The Emergence of a New Nation

Triumphantly, the Metis hoisted the first flag of the New Nation.

The first uprising of the Metis Nation occurred in 1815 as a result of people foreign to the Metis homeland proclaiming laws without regard to the rights of Metis people. In January, 1814, the governor of the District of Assiniboia issued a proclamation which banned the export of pemmican except by license from himself. In response, the Metis, under the leadership of Cuthbert Grant, attacked the Selkirk settlers and forced their leader, Peter Fiddler, to sign the following treaty.

- 1. All settlers to retire immediately from this river, and no appearance of a colony to remain.
- 2. Peace and amity to subsist between all parties, traders, Indians, and freemen, in future, throughout these two rivers, and on no account any person to be molested in his lawful pursuits.
- 3. The honorable Hudson's Bay Company will, as customary, enter this river with, if they think proper, three to four of their former trading boats, and with four to five men per boat as usual.
- 4. Whatever former disturbance has taken place between both parties, that is to say, the honorable Hudson's Bay Company and the Half-breeds of the Indian territory, to be totally forgot and not to be recalled by either party.
- 5. Every person retiring peaceable from this river immediately, shall not be molested in their passage out.
- 6. No person passing the summer for the Hudson's Bay Company, shall remain in the buildings of the company but shall retire to some other spot, where they will establish for the purpose trade.

Cuthbert Grant, Bostonais Pangman William Shaw Bonhomme Montour

James Sutherland James White

The four chiefs of the Half-breeds, River

Red River Indian Territory, Forks, Red

25 June, 1815

Source: Pierre Falcon, http://www.abo-peoples.org/Features/Declaration/decapd.html (The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples).