

Our shared stories.
Our shared future.



In the classroom

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Cover: East Ward Winnipeg with St. Boniface in the distance, 1875.

Land acknowledgement

Winnipeg is located in Treaty One Territory, the home and traditional lands of the Anishinaabe (Ojibwe), Ininew (Cree), and Dakota peoples, and in the National Homeland of the Red River Métis. Our drinking water comes from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, in Treaty Three Territory.

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Introducing Winnipeg 150

Our shared stories. Our shared future.

In 2024, Winnipeg marks 150 years as a city. It is an opportunity for us to reflect on our past, and look ahead to our future.

With this in mind, we are pleased to introduce *Winnipeg 150 in the classroom*. This booklet, created by the City of Winnipeg Archives, is a resource for teachers and students. It can help them explore and learn about our city's history.

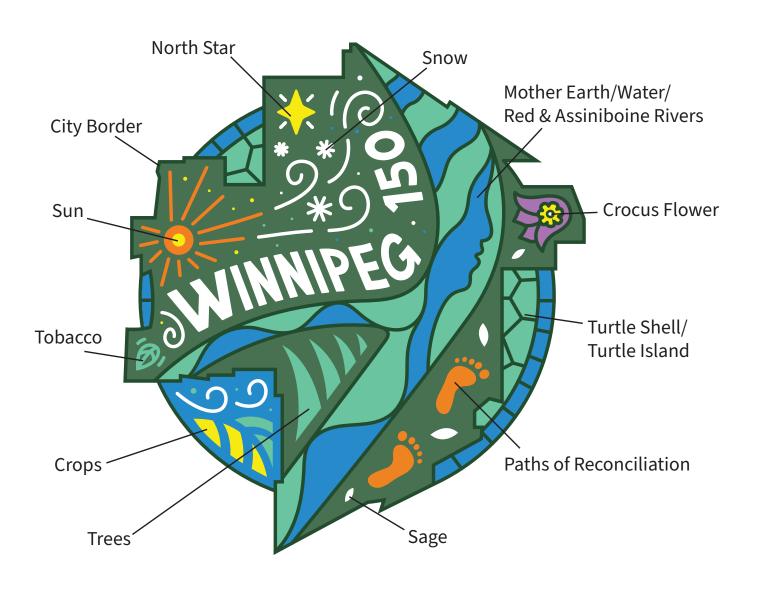
It has information about some of the symbols that have been used to represent Winnipeg. The booklet also includes a historical timeline and a collection of archival images.

A number of learning activities for teachers and students (Grades 1-8) have been designed as part of this. The learning activities are separate from the booklet, but they are designed to work together.

Enjoy learning about the history of our city!

DID YOU KNOW?

Winnipeg derives its name from the Cree word of 'win' for muddy and 'nippee' for water. An Indigenous trading centre prior to the arrival of the Europeans, Winnipeg was at the heart of the country's fur trade and instrumental in developing Canada's gateway to the west.





Winnipeg 150 graphic

To help mark 150 years, we unveiled a graphic which represents our city as we know it, while acknowledging the importance of our Indigenous roots.

In anticipation of Winnipeg 150, we worked with a local artist, Jordan Stranger of Totem Doodem.

Stranger's work is deeply rooted in the traditions within contemporary Indigenous culture, and he uses his life experiences and spiritual practice learned through Ojibwe teachings to drive his artistic passions.

The graphic features the current footprint of the City of Winnipeg over top a turtle shell to represent Turtle Island.

The Red and Assiniboine rivers are displayed, within which we see the image of a woman, meant to represent Mother Earth.

Small leaves can be seen throughout the graphic, signifying crops including sage and tobacco. It also includes an image of a crocus, which is part of the City crest. Four trees to remind us of the seasons, the four directions, and the four stages of life.

The graphic also includes a tribute to our varied seasons including sun and snow, and a bright north star.



