



Artwork by George Gingras

## C is for Capote

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A capote (ka-poa) is a hooded jacket that was made from a woollen **Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) Point Blanket**. These jackets were lightweight and warm. They could be worn in every season except summer when they were too warm to wear. Only men wore them. The bottoms of the coats were made wider to allow for greater leg movement. This wider bottom was useful for men involved in the **fur trade** because it provided them with greater mobility. The capotes were almost always fastened together with a sash, the Métis woven belt. These coats became so popular that each group of fur traders adopted a specific colour to represent themselves. The **North West Company** chose blue while the HBC chose red as their main colour. **First Nations** and French Canadians also wore capotes.

### Other Resources:

Barkwell, Lawrence J., L. Dorion, and A. Hourie. *Metis Legacy II: Michif Culture, Heritage, and Folkways*. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2007.

Troupe, Cheryl. *Expressing Our Heritage: Métis Artistic Designs*. Study Prints and Teachers' Manual. Saskatoon: Gabriel Dumont Institute, 2002.

*The Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture* ([www.metismuseum.ca](http://www.metismuseum.ca)).

