

Louis Riel.

A Canadian icon.

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There is no question that the Métis leader, Louis Riel was a major figure in Canadian history. But is he a hero or a villain? Let's expand on that. The definition of evil is: "profoundly immoral and wicked." While Riel broke many laws in Canada in his lifetime, he almost never did anything to act wicked or immoral. Other than Thomas Scott, almost ever fight he came into and every Canadian trooper he kidnapped was to negotiate and talk with the Canadian government. So would he be a hero? The definition of a hero is: "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities." While Riel did many things that were heroic and you can argue that he was a hero. I wouldn't call him a hero as his actions were helped the red river settlement and overall, Manitoba, I don't think his achievement were impacting and helping any where else directly, (while indirectly he helped create B.C., by making the Canadian government use the railway). I personally believe that Louis Riel was a figure who wasn't not doing actions that were purely good or bad, but actions to help his people and land.