A short history of Winnipeg as told through its two official City crests and mottos

Gateway to the west: "Commerce, prudence, and industry"

In 1862, several stores opened in the unincorporated village of Winnipeg, which emerged from within the Red River Settlement. More than a decade later, on November 8, 1873, the Legislature passed An Act to Incorporate the City of Winnipeg, officially making Winnipeg a city and adopting its name. The first election was held the following year on January 5, 1874. The first City Council meeting took place later that month on January 19, 1874. This is why the city has historically commemorated 1874 as its anniversary year.

At the time of incorporation, Winnipeg consisted of about five square kilometers. The city's southern and eastern boundaries were marked by the Red and Assiniboine rivers. Present-day Maryland Street, Notre Dame Avenue, and McPhillips Street marked its western limits, while Burrows Avenue west of Main Street and Aberdeen Avenue east of Main Street defined its northern boundary. Significant extensions to the boundaries were made in 1875, 1882, 1906, 1962, and 1972.

The first City of Winnipeg crest and motto

Winnipeg's first City Council adopted the City's original crest and the motto: "Commerce, prudence, industry." The crest included a locomotive to represent the coming of the railroad, and sheaves of wheat to symbolize agriculture and Winnipeg's position as the gateway to the west. The crest also showed a bison, a strong symbol of the prairies, looking west and indicating "progress" westward.



Unicity: "One with the strength of many"

In the 1960s, the City of Winnipeg was one of 13 municipalities in the Greater Winnipeg area. The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg (also known as Metro) was established to coordinate services and planning among the local governments (1960-1971). In 1972, the municipalities amalgamated, creating the unified City of Winnipeg. The municipalities consisted of:

- City of East Kildonan
- City of St. Boniface
- City of St. James-Assiniboia
- City of St. Vital
- City of Transcona
- City of West Kildonan
- · City of Winnipeg

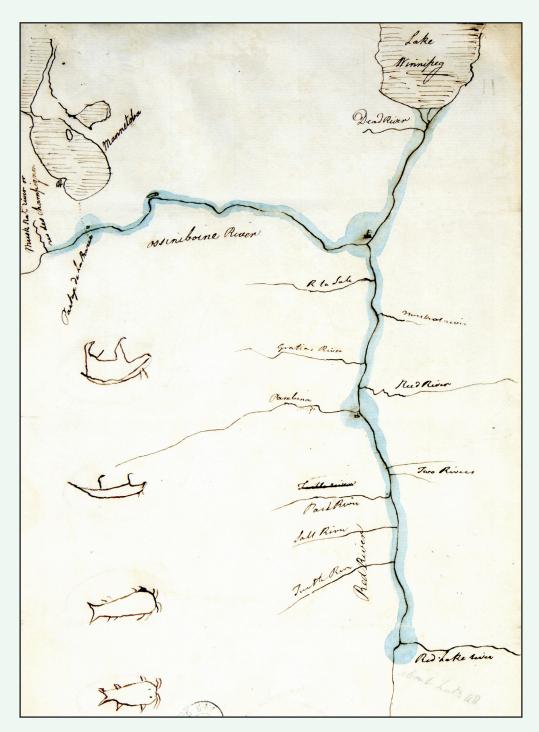
- Town of Tuxedo
- Rural Municipality of Charleswood
- Rural Municipality of Fort Garry
- Rural Municipality of North Kildonan
- Rural Municipality of Old Kildonan
- Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg

The new unified City Council consisted of 50 councillors, one from each of the 50 wards, and a mayor elected from the city-at-large. In 1977, further legislation reduced the number of wards to twenty-nine. Further reductions were made in 1989, 1991, and 1992. The current City of Winnipeg Charter was passed by the Manitoba Legislature in 2003, which outlined further changes to the structure of municipal government.

A new City crest and motto

In 1973, City Council adopted a new crest for Winnipeg and a new motto, "UNUM CUM VIRTUTE MULTORUM", Latin for "One with the strength of many". The current crest depicts 13 gold stars and the Fort Garry Gate, which represents the area's heritage and the 13 municipal governments, including Metro, that were unified. The blue background depicts Winnipeg's clear blue skies. Below the sky, a prairie crocus upon a plain green field represents Winnipeg's location on the prairies.

