

Ron Swain. (b. 1959)
Vice- Chief Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Ron Swain was one of the signatories to the Charlottetown Métis Nation Accord. The full text of the proposed Métis Nation Accord, dated October 7, 1992 can be read in *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, Volume 4, Appendix 5D* at pp. 376-382 (Ottawa: Canada Communication Group Publishing, 1996.) The Métis Nation Accord and the Charlottetown Accord died following their rejection by voters in a 1992 referendum.

Métis Nation Accord

The federal government, the provinces of Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, and Métis National Council have agreed to enter into a legally binding, justiciable and enforceable accord on Métis Nation issues. Technical drafting of the accord is being completed. The Accord sets out the obligations of the federal and provincial governments and the Métis Nation.

The Accord commits governments to negotiate: self-government agreements; lands and resources; the transfer of the portion of Aboriginal programs and services available to Métis; and cost sharing arrangements relating to Métis institutions, programs and services.

Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Biography

Ron Swain was raised in Swan Lake Manitoba, located 160 km southwest of Winnipeg Manitoba. When he was 22 years old, Ron moved to Ontario to join the Ontario Provincial Police. He has been a member of the Ontario Provincial Police since that time, and has been involved in Aboriginal organizations in a voluntary and full time basis for all his adult life.

He has 5 children, and as a single parent, Ron is currently raising 3 children in Bruce Mines Ontario. Mr. Swain was a founding member of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)¹ and the full-time MNO Chair for many years. He is serving his second tenure as Vice-Chief of the Congress, a position he held in 2011.

Personal Journey:

Ron Swain has dedicated his adult life in a volunteer capacity to Métis and Non-Status Indian issues. The reason is simple; he grew up with all the injustices that have been imposed on Aboriginal peoples in Canada. His grandmother lost her status and was kicked off her reserve, Swan Lake Nation, when she married a Métis man. His father was sent to a residential school, and his mother from the Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota, lost her status when she married his father.

¹ [Editor] Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association, not to be confused with the Métis Nation Ontario. Ron Swain was the Sault Ste. Marie Regional representative on the “Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario” (October 2, 1993). It is our understanding that Tony Belcourt is the Founding President, Métis Nation of Ontario.

Ron Swain grew up poor but loved and realized how simple programs like a housing grant program could improve lives but making it possible to build two more bedrooms in a home, as his parents were able to do. He also remembers how important a small grant of \$750 dollars made it possible for him to go back to high school after leaving at the age of 16 to help his family. Most importantly, the issue and a belief that Aboriginal people should be in control of their own destiny, compelled him to run for elected office as Vice-Chief for the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples.

Experience

Ron states that his greatest learning curves regarding Aboriginal issues were his Past Presidency of the Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association (OMAA) and his involvement in the negotiations during the *Charlottetown Constitutional Accord (Accord de Charlottetown)* and being signatory to the Métis Nation Accord.² Through these experiences he also gained an understanding of how the provincial and federal governments work.

Of the extensive history of Mr. Ron Swain, these are but a few of his achievements: he was the Chair of the Ontario Coalition of Aboriginal (OCAP) for 5 years, from 2006 until 2011. He was the Chair of the Métis Nation of Ontario from December 1993 until September 1999; he is the founding President of the Métis Nation of Ontario, later elected Chair in November 1993 until September 1999. Ron was the elected President of the Ontario Métis and Aboriginal Association (OMAA) from July 1992 until November 1993. Ron was elected as the President of the Southern Ontario Métis and Non-Status Indian Association in November 1991; he is a member of the Aboriginal People Committee Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and has been since 1994; Seconded to The First Nations and Municipal Policing Bureau (FNMPB) of the OPP in 1992; he was the first Aboriginal (Métis Person) OPP Recruitment officer from May 1989 to 1992; he was on the OPP Tactics and Rescue Unit (SWAT) London District Headquarters from 1986 to 1989;

Ron served as an Ontario Provincial Police Officer in Rainy River from 1981 to 1986, and spent three years as an apprentice carpenter in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

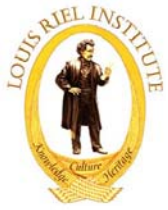
Ron Swain has run in both federal and provincial elections, gaining experience and determination. He is currently an Ontario Provincial Police officer with 31 years of experience working out of the Thessalon Detachment in Northern Ontario.

Source: <http://www.abo-peoples.org/vice-chief/>

² [Editor] The Métis Nation Accord was an Appendix to the Charlottetown Accord. Both accords died following their rejection by voters in a 1992 referendum.

The signatories to the Métis Nation Accord were:

- Yvon Dumont, President, Métis National Council, Manitoba Métis Federation
- Norm Evans, President, Pacific Métis Federation
- Larry Desmeules, President, Métis Nation of Alberta
- Gerald Morin, President, Métis Society of Saskatchewan
- Gary Bohnet, President, Métis Nation—Northwest Territories
- Ron Swain, President, Ontario Métis Aboriginal Association



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