

Mike Mercredi, Frank Tomkins, Ron Laliberte

Métis Political Activist Interviews (Jan 24, 25, 2004)

Tape 1

Start Time: 10:12:59.24

(Video Time: 10:12.59.24) Ron Laliberte: Either one of yous, what's your earliest memories of a political event that maybe your parents were involved in or that you can remember as, as growing up in your communities? Doesn't matter.

(Video Time: 10:13.11.24) Mike Mercredi: Well there was, really as I was explaining a moment ago, was that, there was really no political movement when I was growing up. And my parents certainly weren't involved in, in any kind of politics. My Dad was too concerned about making a living and buying food and making sure we were well sheltered. Now this is the Northwest Territories around Great Slave Lake area. So politics was a really distant thing. And about the only thing you could probably say that might have been political was that we didn't believe that the government was important. And it wasn't the government but my Dad would say "gummit" "g-u-m-m-i-t". And we weren't really sure just where this "gummit" was, you know, whether it was in the Hudson's Bay store or maybe it was this place called Ottawa. We didn't have a clue where the hell that was. But he really believed that they were doing the right thing. Okay we'll fast forward to when I come back from Germany, no it was after I'd been I got involved a little bit with politics and I was critical of the Canadian government, the

federal government and what they were doing. And I got shooting my mouth off to my Dad. Well he sure brought me back down to earth because as far as he was concerned the government was the right ones and knew what they were doing and it was good and he didn't appreciate me running them down. So I began to learn that I had to be very careful what I said to my Dad about the "gummit" as he believed it was the greatest thing. And so maybe that was sort of little nudge into the politics of, not only the Métis politics but getting an interest in the politics of our country.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah, that's, that's interesting because when you think about it there were no issues that you can sort of hang your hat on say that prior to, you know, your coming, coming back from the, from services is that what you're saying? And then you had more of a political perspective after that. But prior to that there was no issues in the community that people were talking about in regards to what government policies or anything?

End Time: 10:12:59.24