

Gerald Friesen was born and grew up in Prince Albert. He is now Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at the University of Manitoba, where he taught from 1970 to 2011. He has written and edited numerous books and articles, including The Canadian Prairies: A History (1984), and Citizens and Nation (2000). His newest book, published this spring, is The Honourable John Norquay: Indigenous Premier, Canadian Statesman.

Reading will take place at 7pm on Tuesday,
September 24th at the PA Public Library - Mahon Auditorium.

In this talk, and his book, Friesen will present new ways of understanding prairie history by focusing on the Bungee/English-speaking Métis and introducing the biography of John Norquay. He will connect the Red River story to the Prince Albert area with many insights into early Red River life and what pushed many Métis further west.

Did people in Prince Albert and district actually instigate the Métis-Canada war of 1885? How were his friends Andrew Spence and William Jackson, and Charles Adams, brother-in-law, connected to Louis Riel? Norquay disagreed strongly with those who supported Louis Riel and Gabriel Dumont and many English Métis at the time such as James Isbister were also reluctant when violence threatened. Letters in the recently opened papers of John Norquay offer insights into this tragic story. The English Métis premier of Manitoba, John Norquay, was the lone national political leader close to the action.



