



*In the spirit of "Wahkohtowin"
let us serve our people
with courage, honor & charity.*

This brochure was designed and printed by
Bradly J. Mix
Great Grandson of Charles Sauvé.

Brad currently lives and works in Tacoma,
Washington USA. Brad is active in the
Métis / Native community of Puget Sound and
serves as a member of the Elder Council for the
VA Sweatlodge at American Lake Hospital.
Brad is proud to be married to Susan Mix,
a Hospice Bereavement Counselor
of many years. Brad and Susan's daughter
Zoe, attends UBC with
majors in Opera Performance and
Creative Writing.



LA CAUSE

Nation Métisse

A Compilation of Spiritual
Testimonials Honouring the Sacrifice of
Louis Riel for the Métis Cause.

Written by Charles Sauvé



*"Oh, Lord, I offer you
my entire life for this cause
and from my weakness
create an instrument
to help the inhabitants
of my fatherland."*

- Louis "David" Riel

Front and Back

Eight Page Booklet - Charles Sauvé's Letter to the Métis People

Digitally Printed

Folded Dimensions

8.5" x 5"

Client:

La Cause Nation Métisse

A SPECIAL NOTE WHEN READING: In the traumatic years following the Northwest Resistance, indigenous traditional beliefs had been publicly denigrated and mocked and sacred ceremonies outlawed. This hostile atmosphere had persisted until recent times and thankfully has been partially corrected with the Religious Freedoms Acts of the 1970s.

The repressive years noted above coincide with the early years Charles Sauvé served as the secretary of the Métis Union of Manitoba (1889 through 1897). It is important to recognize the constraints placed on Métis and Indigenous people when talking about or writing about their traditional spirituality. In many cases individuals used the safest mode of spiritual communication and drew from the dominant Christian Catholic or Protestant based ideologies of the time. Today as we read what was written by Charles Sauvé regarding the ultimate sacrifice of Louis Riel, we can consider what is inferred and what has been omitted.

WAHKOHTOWIN is a Cree word for a *philosophy of being* that links land, family, and identity into one inseparable whole. If one views, through the lens of Wahkohtowin, Louis Riel's spirituality, political activism, and final sacrifice, one is exposed to a nuanced understanding and an appreciation of the deeper indigenous values at work in his choices and style of leadership.

For more reading on Wahkohtowin and its traditional role in Métis culture please see Brenda Macdougall's excellent book, *One of the Family, Métis Culture in Nineteenth-Century Northwestern Saskatchewan*.

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The original document from which this brochure was created was written by Charles Sauvé as a letter titled, *Riel Surrenders Himself for His People*, apparently addressing the French Métis of Manitoba and its environs.

The original copy of this document:
Société historique de Saint-Boniface Archives,
General collection of the SHSB, 0001/26/020.
Photo of Louis Riel, Library and Archives Canada / C-018082.
Compiled, edited and designed by Bradly J. Mix*

English translation by Joe Novak**
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*The La Cause Nation Métisse logo and tag line, "In the spirit of Wahkohtowin...", used on this brochure was designed and written by Bradly J. Mix and was inspired by the passion of the *La Cause Métisse - Canadienne - Française* proclamation written by Charles Sauvé in 1908. The La Cause Nation Métisse logo design draws on traditional Métis symbols: the *Infirmary Sign* dating back to 1815 and Cuthbert Grant the first leader of the Métis Nation; the *Raised Hand* to invoke Spirit from the Batoche battle flag of 1885; also from the battle flag, the *Wolf* for his commitment to family and courage in the face of adversity.

** Translators note - This translation of Charles Sauvé's information about Riel and his times was done by Joe Novak. A great deal of the language quoted in this information is 19th century French which may seem a bit stiff to our 21st century minds but is, in fact, a window into the culture and thinking of those times. For this reason I have resisted the temptation to overly modernize it for the purpose of making it easier to read. These people talked like this, especially when the subjects were government, religion, pride and ethnicity. Those who could read and write were most often relatively well-educated and spoke and wrote accordingly. It is my hope that Riel and his contemporaries will appear in that light. *Sincerely, Joe Novak*

Batoche Cemetery, Monument and Graves honouring the fallen
heroes on the battles of the North West Resistance.
Photo by Thomas Gugler

*"His plan unveiled
divine secrets for those
who have eyes to see and
ears to hear."*

- Charles Sauvé

Secretary of
l'Union Métisse Saint-Joseph de Manitoba
1889 - 1897

Inside Spread