



SEP 19TH



Métis Nation of Ontario



# Powley Day Standing Strong for Métis Rights

## About Powley Day

Powley Day is an important and significant Métis Rights victory at the Supreme Court of Canada that took place on September 19th 2003. The Powley case brought forward Métis rights that had long been denied by the Ontario government, including harvesting rights.

Father and son pair, Steve and Roddy Powley, set out to hunt moose on a fall day in October of 1993 in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. After they had finished their hunt, they tagged their bull moose with a Métis card along with a note reading, "harvesting my meat for winter". As Métis people, Steve Powley and his son did not have rights to hunt and kill the moose in Ontario, and a week after their hunt, they were charged by Conservation Officers for not having the proper license and for possessing the moose. Instead of continuing to pay fines and risk getting charged again when he began to hunt once more, Steve Powley decided it was time to take his fight for his rights to the courts.

On September 19th 2003, after 10 years of fighting for Métis rights to be constitutionally protected, Steve Powley and his family won a unanimous judgement by every level of court proceedings and finally, the Supreme Court of Canada. The judgement was not only a win for Steve Powley and his family, but it recognized and affirmed that the Métis people of Ontario and their communities hold constitutionally protected rights and that those rights go beyond harvesting.

It was this victory, and the sacrifices of Steve Powley and his family, that have helped to set the stage for many achievements for the Métis people across the Métis Nation Homeland, including the ground-breaking Métis Government Recognition and Self-government Agreements signed in June 2019 by the MNO, the Métis Nation of Alberta, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and the Manitoba Métis Federation. We continue to recognize and remember Steve Powley for his strength and determination to fight for the rights of his family and the Métis people for generations to come.

## Why Is Powley Day Important?



- The Métis people are a distinct Indigenous group that emerged in the early 1600s
- Métis Nations across Canada have been fighting for their rights ever since and it was only until 1982 that the Aboriginal and Treaty rights was amended to provide these constitutional protections.
- These rights have continued to be challenged and Steve Powley brought his case to the Supreme Court of Canada to seek justice in his Métis rights to harvest meat.
- It is an opportunity to celebrate the unique and distinct Indigenous group - Métis people within your classrooms, to learn about Métis culture, artwork, clothing, music, food, historical figures and land.

## Resources For Use

### Métis Nation of Ontario - Historical Timeline

This resource gives a rich timeline of historical events from the voyageurs, trading posts, treaties, land, etc. that shaped the Métis people of Canada and specifically Ontario. Click [here](#) to see the weblink.

### Powley Day - MNO - YouTube

This video demonstrates Powley Day's significance explained by MNO President - Margaret Froh. This video would be best suited for Grade 4 and up due to the complexities of the case. Click [here](#) to access the video link.

### Can You Tell Us About the Powley Case? - Mitch Case (Métis Leader) - YouTube

This video gives a complete and more simplistic understanding of the Powley Case that would be more accessible for Grades 4-8. Mitch Case discusses the trajectory of rights for the Métis people harvesting agreements that have come from this case across Canada. Click [here](#) for the video link.

### Interview with Steve Powley - MNO - YouTube

This quick video allows viewers to hear briefly about the case from Steve Powley himself and his sincere desire to provide for his family and exercise his Métis rights to harvest. Click [here](#) for the link.

