - Louis Riel Day  
90 minutes



**Objective/Goal:**

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.

**Materials:**

Participants need: a set of Louis Riel Day pictures and a set of vocabulary cards

Facilitator needs:

- whiteboard and markers
- a set of Louis Riel Day pictures, and a set of vocabulary cards (**see the foot note about Louis Riel**)

**Procedure:** Warm-up 15 min  
Work-out 60 min  
Cool-down 15 min

Procedure: Ask the whole group ***“Do you know who Louis Riel is?” “Do you know when Louis Riel Day is celebrated? Do you know what people do on Louis Riel Day?”***

Ask participants to share their personal stories or questions about Louis Riel. The key frame sentences are:

**A: “What do you do on Louis Riel Day?”**

**B: “On Louis Riel Day, I go to the Festival du Voyageur”.**

**1. Warm-up Activity:** First, teach the words and phrases of the holiday by writing the following words on the board. Then ask the group to repeat with you several times. Define unfamiliar words.

- a. the Métis culture**
- b. show respect**
- c. attend a party celebrating Louis Riel**
- d. take a short winter break**
- e. enjoy family time**

- f. take part in winter outdoor activities
- g. visit family members
- h. go to the Festival Du Voyageur

Play short videos on Louis Riel Day in Manitoba by clicking the links <http://youtu.be/qPmuU5sySwo> and [http://youtu.be/OpK8\\_uupKdc](http://youtu.be/OpK8_uupKdc)

After watching the video clips, discuss with the participants. Have them 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 show respect to Louis Riel.”** **“On Louis Riel Day, people visit family members.”** Or **“People take a short winter break.** Or, **“People take part in other winter activities.”** etc.

## 2. Workout activity:

**Activity 1: Whole class Practice Drill** : 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 take part in outdoor winter activities.”** Continue with the other cards. Alternate between asking the whole group, and individual students.

**Activity 2: Pair Work:** Ask the participants to work together with their partners to practice the frame sentences.

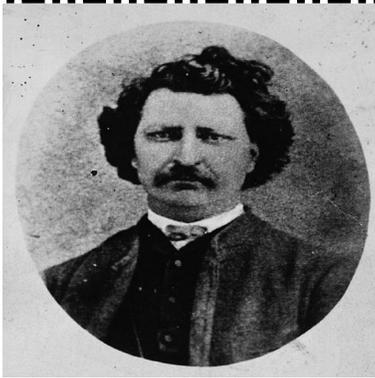
- **Say it – Ask the students to follow and repeat with you the words and phrases**
- **Model it – have a few students work with you to model the exercise** before they do the activities.
- **Repeat it -Partner Practice Drill:** Each participant gets a set of the words and pictures. Ask participants 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.”**

**Additional activities:** Introduce the grammatical point on how to use future tense by asking **“What will you do?”** **“I will visit my friends.”**

**3. Cool- down Activity:** Review the words and phrases that have been practiced and ask the group to name three things they learned. After they finish the assignment, ask the group to talk about what they will do on Louis Riel Day.

**“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](http://www.timeanddate.com) )