

METIS NATIONAL COUNCIL



LOUIS RIEL



GABRIEL DUMONT

May 25, 1993

TO ALL SENATORS

I am pleased to announce that the Metis National Council will be placing a new focus on the federal government and its obligation to the Metis Nation. To facilitate that direction, the Metis Nation Cabinet has decided to open a national office in Ottawa and to hire senior staff to provide the required support in that office. We will be closing our office in Saskatoon and the Metis Nation Cabinet has offered Ron Rivard the position of Principal Secretary to the President. Ron would move to work within my office in Saskatoon.

We are in the process of preparing a competition for the following positions in our Ottawa office:

Chief of Staff;
Communications Coordinator; and
Secretary/Receptionist.

In addition, each Minister in the Metis Nation Cabinet will be assigned the resources to obtain a senior person who will provide direct support to that person's portfolio. For your convenience, I am attaching a copy of our portfolio system. This announcement identifies the Metis Nation Cabinet.

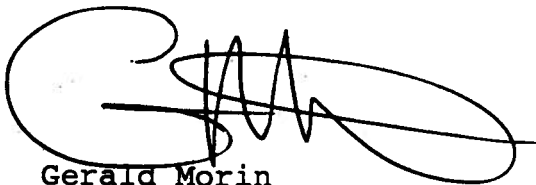
I am very optimistic about the significance of the new emphasis we will be placing in Ottawa. That, as we all know, is where the Prime Minister and the federal cabinet Ministers are on a daily basis. It is the seat of Parliament and of all the Members of the House of Commons and Senate. It is where the national headquarters of every federal department is located.

Our new office will enable us to concentrate our lobby to bring about change at the federal level. While, in the past, we have made some political gains in principle, we now need to turn our energies into making those principles a reality. It is not good enough to have statements about the recognition of self-government. We need to have the government meet its obligations to the Metis Nation on land and we need to have equitable access to programs and services. We need attention paid to our concerns.

I believe we are putting the right management team and structure in place to get the job done. We all look forward to setting up the Ottawa office and having it in full operation. I encourage you to make the positions known to your people and ask them to provide their resumes to us for consideration.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gerald Morin', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'G' and a series of loops and flourishes.

Gerald Morin
President

Enclosures



May 25, 1993

John Boucher
Box 25
St. Louis, Saskatchewan
S0J 2C0

Dear John:

The enclosed letter, written in my capacity as President of the Metis National Council, is provided for the purpose of informing you of the encouraging new developments taking place within the Metis National Council. With that in mind I am hopeful you will circulate copies of this letter as widely as possible within your local.

Sincerely,

Gerald Morin
President

Enclosure

GM:jg

Introducing a New Era in Aboriginal Government.

The Metis Nation believes it possesses the right to govern itself. This inherent right is grounded in the Constitution of Canada and recognized in the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

We take great pride in introducing the national governing body of the Metis Nation.

Our Cabinet Portfolios are carefully structured to reflect the long-standing interests of the Metis Nation.



Metis National Government

Back Row, Left - Right: Gerald Thom, Minister of Communications,
Norman Evans, Minister of Justice and Social Development,
Gary Bohnet, Minister of Environment and Northern Development,
Ron Swain, Minister of Economic Development.

Front Row, Left - Right: Ernie Blais, Minister of Human Resource Development and Land Claims,
Sheila Genaille, Minister of Culture and the Status of Women,
Gerald Morin, President and Minister of National Affairs

The People of the Metis Nation

Metis Nation Cabinet

Minister Justice & Social Development Norm Evans	Minister Human Resource Dev. & Land Claims Ernie Stale	Minister Economic Development Ron Swain	President & Minister National Affairs Gerald Morin	Minister Culture and Status of Women Sheila Genaille	Minister Communications and RCAP Gerald Thom	Minister Environment & Northern Dev. Gary Bohnet
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Metis National Council Secretariat

Metis Nation Public Service

Our Government responsibilities serve not only the Metis Nation but the common interests of all Canadians.