Historical timeline



The Selkirk Treaty of 1817. Hudson's Bay Company Archives.

What follows is a brief overview of Winnipeg's history. It is by no means complete. To learn more, we recommend exploring a wide range of sources, including oral histories, books, archives, museums, and more.

Year	Description
circa 1285	Nine First Nations meet at The Forks to create a Peace Treaty covering much of the Plains. An estimated 4,000 people attend.
1738	Fur trading post of Fort Rouge is established.
1790s	Chief Peguis of the Saulteaux leads his band from Sault Ste. Marie to Netley Creek, south of Lake Winnipeg.
1812	Lord Selkirk's settlers reach the banks of the Red River where Winnipeg now stands.
1816	June 19 - Battle of Seven Oaks, or the Victory at Frog Plain, takes place.
1817	July 18 - Treaty is signed between Lord Selkirk and five Anishinaabe and Ininew leaders, referred to in the treaty as "Chiefs and Warriors of the Chippeway or Saulteaux Nation, and the Killistine or Cree Nation", recognizing Indigenous land rights.
1822	Fort Garry (formerly Fort Gibraltar) is built.
1869	Attempt to transfer land from Hudson's Bay Company to the Dominion of Canada without Métis consultation is interrupted by the Red River Resistance.
1869	Provisional government is formed in the Red River Settlement under the leadership of Louis Riel.
1870	Thomas Scott is found guilty of treason by the provisional government and executed by firing squad.
1870	Military expedition from Eastern Canada led by Colonel Garnet Wolseley reaches Fort Garry. Louis Riel escapes to United States.
1870	Province of Manitoba is formed and becomes the fifth province in the Dominion of Canada.
1871	August 3 – After eight days of negotiation, Treaty No. 1 is signed at Lower Fort Garry between the Crown and seven Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and Ininew (Cree) First Nations: the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation, Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation, Long Plain First Nation, Peguis First Nation, Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation, Sandy Bay Ojibway First Nation, and Swan Lake First Nation.
1873	November 8 - Winnipeg is incorporated; four wards with three Aldermen (now known as Councillors) for each ward.



Market Square and Princess Street looking west from City Hall clock tower, 1900.

1874	January 5 - Winnipeg elects its first Mayor and Council.
1874	January 19, noon - First meeting of Winnipeg's City Council is held.
1874	February 9 - City Council instructs the City Clerk to "obtain a cupboard to contain the Corporation papers". The City's records are now preserved at the City of Winnipeg Archives.
1875	Cornerstone laying ceremony for the first City Hall takes place with a casket containing photos and documents placed inside.
1875	City limits are extended to Aberdeen Avenue between Main Street and McPhillips Street.
1876	The municipality of Kildonan and St. John's is incorporated.
1876	First City Hall is completed.
1878	First railway service to Winnipeg from St. Paul, Minnesota arrives.
1880	The municipality of Kildonan and St. John's becomes the RM of Kildonan.
1880	RM of Assiniboia is incorporated.
1880	RM of St. Boniface is incorporated.
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The North End market behind Dufferin Avenue and Derby Street, circa 1914.

1885	November 16 - Dominion of Canada charges Louis Riel with treason and he is hanged in Regina.
1886	Second City Hall is completed.
1886	July 1 - First railway train over the Canadian Pacific Railway from Montreal to Vancouver arrives.
1892	First electric street cars appear.
1893	First meeting of the Winnipeg Public Parks Board takes place.
1899	City of Winnipeg purchases Water Works Company, supplying well water from 1900-1911.
1902	Brookside Cemetery is included in city limits.
1903	The RM of St. Boniface changes its name to the RM of St. Vital.
1905	Assiniboine Park is included in city limits.
1906	Elmwood is taken into City from RM of Kildonan and wards increased to seven.
1907	Lot 3, Parish of Kildonan, lying west of McGregor Street, is taken into the City.
1908	High Pressure Pumping Station and piping system is constructed.
1908	Redwood Bridge is built.
1911	Municipal Hydro-Electric Works at Pointe du Bois is completed and put in operation.
1912	April 16 - RM of Fort Garry is incorporated. Formerly part of RM of St. Vital.
1912	Town of Transcona is incorporated.
1912	Elm Park Bridge is built.
1913	RM of Charleswood is incorporated.
1913	Town of Tuxedo is incorporated.
1913	Lots 1 and 2, St. Charles, are added to the City, making up part of Ward One.
1913	City limits are extended west to Doncaster Street.
1914	RM of Kildonan is split into the RM of West Kildonan and the RM of East Kildonan.
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Winnipeg City Hall, the "Gingerbread" City Hall, 1950.

