

Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher, and Ron Laliberte:

Métis Political Activist Interviews (April 17, 2004)

Tape 2

**Start Clip: 6:08:42.02**

**(Video Tape: 6:08.42.02) RON LALIBERTE:** Okay maybe I could get you to talk about the inclusion of the Métis in the *Constitution Act* in 1982, you know, the whole process behind that, and how, how the Métis were included and what your roles were in all of that.

**(Video Tape: 6:08.53.23) JIM SINCLAIR:** Well I think again Saskatchewan took a lead role in that. We were, Trudeau had sent out a writ that he was inviting the Métis, the Indians and the Inuit to Constitutional conference over five years, four conferences in five years to talk, to discuss the rights of our people and include them in the Constitution hopefully. And at that time we were part of the Native Council of Canada, we, Saskatchewan has been in and out over the years anyway and we had, because we're a very radical group and didn't like some things they were doing. But then we, we thought it over carefully because, again Trudeau when he did send out the writ he said that Native Council would represent the Métis because we were part of that organization. We definitely said a flat no. We only had a couple of weeks and at that time of course we did have some money and Durocher, Jimmy Durocher said, "I will look and see if I can find some money so that if we do have to go to court we will be able to fund the process." We called a big meeting in Edmonton already with that knowledge in mind, and I think we had about 500 people show up in Edmonton from across Western Canada, from Ontario west. And we sat down and we explained the situation and said we're now on the outside looking in. Even though the Métis could be included there's no guarantee, there was not, a lot of discussion at that time with, about the Métis being inclusive in the Constitution. And there was,

there was a feeling that we wanted to make sure we secured our position. So we said that we would then, what would be our options? And one of them was to take the Prime Minister to court for excluding us and that was discussed at the meeting in, in Edmonton. As I said before, that I was chosen to do that. I was asked to do that by the people that was there. I think Harry Daniels was there, there were others that were there and some of the other leaders, all the Métis leaders were there from across Canada.

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