

LITTLE SHELL CHIPPEWA TRIBE

Chippewa and Métis

Tribal Seal Description: “The seal and flag of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe was designed in 2006 by then Tribal Vice-Chairman James Parker Shield. Shield came up with four different versions for a new tribal flag and seal, which he had printed in the tribe’s newsletter so tribal members could vote on which one they liked best. This design, with the buffalo, eagle staff and Métis flag, was the top choice.

The buffalo was central to the survival and economy of the Pembina Chippewa (from whom the Little Shell are descended) and the Métis people. The buffalo image faces West to symbolize the migration of the Little Shell Chippewa and Métis from the Great Lakes region in Minnesota to what is now North Dakota and Montana.

Years ago, tribal spiritual leader Henry Anderson was presented with a single eagle feather by a Chippewa man from Wisconsin. The eagle feather is very old and now hangs from the “crook” in the eagle staff that is behind the buffalo. The eagle staff represents the full-blood, traditional heritage of the Little Shell Chippewa Tribe. The eagle staff was made by Henry Anderson and presented to the tribe. It is carried by a tribal leader or veteran, leading the Grand Entry at the Little Shell Chippewa Pow-Wow each year.

The red and white background colors of the “Assiniboia” flag used by the Métis people represent the mixed blood heritage of the tribe. The yellow “fleur de lis” represents the French heritage of the mixed blood Chippewa while the green shamrock represents the Scots/Irish heritage. The yellow background on the Little Shell flag depicts the color of the sun.”

Tribal Website: <http://tribalnations.mt.gov/littleshell> (At present there is not a Little Shell Tribal Nation website.)

