

METIS NATION LOCAL #62
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BUFFALO NARROWS, SASK
S0M 0J0

September 18, 1996

Dear Senators, MNS Local Presidents and PMC Members:

Re: Hunting and fishing rights cases

While we have been making gains with respect to our hunting and fishing rights, there has been some confusion as to what the court victories mean. In order to help create an understanding of the three cases we are working on, our lawyer Clem Chartier has written the enclosed explanation entitled "Briefing Note: *R. v. Grumbo*, Queen's Bench, August 2, 1996". To accompany that Briefing Note, we have altered the Provincial government's (SERM) pamphlet addressing Treaty Indian hunting rules which they have provided for us to follow. See enclosed letter from SERM to Dale McAuley, MNS Minister of Lands and Resources which acknowledges the *Grumbo* decision, which they will follow while they are waiting for the appeal to be heard by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal (no date has yet been set).

For those of you that have not seen a copy of the Saturday, September 14th issue of the Star Phoenix, where our hunting and fishing rights are being attacked by the FSIN, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the provincial government, please find enclosed those articles. See also a press release we issued in defence of our rights, as well as two articles from the P.A. Herald where we are speaking out for our rights. The first article, dated Monday, September 16th stems from an information meeting organized by Barry Robertson, President of Local 269 and Raymond Laliberte. There were over 300 Metis in attendance, and a good discussion was held with respect to our hunting and fishing rights.

The meeting also served as another good example of what our people are saying throughout the province. Basically, while the vast majority of our

people are glad that we have won the right to hunt and fish for food, most have expressed the fear that a minority may abuse these rights. In this connection, it is important that we begin to self-regulate our hunting and fishing rights. We have the basis for this in our *Metis Wildlife and Conservation Act* passed at Batoche in July 1994, along with the Regulations adopted by the PMC by virtue of that Act.

It is the responsibility of each of our communities to educate our members so that they can assist in implementing and enforcing our *Metis Wildlife and Conservation Act* and Regulations. In this connection, if you feel that the Act needs amendments, those should be introduced at the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly to be held on October 9 - 10, 1996. This has been our most significant court victory in terms of rights, we must ensure that all of our people approach and protect those rights in a reasonable manner.

For example, I will be proposing an amendment to section 15 of the Act, to change the age by which a Metis youth can hunt without an adult present. The Act currently limits youth under 16 years of age from hunting alone or with other youth under 16. I believe the age should be lowered to under 13 years of age. In other words, Metis youth 13 years of age and older should be able to hunt alone or with other Metis youth 13 years of age or older. The new section would read:

15. No person under the age of thirteen shall hunt without a parent, or under the supervision of an adult, or a youth thirteen or over.

Finally, I again want to remind you that we have three appeals in the works and require assistance in financing those appeals. We have now changed the name of the defence fund from "Snowman Legal Defence Fund" to "Metis Rights Defence Fund". Any contributions (no contribution is too small) that you can make should be made out to the "Metis Rights Defence Fund" and mailed to the above address. While the Fund is independent of the Local, they are using our address. The Fund is controlled by two Elders, Louis Morin of Turnor Lake, and Flora Shatilla of Buffalo Narrows, along with Alison Waite of Buffalo Narrows, who is the MNS Local #62 Local Secretary.

If you require further information on the Fund, please contact Alison Waite at (306) 235-4335 or Clem Chartier at (306) 235-4740.

Yours for Metis rights,



Philip Chartier
President, Local #62