

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan

General Assembly

Prince Albert, Saskatchewan

November 18, 2000

Verbatim Transcripts

Tape 1, Side A

Afternoon

Participant

I'm putting it that way cause I'm trying to make it hard for you people to really think about this. A mother of Metis children, is she a Metis?

Murray Hamilton

First of all, whether we're dealing with the children or the parents, the essential question here is do you self identify as Metis? If you self identify as an Indian person your fight is not with us, your fight is with the FSIN. So first of all it's easy, it's so simple, one, if you figure you're a Metis person, well jump up and say so, second of all if somebody calls your bluff, can you prove it and three, are you accepted by your community and if you say well I'm not a Metis person well then if you say, well I'm an Indian person, your fight is not with us.

Participant

Okay then Murray, can a non Metis person then declare themselves to be a Metis because it says here of Metis ancestry.

Murray Hamilton

Well I don't know why a non Metis person would want to declare themselves of Metis ancestry.

Participant

Ya, well but what if you're, the same scenario that I gave you, you are the mother of Metis children shouldn't you be a member of the Nation? And not necessarily be of Metis ancestry?

Murray Hamilton

Are you talking about adoption?

Participant

Natural children, natural mother

Murray Hamilton

I don't follow this, Dwayne

Participant

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000, Tape 1

Well what if you or I marry a woman who is non Metis, should she be part of the Nation because she raises Metis children or not?

Murray Hamilton

Well again it would go through the definition process, if that person self declares as a Metis, has genealogical proof and is accepted by the community, no Dennis

Participant

No, I'm going to ask you a question, what about the first Metis though? Didn't the, somewhere along the line, going way back we didn't always have Metis people, so

Murray Hamilton

That's true and even the first generation between European fur traders and Indian women, it's unlikely, those people were not at that point I suppose the group that we call Metis, it took several generations for that culture to evolve.

Participant

Okay, I'm not making it easy for you, cause when we talk about communities, you talk about families, and families are not always of both backgrounds, so I'm just throwing that out to make people think, you know,

Murray Hamilton

I'm not saying today that we've answered everything, but I'll tell you, think about it this way. I'm not saying that the definition that we've put before you today is perfect in every sense, but it's better than the one we have where we have in our own constitution that we're defining ourselves by Canadian law. The one we have before you today might not be perfect, but it's far better and it's based on more progressive thinking than the one that we currently have.

Participant

Okay thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you. Where did the person go on microphone 2, did they still want to. Okay, microphone number one. Anyone else wants to speak, make your way to a microphone.

Robert Doucette

This would be a question for Murray but just to, I understand what Dennis is saying, it's not whether or not

we have an issue with the FSIN, it's all about the inherent of individuals that come from one or the other parents of a Metis. But I wanted to ask you this just for clarification and what if a Metis person self declares, is of Metis ancestry and can prove it but is not accepted by the Metis community? What happens then?

Murray Hamilton

Well that's up to the Metis community, but I can say this. I know the problems that exist when people, if you happen to be, ask too many questions, or for one reason or another you're not liked in the community, there are problems but I'm hoping that at the end of the day that we're big enough that that person can appeal to the Senate, they can appeal to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and if an individual applies at the Local and is denied, applies at the Senate and is denied, applies at the MNLA and is denied, then I think that at the end of that, well that person, their chances of getting Metis citizenship were probably refused for very good reasons.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you. I think we have somebody here at microphone four, two and then this gentleman came there and then lastly up here, so microphone four first, then Max on deck at two.

Participant

Thank you very much. Murray, Glen Strong from the Stoney Rapids Local 80. I just wanted to talk about the far north, because in the far north especially in Stoney Rapids and in Uranium City area the Metis locals were very strong back before 85 and John McDonald was the President of Stoney Rapids Local. But of course when Bill C31 came out everybody jumped on the band wagon to become treaty and why not, it's just like winning a lottery. First of all you get free education, free medical, so you jump on that. But yet they still consider themselves Metis also and that's been a argument up there. So now that they're treaty under Bill C31 and we have children, I'm, I've got a spouse, we have children which of course we turned them treaty right away too, but now their children are not going to be any status, so you're saying that if they if they declare themselves to be Metis, they are from Metis ancestry of course because prior to Bill C31 they were Metis so they would have to be from Metis ancestry and accepted by the Metis community. So therefore, they would be Metis?