The creation of this Cabinet is a major milestone in the political evolution of our people. It reflects a deep desire to take our future into our own hands.

In asserting our inherent right to self-government, we want to assure all Canadians that we do not seek sovereignty outside Canada.

We know Canadians support us in these efforts. Our Government will work to make this a better place to live for all Canadians. We realize there is a need to coordinate our efforts and we look forward to good faith negotiations with other levels of government.

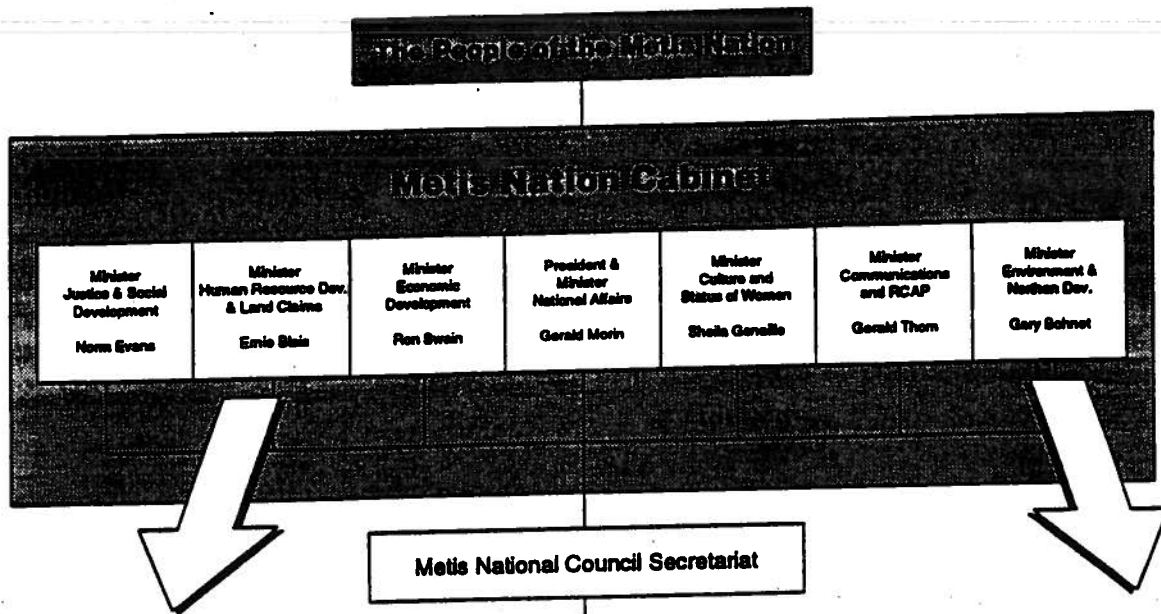
We look forward to the challenge.

METIS NATIONAL COUNCIL



A New Era in Aboriginal Government.

On March 29, 1993, we introduced the National Governing Body of the Metis Nation. Our Cabinet Portfolios are carefully structured to address the long-standing interests of the Metis Nation.



Ministry of Human Resource Development and Land Claims.

Minister: Ernie Blais

In concert with our economic goals, the **Ministry of Human Resource Development and Land Claims** has been established. Its responsibilities cover educational, training and employment initiatives. As well, this Ministry will investigate the fraudulent dispossession of our ancestors from land promised under the Manitoba Act and the Dominion Lands Act. We intend to end the exclusion of the Metis people from the Federal land claims process.

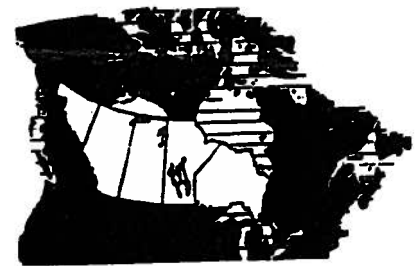
In asserting our inherent right to self-government, we want to assure all Canadians that we do not seek sovereignty outside of Canada. We know Canadians support us in these efforts. Our Government will work to make this a better place to live for all Canadians.

