

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

Tape 4

Start Time: 4:37.14.04

(Video Time: 4:37.14.04) Ron Laliberte: Could I ask you Nora and Peter to comment about what you'd like to see for the future of Métis people. What kind of future do you think, maybe people have, maybe, if, maybe you could comment on that.

(Video Time: 4:37.28.13) Nora Cummings: I would love as, as Métis people to, especially our government, is, and our people more so, our people, I think, are the driving force of our nation and any political party. But I think our people have to start looking at a vision and they have to look at something that is going to continue from generations to generations and I think the thing they have to start looking at is, where are we now? We've come along ways from the early '70s and early '40s when some of the people were involved. But I think we have to start looking at a vision, where we want to go, what's going to happen as Métis people. And, and I think it's very important because we do have a lot of Métis people now that have risen and, and very educated and, and people that can take that, our nation, to, to a place where the generations to come will always be proud to be, who they are. And the one thing I've always looked at and, and very dear to me is we must remember who we are as Métis culturally, and to be healthy we have to

be culturally, mentally and physically we must know who we are as a cultured people. And as long as we have that, and our languages and our lands, more so our land base, our rights... **(Inaudible)** ...land there's communities, there's Métis settlements in the North, in the South, but we have to look at us as a nation of people, and I'm not just talking the North or the South, I'm talking about right across Saskatchewan because we are a Métis Nation of, of Saskatchewan so we have to look at that vision and work on that whatever our rights may be. Whether the difference from the North, the South or the far South we have to work on that. And I think that's what our leaders have to do and we have to continue with that as a nation of people.

(Video Time: 4:39.55.29) Ron Laliberte: Just in conjunction of what you said, again going back to the latest census on the Métis, I mentioned that about their population increase and so on, it reflects in that census that the majority of Métis people are urban Métis, so when you think about the future of Métis people the one's that are in the cities what kind of future do you see for them in regards to the Métis nation? I mean do you see vehicles like Gabriel Dumont Institute and the other affiliates and so on creating a type of, of governance for them within the urban environment and that type of thing?

(Video Time: 4:40.33.14) Nora Cummings: Well, well I think, and we mentioned this, and I, and I see this that there are, when I talk about rights it may be education, economics. And I, education, I think, is the big issue here because we can't look at land within the urban but I think you can look at the rights as it may be building institutions, in, in, our own institutions

such as homes for elders, nursing homes, our own schools, our own culture centers, the, of course, like the Gabriel Dumont for, education-wise, our own universities. These are, these are big, tall orders but I know it can be done. And it's a proven fact, our people are very intelligent, very smart, they, I don't think a lot of people, and the other thing I think we, I'd love to see Gabriel Dumont Institute do is more PR work out here because of the things that are happening. The, we have doctors and we have lawyers. We don't only have teachers, we have professors. We have these things but they're not, they're never out in the open. And I think if we can have that then it's going to drive more of our people that are in these fields to become a strong Métis people to prove, to show that the, the, I guess, what would you call these, role models to our younger people as they're growing up and not only that we have people in sports and a number of things. We have to have our role models in order for our generations to come, to become proud and become that and be part of that.

(Video Time: 4:42.19.21) Ron Laliberte: Do you see the arts in terms of playwrights, you know, artists and so on playing an important role in, in all of that for the future?

Nora Cummings: Oh for sure, for sure. I had an opportunity to do a, to go to one of the plays and, and I, I think they're just great. They, they, they not only instill the, the goodness in you, young and old alike but it, it makes you feel good and it's our people doing that. And I, I think, you know there's those are the things that we have to continue to do and that's the vision I would like to see but I, I think and again it's a tall order all the time for

Gabriel Dumont, but I think they are the vehicles we have to use. But I think our politicians have to make sure that these things are in place for our people.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah, I think about I just, I was looking at the other day, Christi Belcourt from Ontario, of course, Tony Belcourt's daughter. And I was looking at some of her art and I'm just inspired by it....

Nora Cummings: Right.

Ron Laliberte: ...like it's so beautiful and makes you feel good that you're a Métis. So I, I agree with you, those, you know, the...

Nora Cummings: The other...

Ron Laliberte: ...arts...

Nora Cummings: ...thing too I think...

Ron Laliberte: ...is the area we have to... **(Inaudible)** ...

Nora Cummings: ...that people have never realized we have so much hidden talent, whether they're a musician or the playwrights but more so in, in singing and the, when you see this it's such hidden talent. And I think that has to be brought out in the open...

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Nora Cummings: ...so people will see that.

End Time: 4:43.37.00