Murray Hamilton

Precisely Holmes.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 2 and then back here.

Max Morin

Thank you. The question is, we have to clearly define the Metis. And I think when we say Metis

community I don't think we're saying the Metis community collectively but that somebody in the community say of Ile a la Crosse recognizes this individual as a Metis then I think that's what we mean by Metis community. If there's bad politics within the community I don't think a person should be turned down for that reason. I think a person is a Metis and will die a Metis. I guess the point I'm making is we have to clearly try and come up with some definition because reading on the court case in Ontario, I think they're, the Provincial government is appealing that is they can't clearly get a definition of who Metis is and I think we have to clearly define that and I would urge the delegation here to try and pass something that we can have some forum and some mechanism to clearly define who the Metis is. Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much Max. Microphone 5, microphone one on deck.

Participant

Ya, good afternoon my name is Clarence. I was late here this morning. I kind of find it hard to believe when Murray Hamilton says it's not perfect. It probably is Murray. I just want to clarify for myself basically here, like I say, we're talking about membership, are we open to memberships now in throughout Saskatchewan and if so how do we go ahead and obtain all this?

Dwayne Roth

Well I think we want to keep things on the motion but just quickly to answer your question I think at the last legislative assembly they did pass a motion to open up the memberships again, I don't ^{know} where that's at perhaps if you want to, perhaps Mr. Hamilton will address it.

Murray Hamilton

The answer is yes and yes. The membership it is open for people to apply. Yes there are forms available. The easiest way to do that is to contact the Registrar's office at the MNS Headquarters, I believe Lynn LaRose is here and I think, is Mr. Flamont here someplace, Bruce Flamont? So yes it is open and again I would re-iterate that the process that has been put in place again it's not perfect but it's much improved upon the process that we had two and three years ago. It's not easy to get that citizenship these days, it's much more stringent, much more strict as a gentleman here from Prince Albert pointed out, much more strict.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone one, microphone 1 on deck.

Participant

Murray part of this assembly is also to amend these constitutional changes, I'd like to see Article 10, number 3 amended to is accepted by the Local or by the Metis Local slash community, add Local to that

word, to that number 3.

Murray Hamilton

Well I'll, I may have to, I don't want to, rely on the lawyers but I may have to here. The, I don't know if we can amend the amendment at this point, it was passed in its present form by the MNLA and it comes here and it's either voted on and accepted or voted on and rejected.

Participant

But we can send it back for amendment can we not?

Murray Hamilton

Well yes you can send it back for amendment but I'm asking you not to. Even with it's minor imperfections it's far and away and if you guys out there that are really thinking and you're really passionate about this at the next MNLA you can introduce a different one, but right now we need something to work with and I'm asking you, I'm pleading with you and it's not too often that Murray Hamilton has ever steered you wrong, like I've admitted it's not perfect but it's way, much much better than what we have right now and I would ask that we accept this one and if you don't like it then the next MNLA file a constitutional amendment to change it.

Dwayne Roth

And again just in keeping in my role as chair to help facilitate discussion I think this definition is wide open enough that the MNLA doesn't actually have to change the constitution, they can probably amend the Citizenship Act or something along that line to tighten it up, so that's another option. So at microphone number 4 and then 2 and back here at five and then 1. Microphone 4.

Participant

Thank you Dwayne. Dale McAuley, Area Director Eastern Region I. We're dealing on an amendment here on this paper here it says November 14th, ah November 18th, this amendment we have here, I want to take you back to our kit under tab number 15. Okay that the proposed amendment of Article 10, definition section adopted by the MNLA in March 1999 be amended by changing subsection 2 to read, "is of historical Metis Nation ancestry" and it was signed by the resolutions committee, it states that exactly the way it is, self declares, is of Metis ancestry and is accepted by the Metis community. Then the proposed amendment would read, self declares, is of historical Metis Nation ancestry and is accepted by the Metis community. So if we're trying to deal with and this is what was passed and adopted by the resolutions committee we're, I'm just pointing out we're not doing it through the right process.

