The Metis Identity Crisis

In 1982 the Canadian Government recognized Aboriginal People of Canada as three groups which include Indian (First nations), Metis, and Inuit. However, there is a lot of debate currently about who can identify themselves as Metis. **The Métis National Council** consequently adopted the following **definition** of “**Métis**” in 2002: “**Métis**”**means** a person who self-identifies as **Métis**, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic **Métis** Nation Ancestry and who is accepted by **the Métis** Nation.”

In 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada confirmed that Métis are a rights-bearing Aboriginal people. Its judgement in R. v. Powley set out the components of a Métis definition for the purpose of claiming Aboriginal rights under section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. These are:

• Self-identification as a member of a Métis community.  
• Ancestral connection to the historic Métis community whose practices ground the right in question  
• Acceptance by the modern community with continuity to the historic Métis community.

However, the **Manitoba Metis Federation** and its president David Chartrand have a different definition.

Watch the following videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzNYGW0OimY> Metis Identity Crisis

http://aptnnews.ca/2016/01/20/face-to-face-defining-the-metis/ Manitoba Metis Federation

1. What arguments do “Metis” from the east give for identifying themselves as Metis?
2. Why do you think that people east of Manitoba who are trying to identify as Metis recently?
3. Who does David Chartrand believe is Metis? What separates the Manitoba Metis from other peoples who claim to be Metis according to Chartrand?
4. Have Metis from communities who are part of the Manitoba Metis Federation suffered under residential schools and the 60’s scoop? <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/sixties-scoop-agreement-metis-left-out-1.4345412>

http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/manitoba-metis-residential-school-commemoration-1.4169387

1. Who do you believe should be considered Metis? Explain your position.