

## **The Métis in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conference**

**June 18-20, 2003**

**Saskatoon**

**Day 2 – Tape 3**

**Start Clip: 02:47:32:00**

**Jean Teillet:** I just wanted say, too, that I think that, I think that, inherently, everything should be in the political arena, but negotiations are—I used to be a professional dancer—I, I think of negotiations as a dance for two, it's a duet. And, unfortunately, the Métis have no partner. Nobody will dance with us right now, meaningfully. They give you money, as Harry told you yesterday. Programs, programs, programs, to shut you up, but they will not meaningfully sit down. No negotiations anywhere, really meaningful negotiation. So we're dancing by ourselves and the only place, the only forum we can dance in is court right now. That is not that we want to dance in court, because, but dancing in court we hope will get us back into a situation where we can have a partner and we can sit down and meaningfully negotiate out all the things that need to be done here under a reasonable principled process, where, on a tripartite situation, we sit down and hack these things out. But right now all of those processes from the federal government and most provinces are denied to Métis people. And so we have no choice right now. I hope that we are not always in the courts, but I think we have to use it as our springboard into the political process because governments deny, they delay, they obfuscate, and they absolutely refuse to participate in Métis negotiations until the courts force them there.

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