Dwayne Roth

What is that book you're reading from, tab 10 of what?

Dale McAuley

Tab 15

Dwayne Roth

Tab 15 of what?

Dale McAuley

Our MNLA amendment with the resolutions committee. Get it.

Dwayne Roth

Okay that's duly noted, I guess what you're saying is that this resolution that's presented to us today here for ratification isn't exactly the same as the one that was passed by the legislative assembly and it should be.

Dale McAuley

Exactly. I'm not a lawyer but you are and I don't like correcting you every time I come to these things.

Murray Hamilton

That's Dale's way of saying we've admitted to a couple of bars too. I take, but I have to, that may be what Dale read from was what was looked at by the resolutions committee but what actually hit the floor was the one that was moved by Robert Doucette and seconded by Philip Chartier and it's the one that is set out here today and the historical thing was dropped because everybody said well no, no that deals with that old blue blood, Red River sort of thing and we don't want that in there either. But the one that hit the floor and came and this comes from the verbatim tapes is the one that we've read out today. Not the one that the resolutions committee dealt with because it said one thing at the resolutions committee level and when it hit the floor March 1999 it was altered but it was passed.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you Mr. Hamilton. Microphone 2 and then microphone 1 on deck.

Participant

Thank you. John Hannikenne's my name. I see this, a Metis person is a person whom, self declares that he's Metis, is of Metis ancestry and is accepted by the Metis community. Well as a lot of people know I was kicked out from the Metis community. My family on both sides of my family go back right to the Riel Rebellion of 1885, have fought in the Riel Rebellion. What this, accepted, the Metis community is saying is even though I have these two if I'm not accepted by the Metis community of Prince Albert, I am not accepted as a Metis person and that has got to change, it's got to be accepted by the Metis Nation as a

whole. Not the community because what this does is a form of intimidation, it's, the community can intimidate you to pull your membership even though you're a Metis person and can say no, just because you spoke out about something we're pulling your membership and that's a form of intimidation, we cannot allow this as a group, because it could happen to anyone here, anyone. Not just one person, it could happen to anybody and if we have to prove ourselves time and time again of that there's something very wrong with this. Thank you.

Murray Hamilton

Again, there's nothing wrong with that resolution or the constitutional amendment rather, what's wrong is our inability to police it and I know what happened to John and I know what's happened to other people because it happened to me. I moved from Prince Albert to Saskatoon and they said Hamilton you're not getting a membership here cause you're a shit disturber, well that's alright. I took my lumps and found another way in and obviously those things shouldn't happen but I want to assure John Hannikenne that there is an appeal process there, I didn't invent this, it's in the Constitution, it's in the process, if that happens either for political or for lack of genealogical backup, you can appeal to the Senate and then the final appeal goes to the MNLA, so it is the Metis Nation at the end of the day that has final say.

Participant

If you have final say then why isn't it accepted, it should go without question, you shouldn't even have to go through an appeal process if you're a Metis person. You shouldn't have to prove yourself as a Metis.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you

Murray Hamilton

We need some sound on mike 2.

Participant

Okay, you shouldn't have to prove yourself. I shouldn't have to appeal, I am a Metis person by birth on both sides of my family, by birth, all this is is a form of intimidation.

Murray Hamilton

John if I may, see here again we're going from the question of definition to the process of applying for citizenship. Now all I want to deal with right now is the definition, if you're telling me that we've had problems in the past where people have applied and have been denied, hell I'll be the first one to admit that, we've had problems and we're trying to fix it, but for now let's just deal with the definition, if you've got complaints about, if you've got way of fixing up how people can, how the application process can be more fair then nobody will be happier than I to hear that.

