

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

Tape 3

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Ron Laliberte: Nora could you comment on, on some of the most positive things you've seen over your political life that you, you know, you can look back on that you can say this is something that is really great that's happened over the course of the, the movement?

(Video Time: 3:27.29.22) Nora Cummings: Well, I too like Peter feel that the Gabriel Dumont is, is one of the most vital vehicle that ever happened to, to the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan 'cause it's done a lot of good to a lot of our people. Also, of course the rights and again I have to commend Clem very much so. I've, I'm, I'm very close friend with Clem but I watched this young, this man grow when he was in the youth movement. And I've always admired, he's not a, lot of people are saying well he's not a tough leadership but I think when we look at leadership roles everybody has their own way of presenting themselves and Clem is, is not the harsh leader but he is a very good leader and he's, he does it in his own way and he does do a good job. I, I, I honestly feel. And Clem is a very dedicated person for rights. He is a very strong Métis activist. And he's always wanted the rights for our people and I think as we go along we should be very honored to have that opportunity to have him fight the cases. A lot of times there's money raised and a lot of times there isn't enough money and he's doing this. A lot of that work is

done on his own. And people don't realize that. Like the positive things that happened within our, our nation. But saying that I think the, all of our affiliates that have been formed, it is a positive thing. And in some ways I think we, a lot of times we get a lot of negative publicity what's happening within our affiliates. And I, it saddens me because I think there's a lot of good concerned people that sit within them boards and, and try to do the best they can and unfortunately you'll always run into problems. And, and why is there, why are we so different than what government issues are? If we look at the negativity of, of the issues of government that's happening right now, yet as soon as our little nation of government runs into a problem it's blown right out of proportion. And...

Ron Laliberte: I agree.

Nora Cummings: ...it's a sad thing and is it, there is a double standards here.

Ron Laliberte: Sure.

Nora Cummings: So that's how I feel and I see this. And, and I know the positive things that the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan has done is a lot of good positive things. For one thing it's made people aware and be proud and I think you can never take that away. It has made people very proud to be con-, to be able to stand up in public and say, "I am a Métis." Because that was taken away from us. Especially within the urban areas, you'll notice that a lot of our people were hidden, they were French or they were a different race because they were afraid...

Ron Laliberte: Right.

Nora Cummings: ...to say I am a Métis. And unless they were in, in a group like, and, and I always say how fortunate I am. And, and I very feel that I am a very strong Métis activist and a very strong Métis person because I had that opportunity to have that family connection when I mentioned on our road allowance. Had we not had that I don't know where we would have ended up in the mainstream. So I think....

Ron Laliberte: Good point.

Nora Cummings: ...we have to give thanks to our leaderships from the Malcolm Norris to Jim Bradys right down, that made that possible for us as Métis people to be coming out and stand up and say we're Métis...

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