

## RATIONALLE FOR THE TRANSFER TO AMNSIS

### 1. ORAL TRADITION

Metis people as a part of their history relied and depend<sup>e</sup> exclusively on the spoken word. Our people had no appreciation of the written words of the legal contract or certificate of the title nor the requirements and implication for sustaining the fulfillment of the commitments made. The spirit and intent is what we regard as sacred and as binding. The Metis people were told (by priests, government officials) the Lebret farm was to be for the Metis people and this has<sup>been</sup> carried forth by the Metis people today.

### 2. MORAL TRUST

There was a moral trust established between the Oblate Father, the Provincial Government and the Metis people of the area. This trust is binding within our culture. We hold the words of your government responsible for the legal and moral responsibilities as laid forth in these negotiations, October 11, 1945.

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"Extraordinary Board Meeting held in our house of the Juniorate of the Holy Family" - 340 Provencher Ave., St. Boniface, Man. - "on October 11, 1945.

Were present: Rev. Fathers M. Lavigne, O.M.I., Provincial  
Josaphat Magnan, 1st ordinary counselor  
Joseph Brachet, 2nd ordinary counselor  
Philippe Sheffer, 1st extraordinary counselor  
Charles Ruest, 2nd extraordinary counselor

Sale of the Metis Farm of Lebret

The Government of Saskatchewan positively desires to buy our Metis Farm of Lebret for the price of \$13,000.00, thirteen thousand dollars cash.

Answer: granted, but we must signify to the Government that the Oblates desire that this farm continue to be exploited for the benefit of the metis families of the region"

The government has as a result of the purchase of the lands from the Oblates accepted the condition that the government would guarantee "that this farm would be continued to be exploited for the benefit of the metis families of the region". As a result the government has a trust obligation to the metis of the region and is obligated to fulfill this condition.

3. Farm was to be continued as a training and employment activity.

Also the government representatives have committed to <sup>many</sup> persons on many occasions that the farm would be a training farm and employment and homes for the METIS PEOPLE OF THE REGION.

In the annual reports to the Department of Social Welfare this report and subsequent report outline that the farm would "be continued" as is.

These annual reports outline conclusively the purpose objectives and usage of the farm. Namely it was for the training and employment and that the exploitation of the farm was for the metis of the region. This is consistent with October 11, 1945 and sustains the idea of continuing the farm.

4. There were promises made to halfbreeds to become owners of the Lebret Metis Farm. There were activities which some of the commitments were realized but short lived.

E.G. A. Ed Majore received  $\frac{1}{2}$  section of land.

He was required to bring his own cattle and horses (teams) to work the land. All his resources he brought to develop his land.

B. George Dejarlais received  $\frac{1}{2}$  section land. He was also required to bring his farm equipment, to farm the land and livestock to provide stock for the land. He also brought resources.

The commitment was made that if they would work the land it would be theirs. The time period which they were to work it would be incorporated as the training on the Metis Farm.

These two families brought their livestock, brought their machinery, paid taxes on the land (land titles officer, Fort Qu'Appelle) which they lived. The time period came and went and they trained until they died on the farm.

Other people, e.g. Louie Blondeau, brought cattle, horses and smaller animals. Leo Parisian also brought livestock.

All these families broke the land, used their machinery, used their livestock but never did they receive the fulfillment of these promises.

5. The Provincial Government of Saskatchewan, your government has promised that traditional lands of the halfbreeds would be considered as available for treaty land entitlement.

The minister of Northern Saskatchewan the Honourable Jerry Hammersmith has stated this on a number of occasions (Jans Bay, Cole Bay meetings). Deschambeault Lake meeting and in other meetings between AMNSIS Representative and DNS officials and as a spokesman of the Provincial government, we hold the provincial government to these commitments.

6. The provincial government has recognized halfbreed intent in land usage for trapping, hunting and fishing. These rights and interests have continued because of the lifestyle of the halfbreeds. Agricultural activity is also a right and an interest to usage of traditional lands. The Lebret Metis Farm is part of the native community and has always been recognized as such government reports. Local residents have always recognized these land as Metis Farms, traditional lands of the halfbreeds.

7. The government has called the farm a Metis Farm. Always the purpose and usage was for the Metis. This was exemplified by the restriction that

"In order to receive benefits of the Metis farm operation you were limited by your status" YOU HAD TO BE METIS

This again is in recognition of the original intent and condition of the farm.

8. The government paid allowances for training which were less than individuals could have received elsewhere. There was an equity established in lieu of wages. This equity has provided for sustaining the operation of and the expansion of the Lebret Metis Farm. Because of training and the promises the people stayed and the equity has increased to exceed the present value of the farm. The Lebret farm was operated and expanded by the sweat equity of the labour of the metis people.

9. The provincial government has already a precedent in recognizing the equitable and just claims of the metis. This is evidenced by the transfer over to the AMNSIS (fee simple) the "Lestock Metis Farm".

There is <sup>no</sup> ~~not~~ legal restriction which would restrict the Government of Saskatchewan from transferring over this land. The government has no other obligation but to the metis.

What do we want?

That immediately all negotiations with all other parties cease and that a decision is taken to turn all metis farms over to the Association of Metis and Non Status Indians.

That the negotiations for the transfer be initiated immediately and transfer be completed by December 31, 1981.

The decision is clear and simple:

"Is the government going to live up to the commitment to the Metis People of Saskatchewan".