Participant

Well this does deal with the process because it says right on there community and we have to be from the Nation not the community because you can't voice, then you're intimidated because if you don't agree with what's happening you lose your membership and the community can do that, the local can do that and we can't allow that to happen, it could happen to everybody, anybody and why should they have to prove time and time again your Metis ancestry, you've proven it by genealogy, you've proven it by birthright.

Murray Hamilton

Again, I accept John your criticisms about the difficulties that you and other people have experienced in applying but again I say it's apples and oranges. We have a definition I believe that if we don't take the opportunity to move forward today, it's to our detriment and

Participant

But are we moving forward?

Murray Hamilton

Well I believe we will be if we accept this constitutional amendment.

Participant

But how can we accept it if it's still goes back to that?

Dwayne Roth

Just again to be helpful here, if we don't accept this it'll revert back to the one that's existing and I think the one that's existing is causing some of the problems as well, so this opens the door to the legislative assembly changing the process of going through the application process and stuff like that.

Participant

Well people just think about that today when you're voting for this okay? Because it's important to all of us, It's not only to myself but to everybody here

Dwayne Roth

Okay thank you very much. Microphone 1 and then back here at 5 and then 4. Now we're getting, we're spending a bit of time on this one particular motion, we've got several other ones that we want to deal with, so I'm going to ask if you want to speak on this motion, go to a mike now and whoever's at a mike will be the ones that are going to speak. After these people are at the mike, we're going to cut this off and deal with this motion and then go on to the next because we got to, other things we want to deal, so if you want

to speak to this motion get to a mike. So these people that are at the mikes right now are going to be the ones that are going to be the ones that are going to be allowed to speak either for or against this motion and then after that this lady here at microphone 2 will be the last one, are you behind him, okay she'll be after 4 back here and she'll be the last one and then that'll be it for the discussion on this motion. So first of all microphone 1, then back here 4, then her and then her.

Participant

After all those instructions I forgot what I was going to ask. I'm, it's very important that you've allowed us to say what we have to say about the constitutional amendment, because it also affects whether or not we have the right to vote because if we're not on the register, somebody has questioned our membership as to being Metis then we can't vote for things until that is proven whether or not we're Metis. So it's very important that there's some kind of protocol within our Nation, the provincial organizational system as well as the Local level. It has to be more shortcutted, short circuited so that we don't take away the rights from people. Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much. Microphone 5, 4 on deck.

Participant

My name is John Mellenchuk. I too was like Hannikenne and got kicked out. I've been working quite diligently working with the federal and provincial governments for the last year and a half organization of the Metis Buffalo Hunt. It's an Ombudsman for our people. We could be the first Aboriginal government to have an Ombudsman when we get frustrated and things aren't working we have no place to go, cause as soon as you talk you get kicked out. No, we need a place to go not only with this type of issue, that's why I'm saying this, this could be an Ombudsman's office to deal with stuff like this. It could be dealing with social issues, justice issues, stuff that the Senate shouldn't be doing. We got to keep the Ombudsman arms length from being politicized and people taking over and using it the wrong way. This Buffalo Hunt was bought by the provincial government, they already put money aside for it. I got letters right here from Roy Romanow and from Jack Hillson, I wish they were here, the intergovernmental people. I met Mr. Goodale yesterday, I had lunch with the guy, me and Jimmy D's nephew and he told us point blank that it's the executive that does not want to give us an Ombudsman. But yet the provincial government put money aside for this. You guys want democracy, you guys want to become a government without this non profit organization, give some hope back to our people, give us an Ombudsman, a place where we can go bitch and complain when something's not right, let's deal with it internally instead of through the papers. That's why I did what I did. Everybody's condemning me, I'm a bad guy, fine, whatever happened to me because I'm bad is what I am today and this Ombudsman report is the only way we're going to get ahead in this game. I know you guys are looking at it because you might have lost a little bit of power, but hey, this is hope for our people man. You guys won't give us an opposition party so where do our people go? We get kicked out left and right, that's not right, so how is it democratic? You know I thought Mexico had the worst democratic system, no, MNS does. This is unbelievable. You guys never put no mechanisms in your Constitution for when people feel they're unjust, where do we go? We got no place to go, so I formed an opposition party because I am no longer part of the Metis Nation. It's like telling a Chinese guy you're no

longer Chinese because we decide that. Now how in the hell can you do that? That's my inherited right! Mr. Pelletier, everybody here knows who I am from back home. And for people to be kicking us out that's not right. Ombudsman, we need an Ombudsman Murray. So Mr. Chartier, I challenge you, I spoke to Mr. Goodale, I met Mr.