1918	Kildonan Park and Golf Course are included in city limits.
1919	April 5 - Greater Winnipeg Aqueduct is completed and water from Shoal Lake is piped into Winnipeg water mains.
1919	May 15 to June 26 - Winnipeg General Strike takes place.
1920	March 27 – Legislation passes to reduce the number of wards of the City from seven to three, and increase the number of aldermen from 14 to 18.
1920	December 3 - First Civic Election is held under the Proportional Representation system.
1921	RM of St. James is incorporated.
1921	Rural portion of West Kildonan separates and is incorporated as the RM of Old Kildonan.
1921	Village of Brooklands is incorporated.
1925	Rural portion of East Kildonan separates and is incorporated as the RM of North Kildonan.
1931	September 1 - Municipal Hydro-Electric Generating Station at Slave Falls officially opens.
1937	North Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant is completed.
1938	Winnipeg Charter is amended to provide for two-year term for Mayor.
1939	May 24 - Official visit of His Majesty King George VI and Princess Elizabeth.
1942	November 27 - First civic election with adult suffrage in effect.
1950	April-June - Winnipeg experiences its largest flood in 89 years, leading to large-scale evacuations and significant property damage.
1951	October 16 - Official visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh.
1954	City limits are extended west to centre line of Edgeland Boulevard.
1955	September 19 - Last street car line - Portage Avenue and Main Street – is discontinued and street cars are replaced with diesel buses.
1956	City of St. James is incorporated.
1957	July 1 - East Kildonan is incorporated as a City.



Nairn overpass approaching completion, October 1967.

1958	November 3 - Council approves the sale of property located on Grant Avenue and Nathaniel Street to the Winnipeg School Division, forcing the displacement of the Métis community known as Rooster Town.
1959	July 24 and 25 - Visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.
1960	Town of Brooklands is incorporated.
1960	March 26 - The Metropolitan Corporation of Greater Winnipeg is incorporated.
1961	April - Transcona and West Kildonan are incorporated as cities.
1962	City limits are extended westerly to west limits of No. 6 and No. 7 Provincial Trunk Highways to include area of approximately 3,500 acres effective January 1, 1963.
1964	October 5 - Winnipeg's new Civic Centre is officially opened.
1965	December 14 - St. Vital Bridge is officially opened.
1966	March 4 - Winnipeg is hit by one of the worst blizzards in Manitoba history.
1966	May 18 - Public Safety Building is officially opened.
1967	Fifth Pan American Games is held in Winnipeg.
1968	Red River Floodway is opened.
1969	The City of St. James merges with the RM of Assiniboia to become the City of St. James-Assiniboia.
1970	The first Folklorama is held, featuring 21 different cultures.
1971	Royal assent is given to Bill 36, known as "The City of Winnipeg Act creating Unicity".
1971	October 6 - Election of first council of new unified City of Winnipeg.
1972	January 4 - Inaugural meeting of the first council of the new unified City of Winnipeg takes place.
1972	Deacon Reservoir is completed.
1973	June – Assiniboia Indian Residential School closes. Federally funded and operated by the Grey Nuns and Oblate Fathers, the school opened in 1958 and was part of the federal government's educational system under the Indian Act.
1974	The first Winnipeg Folk Festival takes place.



