

Nora Cummings, Peter Bishop, and Ron Laliberte:
Métis Political Activist Interviews (Feb 28, 29, 2004)

Tape 3

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Ron Laliberte: Well, certainly when you look back and the contributions of both Clarence Trotchie and, and your brother Rod, then when you think about it they laid the ground work in many ways for the institutions that we see of the Métis Nation today and certainly the leadership that you see today. If we could move on a little bit, and if I can ask you to reflect a bit on, you know when you look back in, with your involvement in the Métis movement, what are some of the most positive things that you've seen since you began, began in the movement and that, that came out of all of that that you see today? What are the most positive things that, that you can reflect on and say, "Well, you know, this is something that I'm, I'm really glad to see today in terms of whether you're talking about education, the living conditions, have, have they improved or you know I, any, any issues around Métis identify or anything like that? Do you see, what, when you reflect on that what do you see as the most positive...

Peter Bishop: Yeah.

Ron Laliberte: ...thing that, things that type of leadership, you know, left for the Métis people today or some of the things that you see that are really positive that came out of all that?

(Video Time: 3:23.57.12) Peter Bishop: I would say the most positive thing that came out of there when I was involved with the organization. I used to be a board member too as well. Was the Gabriel Dumont Institute. The most positive I would think. Because it's probably one of the most successful institutions that we have, not only in, in Saskatchewan but in Canada; it's drawing students from all over the place. And other programs have come out of it, spun out of the, you know, Gabriel Dumont Institute. Are they involved in Social Work programs too as well? I thought they, they were, I'm not too sure. But education is the big thing... **(Inaudible)** ...they start the SUNTEP program in, in places like Regina, Prince Albert, and Saskatoon. And more and more students are graduating as a result. And it gave a chance to the Métis people to prove to themselves and to the community that they are just as capable, you know.

Ron Laliberte: Very good point.

Peter Bishop: Of being good teachers. 'Cause we've had students, these are Métis students, that have gotten the Bates Award for the best internship. That's one of the awards. There's two different awards, now I can't remember the other one but a number of our students when they were graduating there, they were winning this special awards too as well. And some of them are graduating with distinction and great distinction. That is something to be proud of, let me tell you. Yeah. That's one of the things and I think another thing is the hunting rights and stuff like that. Clem Chartier was instrumental in getting hunting rights for his people especially in Northern Saskatchewan.

Ron Laliberte: The *Grumbo* case.

Peter Bishop: ...it was the whole province, but now they still have hunting rights but those are for the people that are living in the north.

Ron Laliberte: That's the Morin and Daigneault case... **(Inaudible)** ...

Peter Bishop: Yeah. Yeah.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah okay. Clem was involved in that, of course.

Peter Bishop: Oh yes definitely as a lawyer he fought the case. Well no that was the guy, guy from Yorkton, I keep forgetting...

Nora Cummings: Grumbo, Grumbo.

Peter Bishop: Grumbo. I don't know if he still has his hunting rights but it said Northern people that do have hunting rights at one time it was ...

Ron Laliberte: Province wide.

Peter Bishop: The province.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Peter Bishop: But then, the CCF, NDP decided no, I think we better restrict it just to Northern Métis, this time around. So those are the two most significant things that I can think of that, that Métis Society has, that should be remembered for.

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