Dwayne Roth

Hey I'm sorry sir, but are you speaking for or against the motion? If you want to deal with an Ombudsman's office and that type of issue that's separate from this motion.

Participant

Dwayne can I just talk to Mr. Chartier

Dwayne Roth

No, you can talk to him on the side, we're dealing with this particular motion.

Participant

Okay the government's bought this, the provincial government wants us to have an Ombudsman

Dwayne Roth

Okay that's duly noted. Microphone 4. I'm sorry you've got to speak to the motion. If there's other issues that you want to deal with

Participant

This is part of the motion Dwayne, if we had an Ombudsman we wouldn't be talking about all this trivia stuff

Dwayne Roth

So are you saying to drop this in favour of an Ombudsman, is that what you're saying?

Participant

They would deal with it, why the hell are we dealing with it here? It shouldn't even be happening, we shouldn't be getting kicked out, it's unbelievable you guys.

Dwayne Roth

Well we're dealing with it here because it's in our constitution that these people are the ones that ratify

constitutional amendments. We have a constitutional amendment before us and that's why we're dealing with it.

Participant

What I would like for this issue, to get back to this issue or you'll cut me off, we're out of order, or whatever you guys do, I don't know what you do, we need an Ombudsman bottom line, we need a place to go, a mechanism so we can go complain if nothing is going right. Bottom Line! Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you and that's duly noted on the record. Microphone 4 and then back here at 5 for this lady and then the last speaker will be over here at microphone 2. Microphone 4.

Clem Chartier

Thank you Mr. Chair. I've had an opportunity to speak to John very infrequently because we have a different way of communicating, but I must say I have very great and I don't mean this in a demeaning way, very great sympathy for what John Hannikenne and John Mellenchuck have had to live through for the past two years and if those of you that will remember at the Legislative Assembly a year ago I said publicly that these two gentleman, like every Metis person in this province has the right to a membership in the local where they live. The local has no authority or responsibility, no political or moral authority or legal authority to deny them membership. Once they prove their ancestry, they are Metis, they have a right to that Metis membership card. They have a right to belong and they do belong. And John you do belong. Now how do we enforce that? Murray is right, Murray is saying this is the constitution definition and I support this definition although I had wanted to see amendments to it, and I did put forward an amendment to this amendment which would have gone to the MNLA had we held it in June but we didn't and that's what my colleague was referring to, was the amendment that I wanted to see but I'm prepared to live with this particular amendment because I believe it's as good as we're going to get at least for the foreseeable future and I also want to mention it was said I think by Max Morin that the Powley case in the Ontario Court of Appeal is dealing with the definition of Metis and that's true and in fact in that definition the Ontario Court of Appeal said you don't even have to have biological links to Metis, you don't have to have Metis ancestry you just have to say you're Metis and if there's another group that says they're Metis and they say, you know you're a Metis and they say you're a Metis, then you're a Metis without any kind of genealogical ties to a Metis community. So it's getting kind of scary how this definition thing is taking place in the courts and it goes beyond our control but nevertheless, we as a people have to determine who we are as a people, not the courts, the courts can say whatever they want, but we know who we are and we'll continue to live based on who we are. But there are problems and I've written to the President that stripped these individuals of their right, in fact had a meeting and they were going to be reinstated but that hasn't happened, I don't believe anything like that should ever happen to anybody, it's very undemocratic, very self-serving, very narrow minded and never again should that happen. Now I support a concept of an Ombudsman's office and in fact we have put forward to both the province and the federal government funding for the Senate, funding for the Appeals Commission, so that they can carry out their work as mandated by the Constitution. Last November at the MNLA I made a pledge that I will put forward these proposals on behalf of the Senate and on behalf of the Veterans and I have done that. Our PMC **Side A**

Ends.

