

Hardship Growing Up

George Fleury, Métis Elder: I experienced a lot of hunger because there was 11 in our family and there was not anything that you could call steady work. My parents had to go out and scrounge and try to find work - do whatever to provide food. There was a time I remember when the relief would come in, but even that was not enough. All they gave you for relief was tea, baking powder and flour. I guess what that means you can have tea and you can have bannock. If you didn't have anything else to go with it, that is all you had. You know a bag of flour didn't last very long with 11 people eating out of it. And, there was a difference between the Métis and the First Nations people. Well, they weren't called First Nations then, they were called Indian people. But, they had the treaty which helped them so they could go out and shoot deer and have meat in their house, where the Métis people couldn't. If they ever found out that you had a deer in your house they would come and take it away from you and charge you.