

Nora Cummings, Peter Bishop, and Ron Laliberte:
Métis Political Activist Interviews (Feb 28, 29, 2004)

Tape 1

Start Time: 2:02.41.01

(Video Time: 2:02.41.01) Peter Bishop: So anyway this is a brief history of my, my parents and my grandparents and how they were involved in the fur trade industry. My name is Peter Bishop. I was born in Green Lake 1940. My Dad's name was Alex Bishop. He was born on the Muskeg Lake Indian Reserve in 1886. And when he was about five years old him and his brother, my uncle Harry, were taken to the St. Michael's Indian Residential School in Duck Lake and they were placed there for approximately 10 years. And his favorite story, my Dad's favorite story was when Almighty Voice from One Arrow had been put in that guard house for illegally shooting a cow. It was their animals but they had to receive permission from the Indian Agent before they could do that. But his family was starving. He had to do something so he went against the orders of the Indian Agent and shot that cow. And then he got jailed over it. So anyway my Dad and my Uncle Harry they used to walk pass that guard house and they'd see him in shackles. You know, it came out of, there's a bolt out of the floor and what not. And there were a couple of guards that were there watching over him. And one of them had been drinking, he says "They are going to hang you in the morning now Almighty Voice." And he believed it. And anyway he broke out. Waited for them to pass out. And he broke out of that jail. Course he was gone for two

years that time. And my Grandfather, on my Mom's side, worked for the Hudson's Bay Company in Lac la Biche. That's where he was born. His parents came originally from the Saddle Lake area. And anyway he worked there for a while in Lac la Biche. This would be in the 1870s something like that and they transferred him to Fort McMurray. He didn't know how to speak the Dene language. It was called the Chipweyawan language. But he didn't know how to speak it. But he had to learn fast. When you are dealing with the people you have to learn the language. So he picked up the language quite fast. So he was tri-lingual. He knew Dene, he knew French, and he knew Cree. But he knew three languages. And he worked there for sometime and then the Bay decided to make another move. So they transferred him to La Loche. So he took his dog team and sled and moved over there. And worked with the Hudson's Bay at La Loche and of course by this time he was quite fluent in the Chipweyawan language. So what he had, you know it was a big plus for my Grandfather being able to speak the language because the people there really appreciated it. They finally had somebody who could understand their language. But then again he only worked there for a while. Because he was lonesome for his own people because he was Cree-Métis. So he finally found his way to Green Lake and he married my, my, my "Kokum," my Grandmother, Marguerite Aubichon. And you often wonder why they had French names. Well most of the people from Northern Saskatchewan even to this day you will find them with French names as their last names and they are all over the North. So they are all their descents of the French fur traders. Those people. Yup. From way back. And I want to talk more about

my father and how he became involved in politics. But maybe Nora you want to talk about your family. You never talk about your family.

End Time: 2:08.04.15