Side B

Dwayne Roth

Our ten minutes notice, it's ten to one, we'll start in about 10 minutes. Their seats. Okay I just have a quick announcement before we begin. I just want to remind everybody that there's a really valuable book being sold over there. It's the Life and Times of Senator Edward King. He was a war Veteran and one of our Elders, a leader from one of our old leaders, passed away this past year. Oh this, I thought this was a book on Vital, I should read I guess. Well this is another important person, Edward King as well is a veteran and another one of our old style leaders, old time leaders and he's one of our Senators, he's one of the cornerstone people, he's ran our organization in the past during the month before the elections are called when all of our leaders step down, and he held the show for the month there. The book is being sold in the back there and I haven't looked at it obviously I haven't read it, but I'm told that it's a really good book well put together, very important that every local should have one I guess and you can use it as a model to honour your own Elders as well. So that's for sale at the back there. Another announcement, the Metis Elders are selling a blanket, there's a draw on a blanket being, the draw is December the third and they're selling tickets at the back over there. Thirdly the Metis Women of Saskatchewan is also having a raffle it's going to be actually at 2:30 this afternoon or so, Lisa has got a pair of moccasins there, hand beaded moccasins, very nice, woman's size 8. So the tickets, I think there's 6 tickets for 5 dollars, you can see Lisa on those, we're going to have the draw today. And lastly, I have another announcement to make before we get started. If you look behind me we have the proposed new flag for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. It was unveiled this last year at Batoche and the it's a proposed flag, it's not our official flag yet. The current leadership is looking for guidance and some comments on the flag. We need some direction I guess to take it back to the legislative assembly and have them adopt it as our official flag or deal with it in however way I guess the legislative assembly will deal with it either the way that is or with recommendations, modifications. So just so you know that's what this flag is here, it's our proposed new flag, so if you have any comments I think Allan Morin is one of the people that are spear heading it but you can certainly talk to all the members of the Provincial Metis Council and you can also talk to your own local president who will be dealing with it on the at the next legislative assembly. Okay well that brings us to the afternoon session then. We've got constitutional amendments until 3 o'clock and then we've got the closing prayer and then there's an employment and training workshop to follow. As I said earlier this morning we had some constitutional amendments to deal with they had a little bit of trouble photocopying them and getting them to you but apparently we handed those out over lunch and I hope you've all had a chance to look at them. And I just want to before we begin I just want to let you guys know as I have in the past couple of General Assemblies since 93 we, the General Assemblies have changed a little bit because we had adopted the new Constitution in 93, sets out the roles and the powers of the General Assembly. The real power in our organization now rests with the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly, the Annual General Assembly, you guys, are empowered with receiving information, reviewing developments, providing guidelines to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and discussing, clarifying, amending, voting on and ratifying amendments to the constitution. So you can receive information and you get to deal with the constitution and that's the change in the role of this body. Used to be when the General Assembly could pass resolutions to conduct the business of the organization but that has switched to the Legislative Assembly. So this afternoon what we're dealing with as it says in the agenda that was adopted this

morning, we're dealing with constitutional amendments and constitutional amendments only. So with that we'll get right into the constitutional amendment kits that were passed around. Starting with number 1, It doesn't say on there who the presenter of the motion is but I recall this one, it was dealt with at our Special Assembly oh it says at the top on March the second it was a presentation regarding membership and citizenship and that type of thing and Murray Hamilton was instrumental in dealing with that issue, so I'd like to ask Murray Hamilton to propose this resolution.

