



# INDIGENOUS IDENTITY FRAUD SUMMIT

Preserving truth, honouring heritage

## Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit - Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. What is the Indigenous Identity Fraud Summit and why is it happening?

Given the threat of identity theft now confronting all Indigenous peoples, the Chiefs of Ontario (COO) and the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) came together to combat this existential threat to First Nations, Red River Métis, and Inuit peoples, Canada's legitimate Indigenous Nations.

The #IIFSummit will focus on the ongoing issues related to Bill C-53 and the Métis Nation of Ontario, the true national scale of the problem of collective Indigenous identity fraud, and options for a coordinated response to the theft of Indigenous identity by fraudulent organizations. It is imperative that we protect section 35 rights and legitimate rights-holders.

### 2. Why does Indigenous identity theft matter?

Indigenous identity theft is a profound concern, with far-reaching repercussions. It is a threat to the distinct identities of all First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit peoples. At the individual level, it opens the door to self-interested parties who may derive benefit from opportunities that are intended for Indigenous peoples, who have historically been marginalized.

On a collective level, these self-interested individuals sometimes join together to create the illusion of legitimacy, which can be leveraged to apply for funding they may not have the right to, taking away these funding opportunities from legitimate, recognized First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit rights holders. These groups lack connection to and acceptance by Indigenous Nations, and their success at applying for funding does not result in any benefit to the Indigenous Nations.

### 3. When and where is the IIF Summit happening?

The upcoming Indigenous Identity Fraud (IIF) Summit in Winnipeg on May 14 & 15, 2024. The in-person event will take place at the Fort Garry Hotel. The event will also be livestreamed.



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#### 4. Who is hosting the IIF Summit?

The Summit is being hosted by the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF), the National Government of the Red River Métis, and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), with an aim of tackling rampant identity theft faced by First Nations, Red River Métis, and Inuit peoples in Canada today.

#### 5. Who is attending?

The event will gather Leadership from First Nations, Red River Métis, and Inuit peoples across Canada who are concerned about the individual and wholesale theft of our respective identities by those seeking to use them for their own purposes or gains.

Registration is not open to the public. The Summit is a gathering of Leaders in order to centre the lived experiences of those most impacted by collective identity fraud.

Interested parties are encouraged to visit the Summit website for more information and tune into the livestream.

Members of the media are invited to attend to assist with amplifying this important issue.

#### 6. Will there be a livestream?

Yes, there will be a public livestream available via the MMF and COO social media channels.

#### 7. How can I support?

Share your story!

#IIFSummit

#PreservingTruthHonouringHeritage

If you'd like to share your story about how Indigenous identity theft has impacted your life you can share it via email [Indigenousidentityfraud@gmail.com](mailto:Indigenousidentityfraud@gmail.com). Please submit your comments by **Friday, June 14, 2024**. Anonymous comments will be deleted.



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## 8. Where can I find more information about the Summit?

For general information, please visit:

<https://indigenousidentityfraud.org/summit/> or email  
[Indigenousidentityfraud@gmail.com](mailto:Indigenousidentityfraud@gmail.com)

## 9. Who is the MMF?

The MMF is the National Government of the Red River Métis. As the successor of the 1869 National Committee of the Red River Métis, the MMF continues the democratic legacy of our Ancestors. The MMF represents the claims, rights, and interests of the Red River Métis and carries out its financial and administrative affairs while taking the necessary steps to meet its goals and objectives. The Red River Métis is the Indigenous collective — made up of its Citizens and individuals entitled to be MMF Citizens — located within what is now Manitoba, across our National Homeland, as well as living elsewhere inside and outside of Canada.

## 10. Who is COO?

COO supports all First Nations in Ontario as they assert their sovereignty, jurisdiction, and their chosen expression of nationhood. Guided by the Chiefs-in-Assembly, COO upholds self-determination efforts of the Anishinaabek, Mushkegowuk, Onkwehonwe, and Lenape Peoples in protecting and exercising their inherent and Treaty rights. Keeping in mind the wisdom of our Elders, and the future for our youth, COO continues to create the path forward in building Nations as strong, healthy Peoples respectful of ourselves, each other, and all creation.

## 11. What are section 35 rights and why do they matter?

Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 recognized and affirmed existing Indigenous and treaty rights and recognized three distinct peoples — First Nations, Inuit and Métis. The use of the word existing is important in the Constitution Act, because it denotes that the First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit peoples have rights that have not been extinguished, and acknowledges that these peoples made treaties with Canada that must be upheld. For example, the Red River Métis' first treaty with Canada was expressed in the 1870 Manitoba Act, which brought Manitoba into Canada's confederation.



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## **12. Why is UNDRIP referenced in the context of this Summit?**

Article 8 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states that Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right not to be subjected to forced assimilation or destruction of their culture. Widespread identity fraud extinguishes that right. It further requires Canada to provide effective tools to prevent and correct any action that has the aim or effect of depriving Indigenous peoples of their integrity as distinct peoples, or of their cultural values or ethnic identities. In essence, First Nations, Inuit and the Red River Métis assert that groups and individuals making false claims to Indigenous identity are engaging in the assimilation and erasure of legitimate Nations. This issue must be addressed not only by legitimate Indigenous rights-holders, but also by the state and other institutions.

## **13. What will the IIF Summit accomplish?**

Leadership and expert panelists will discuss the true national scale of collective Indigenous identity fraud and explore options for a coordinated response and solutions to this problem, highlighting the imperative of protecting section 35 rights and legitimate Indigenous rights holders.