

Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher, and Ron Laliberte:

Métis Political Activist Interviews (April 17, 2004)

Tape 2

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**(Video Tape: 7:43.36.23) RON LALIBERTE:** Well, you know, when you look back on the Charlottetown Accord, with the Meech Lake Accord, no, no sorry, the Métis Nation Accord that was in the, in the Charlottetown Accord. Were you guys involved in that?

**JIM DUROCHER & JIM SINCLAIR:** No.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** But they didn't include, they didn't put anything in there. They didn't include any...

**RON LALIBERTE:** In the Meech Lake Accord, sorry, the, in the Constit-, Charlottetown Accord they had something called the, the Métis Nation Accord, which was, if it would have passed in that national referendum, they would have, it would have forced the government, or made a guarantee, with the government that they would have implemented self-government.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Oh yeah, I suppose, yeah I suppose... **(inaudible)** ...

**RON LALIBERTE:** And they were going to, between there would be a tripartite agreement between the provinces and the federal government and the Métis Nations to provide them with land, and there was something about enumeration and devolution of programs too. Of course when that failed, that went out the window.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Yeah but, does that make you go home and sit at home?

**RON LALIBERTE:** No, no.

**(Video Tape: 7:44.33.16) JIM SINCLAIR:** ... **(inaudible)** ...we done the same thing, nothing would have ever happened. You can't take that and, you know, and I think this is where again, you go back to the old days of organizing again. When you have trouble like that you go back to the communities and you get community support. And when you get community support you have a hard time to lose. And Northern Saskatchewan is, has been one of the most political awareness people I have ever seen and they're so frustrated right now and I talk to them, you know, about what to do and how to go about it. And, you know, it hurts me because, again I'd like to see these people move on. And I know where they're going to get into a lot of arguments when they get into the room with. Man oh man, you know, those kind of discussions can bring out solutions, you know, they don't have to bring out negative things. They can, they can come to some solutions on what they need and government today has got to get the message, because I'll tell you what, you know. It makes me so angry because in Ontario now they have the Muslims can actually make laws that will be recognized by the Ontario government now to deal with family matters, and matters of, of the family, and matters including many things in terms of not go to the courts. Okay. Now here is a people that has come over from another country that on religious basis can start making decisions on their own lives and ...

**(inaudible)** ...much like we want in our Constitution and here we can't do that and we have the Constitutional right to do that, yet people are bringing their culture from another land...

**JIM DUROCHER:** It's in our Constitution already.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Taking it into Canada, and then, then these people are, are saying okay we want to enforce these laws and they're saying "Yes you can do it." So, you know, again, the other thing is I can't understand when you

have a crash like the Air India crash, where 300 and some people get killed. And you have a man who is a millionaire now, who's bringing their war to this country, Canada, instead of leaving it over there where it belongs. And they bring it here and they fight they're war here and when they go out and kill 300 and some people in a terrorist act, and this person is a millionaire and he is applying for public funding to defend himself and gets it. Now, what do you, what does that make Canada sound like in terms of helping others? And we're sitting here, we belong to this country, and it's still our land and, constitutionally, and we're denied that right. So what we need to do, and this is something again that I look at, we need to take and teach our children about Constitutional rights, and about our agenda for Constitutional rights, and how we're going to gain governance and land base okay. Because no one else is going to help us. Every new Canadian that comes in is not taught anything about the Treaties, is not taught anything about Métis rights. So eventually that's not even going to be mentioned. So, you know, who's got to implement that? The Métis themselves. And you can not go any place else for that. You can gain support by doing something that's right. You can gain support, as I told you, if you, if you can show, you don't really shouldn't have to show it, but you can show that to be economically viable yourselves, you're going to be an asset to Canada rather than a, than, than a negative, negative position, or being a deficit in this country. You're going to contribute and without that Canada is not going to grow. You can not always be on the welfare roll, you know, you've to move ahead and in order to do that you have to have power, and the Constitution gives you those powers. So it's a matter, again, of getting out and getting your agenda together and going back to the communities and working with the communities.

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