METIS NATIONAL COUNCIL

Ministry of Environment and Northern Development.

Minister: Gary Bohnet

Through recognition of a *Ministry of the Environment and Northern Development*, our commitment to traditional hunting, harvesting and sustainable development is reflected. It will additionally be responsive to the needs of Metis living north of the 60th parallel and of Metis Veterans.



Traditional Metis Homeland



The National Metis Senate Constitution Commission

13140 - St. Albert Trail, Edmonton, Alberta. T5L 4R8
Phone: (403) 455-2200 FAX: (403) 452-8946



"OTIPEMISIWAK"

April 18, 1994

The Right Honourable Mr. Jean Chretien
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
Langeviu Block
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Chretien:

I am writing this letter in regards to the great concern we as Metis people have which has had a detrimental effect on our Metis National Council most recently.

As a national organization, we have made every effort to work in harmony with all governments. We have also taken your Red Book Action Plan with great sincerity. Your government was to work with us in expediting self-government initiatives and we, as a nation of people, look forward to this great opportunity.

It is sad to think that the departments we must deal with are not of the same frame of mind, to work in cooperation with us.

It also appears to the Metis people that just because we are going through the political shift of electing new provincial leaders, governments would take advantage of this opportunity in having our organizations look bad.

One might ponder, since the departments leaked the two draft audits, would it be a part of your government's political attempt to avoid having to deal with the Metis Nation? I surely hope not, Mr. Prime Minister.

Let us both allow each of our governments to deal with our own internal politics in our own subtle fashion and have our bureaucrats keep their noses out of our political affairs.

Mr. Prime Minister, I do hope that you will take appropriate action on these turn of events because we still hope your government is

serious in dealing with us and allow us to be accountable, as we have always been.

I shall await your positive response to share with our people, to reinstate the positive working relationship that needs immediate healing.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Senator Thelma Chalifoux".

Senator Thelma Chalifoux
National Co-Chair

ES/rm

- cc: - The Honourable Allan Rock, Q.C., P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- The Honourable Anne McLellan, Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status People
 - MNC Affiliates



SENATE OF THE METIS NATION
OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION

13140 - St. Albert Trail, Edmonton, Alberta, T5L 4R8
(403) 455-2200 or 1-800-252-7553, Fax: 452-8946



April 18, 1994

The Right Honourable Mr. Jean Chretien
Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office
Langavon Block
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Chretien:

I feel I have a morale obligations to come to the defence of my people, specifically the Metis National Council.

As a veteran, I have gone to war to defend my country and our people. I am still actively involved with the Metis Nation of Alberta as Chairman of the Senate of the Metis Nation of Alberta.

It saddens me to think that I must continue at a different style of battle. This battle that I deal with today is to ensure that my people get appropriate recognition as a government of people.


It saddens me that your government would allow your departments to skew the working relationship that we have worked hard in developing a partnership.

I shall not give up this battle and will not rest until I feel certain that you as Prime Minister will take appropriate disciplinary action on those individuals that try to take advantage of political strife.

I, along with other Metis Senators in our province, make every effort to keep peace, order and good government amongst our people.

I await a positive response from you, Mr. Prime Minister, to set my mind at ease and that you are still willing to deal with our people on the inherent right to self-government. Don't let me feel that I fought for this country needlessly. I am a very proud veteran.

Yours truly,


Senator Fred L'Hirondelle
Chairman

ES/rm

cc: - The Honourable Allan Rock, QC, P.C., M.P., Minister of Justice and Attorney General
- The Honourable Anne McLellan, Interlocutor for Metis and Non-Status People
- MNC Affiliates

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