Witch's Hut at Kildonan Park, February 11, 1971.

1974	September 16 - South Winnipeg Sewage Treatment Plant goes into operation.
1977	May 4 - Winnipeg Centennial Library officially opened.
1977	October 26 - Communities are reduced from 12 to six, and wards are reduced from 50 to 29.
1978	November 15 - Fort Garry Bridge officially opened.
1982	Replacement bridge at Portage Avenue and Sturgeon Creek officially opened.
1984	October 29 - Slaw Rebchuk Bridge officially opened.
1987	North Portage Development in downtown Winnipeg is opened, including shopping mall, pedestrian bridges over Portage Avenue, and apartments. A joint development by the Federal, Provincial and City Governments, and private enterprise.
1988	July 28 - The Forks Development sod turning ceremony takes place.
1989	Council creates the Access Advisory Committee to enhance accessibility for persons with disabilities.
1989	October 4 - The Forks Market is opened.
1989	October 18 - Keewatin Underpass is opened.
1990	July 6 to 14 - Western Canada Summer Games are held in Winnipeg.
1990	October 19 - Kildonan Bridge over the Red River is officially opened.
1991	November 1 - Official naming of the Chief Peguis Trail Roadway, which connects the Kildonan Bridge to Main Street and to Henderson Highway, takes place.
1990	November 8 - Pembina Highway overpass at Abinojii Mikanah and extension of Bishop Grandin Boulevard to Waverley Street are opened.
1991	May 8 - Council approves the naming of Route 17 as "Chief Peguis Trail".
1992	May 9 - Headingley is incorporated as separate municipality.
1992	October 7 - Changes to the City of Winnipeg Act consolidate the City into 15 wards and five community areas.
1992	October 28 - Susan A. Thompson becomes the first woman to be elected as Mayor of Winnipeg.
1992	November 3 - Inaugural meeting of the reduced Council following the 1992 Civic Election takes place.



The Red River Floodway during the 1997 flood.

1993	November 8 – Mayor Susan Thompson proclaims November 8 as "Recognition and Remembrance Day for Aboriginal Veterans".
1994	April 28 - Council passes City By-law No. 6402/94 for the provision of municipal services in both English and French.
1995	October 24 - Charleswood Bridge is opened.
1995	October 25 - Automatic voting is introduced.
1997	April - May - The "Flood of the Century" causes significant damage to the Red River Valley.
1997	October 29 - City of Winnipeg Act is amended, replacing the Board of Commissioners with a Chief Administrative Officer model and providing for a four-year term of office for Mayor and Councillors.
1999	June - CanWest Global Baseball Park officially opens.
1999	July 24 to August 8 - Winnipeg hosts the 13th Pan American Games.
1999	December 26, 1998 to January 5, 1999 - Winnipeg hosts the World Junior Hockey Championships.
2000	Winnipeg endorses the Maskwachees Declaration, committing to be a partner with the Indigenous community to reinforce traditional, cultural, and spiritual values while addressing issues related to poverty, unemployment, training, and education.
2001	City Council adopts "Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision," requiring the City to promote self-reliant Indigenous communities.
2002	February 27 - Council approves the sale of Winnipeg Hydro to Manitoba Hydro.
2002	May 31 - Gay Pride flag is raised at City Hall for the first time.
2002	July 25 to August 4 - Winnipeg hosts the North American Indigenous Games.
2002	October 8 to 9 - Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth the II and the Duke of Edinburgh visit Winnipeg during her Golden Jubilee Anniversary celebrations and officially unveil the restored Golden Boy.
2002	December 11 - Council passes The Official Languages of Municipal Services By-law No. 8154/2002 for the provision of municipal services in both official languages.
2002	The Aboriginal Employee Group (AEG) is established to provide the City with information and leadership on Indigenous priorities and resources.
2003	January 1 - The new City of Winnipeg Charter comes into effect replacing the City of Winnipeg Act.



Indigenous Accord Signing Ceremony at Oodena Circle, 2017.

