Tony Belcourt. (b. 1943)

Tony Belcourt is a Metis from Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta, the son of Emile Belcourt and Matilda L'Hirondelle. He was the first president of the Native Council of Canada (1971-1974). Previous to that he was vice-president of the Métis Association of Alberta (1969); subsequently, he was the founding president of the Métis Nation of Ontario in 1993 and served successive terms as president until his retirement in 2008. He was then appointed to the post of Métis Nation Ambassador for International Issues by the Métis National Council.

Tony formed Impact Research in 1974, and was vice-president of Seneca Communications and Seneca Productions, companies which did communications consulting and video productions for northern and isolated communities. He is a past chair of the editorial board of *North/Nord Magazine*. In the mid 70s he was involved in a program to teach Native American Studies in the Federal Republic of Germany.

From 1977 to 1981, Tony was Communications Director at the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs through the federal Executive Interchange Program. As an entrepreneur he was a founder of Wolfwalker Communications in the late 1980s. As a member of the Board of Governors of the Metis National Council, Tony served as Chair to the Metis Rights Panel. Tony has worked as a writer, producer and director in film, video and radio productions.

In 2006 Tony received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for public service; he has also received an honourary Doctor of Laws from Lakehead University. His children are quite accomplished; Christi Belcourt is a well-known Metis artist, Suzanne Belcourt is a graphic designer and Shane Belcourt is a filmmaker.

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