2003	April 5 to 13 - Winnipeg hosts the Ford World Curling Championships.
2003	Fall - The Provencher Twin Bridges are completed and the pedestrian walkway named "Esplanade Riel".
2003	The First Steps: Municipal Aboriginal Pathways (MAP), City Council's foundational Indigenous policy, is adopted.
2004	November 16 – MTS Centre is opened.
2005	November 8 - Renovated Millennium Library is opened.
2006	October 25 - First civic election to make use of the "Automark" voting system for blind and visually-impaired voters takes place.
2008	City Council passes a motion to adopt the Indigenous Youth Strategy to give Indigenous youth positive opportunities in the community and civic system.
2009	January - The 311 Contact Centre, the City's first integrated call centre, is launched.
2009	December - Winnipeg's new state-of-the-art \$300 million drinking water treatment plant begins delivering treated water to residents.
2009	The City of Winnipeg is gifted the name Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak (Ojibway for Young Indigenous People Leading) for its Indigenous Youth Strategy.
2010	June 16 to 19 - The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's first national event takes place at The Forks.
2010	July - the Governments of Canada, Manitoba, and Winnipeg sign a Memorandum of Collaboration to work together on actions to improve the socio-economic outcomes for Indigenous peoples in Winnipeg and the capacity of Indigenous organizations.
2011	October 30 - Winnipeg Airports Authority (WAA) officially welcomes travelers through the doors of the redeveloped James Armstrong Richardson International Airport.
2011	The Atlanta Thrashers hockey franchise move to Winnipeg and are renamed the Winnipeg Jets.
2014	September 20 - The Canadian Museum for Human Rights opens, the first national museum to be built outside of Ottawa.
2015	June 6 to July 5 - Winnipeg hosts the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup alongside five other Canadian cities.
2016	January 22 - Mayor Brian Bowman declares 2016 as the Year of Reconciliation.



City Council Chamber, 2022.

March 22 - Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord is adopted unanimously by City Council. 2017 July 19 - Council unanimously approves the renaming of the "North Centennial Recreation and 2017 Leisure Facility" to "Sergeant Tommy Prince Place" in recognition of the First Nations war hero. July 28 to August 13 - Winnipeg hosts the Canada Summer Games. 2017 November 14 - Council consolidates the Citizen Equity, Access Advisory, and Mayor's Age Friendly 2018 Seniors' Advisory Committee into a new Human Rights Committee of Council, to focus on human rights, diversity, equity, access, peace, and inclusion. 2019 Residents are encouraged to provide feedback on ways to address the absence of Indigenous perspectives and history in the City's place names and markers, leading to the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. May 21 - The contents of the time capsule that was placed in the cornerstone of the Public Safety 2019 Building are unveiled. August 18 - Waverley Underpass opens to traffic. 2019 October 9 to 13 - Winnipeg is hit by a powerful snowstorm that left 50,000 residents without power 2019 and damaged ten percent of the City's public trees. April 3 - City Council declares a state of local emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 Winnipeg is named the world's most intelligent community by the Intelligent Community Forum. 2021 March 21 to 27 - City of Winnipeg hosts its inaugural Anti-Racism Week to build awareness and help 2021 address racism within the city. July 22 - City Council declares 2022 the Year of the Garden. 2021 2021 September 15 - Flags representing Treaty One Nation, Dakota Nations, and the Métis Nation are raised at City Hall for permanent display. The City of Winnipeg and Treaty One Nation sign the Gaawijijigemangit Agreement for municipal 2022 services at Naawi-Oodena site. September 20 – During a Special Meeting of Council, Inuit, Red River Métis, Treaty One, Cree, and 2022 Dakota Nation representatives gift to the City sacred and cultural items for permanent display in the Council Chamber. March 23 - Council votes unanimously to change the names, in principle, of Bishop Grandin 2023 Boulevard to Abinojii Mikanah, Bishop Grandin Trail to Awasisak Mēskanow, and Grandin Street to Taapweewin Way.



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