Murray Hamilton

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Before I speak to the constitutional amendment at hand, the first one this afternoon, I've been asked to convey to the assembly that thanks to your generosity 545 dollars was raised by passing the hat here so Vince Folk thanks you. Additionally 200 more dollars have been raised at the table there through t-shirt sales in support of Metis Rights issues. Before I move to the constitutional amendment, I may be out of place but I want to correct our speaker, this assembly in fact does have considerable power. The, any constitutional amendment faces two hurdles one is to make through the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly, the second one is to make it through this assembly by a 3/4 majority vote. So this in fact, this assembly has considerable power. The 1995, 1996, 1997 Metis Nation Legislative Assemblies very clearly recommended, set out, gave orders that community consultations on the issue of definition and enumeration were to be conducted. In the fall of 1998 Mr. Bruce Flamont, who is now working with the Senate, myself, Art Durocher I believe and some technical people held community consultation meetings in each and every area and at those meetings we heard vigorous debate on the question of definition. On March 2, 1999 at our MNSLA in Saskatoon, the MNSLA adopted the following definition for MNS Constitutional purposes and also for utilization in the enumeration process. This constitutional amendment would change the definition as it currently sits, stands in our constitution. It is there before you, I will read it. A Metis person is a person who, one - Self declares, two - is of Metis ancestry, and three - is accepted by the Metis community. Now this was a red letter day in Metis politics because it was moved by Robert Doucette, it was seconded by Philip Chartier and it passed unanimously. And I would humbly request at this time that this constitutional amendment receive today the assent of this assembly. Thank you very much.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much Mr. Hamilton. And I do thank you for that correction and I do not mean to suggest that this assembly didn't have any power of course your power rests with your ability to amend the constitution, all I meant to suggest was that we don't have the power to deal with other motions and so forth. (Demonstration going on). Ladies and gentleman, ladies and gentleman, order please. Order please. Now you people with the signs you're certainly entitled to your opinion but we do have to conduct business. If you do have something to say with regard to one of these motions here, you're entitled to come to a mike and voice your opinion and it will be recorded. We do have a motion on the floor to deal with, or sorry we do have a constitutional amendment on the floor moved by Mr. Hamilton. We have a point of order from microphone number 5.

Clem Chartier

Yes, I'm not sure how you conduct business Mr. Chairman but this is an assembly and I don't believe this

is proper conduct for an assembly anywhere. You wouldn't see this in parliament, you wouldn't see it in the legislature, I'm not sure that we should allow it here. But that's up to you to say, I just want to say that I respect their expression, their freedom of expression, of course I don't necessarily agree with their message but I think there has to be semblance of decorum in this assembly.

Dwayne Roth

I agree. I think that I'm going to have, I thought I made it clear that we're going to have to conduct business or we're not. If we're not going to conduct business we'll adjourn the meeting, if we are going to conduct business we're going to do it in a professional and responsible manner. If you do have something to say you're welcome to come to a mike otherwise we're going to keep this on a professional level and we'd ask you to put away your signs and take a seat and take your place at a mike if you have something to say. So you can either put away your signs or we're going to have to shut down the meeting.
Microphone 1.

Robert Doucette

Thank you Mr. Chair. I don't want, I want to speak to the constitutional amendment but I also want to, I don't want to, Murray had made, mentioned that there's more power and I just wanted to read to you that these people have more power at this general assembly than you guys are saying. It says in the constitutional that the general assembly shall provide a forum whereby the members of the organization will receive information, review developments and provide guidance to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly, discuss, clarify, amend and vote on and ratify amendments to the constitution. So this assembly more powers than just to talk about constitutional amendments. These people have the right to what they believe. And so that's what this assembly is for.

Dwayne Roth

And I don't dispute that

Robert Doucette

I just wanted to make that clear that that power is there

Dwayne Roth

I thought I read out provision of the constitution when we started, we're reading from the same page, we're saying the same thing. All I suggested was that prior to that coming into place this assembly conducted the business of the organization and they don't do that anymore, they provide guidance to the assembly. And I'm going to reiterate people, we're going to shut this meeting down if you don't come to order.

Robert Doucette

I would ask these people to sit down and join the meeting. I wanted to say I support that constitutional amendment but I also have to say that this forum is for people and not just for a select few.

Dwayne Roth

I agree. Everybody will have a say but the thing that I want to make clear is that we're going to follow a semblance of order, we're going to respect everybody's views whether I agree with them or not but we're going to do it in an orderly way and if you have to say on one of these motions, you come to a mike and you say your peace. We're not going to, this isn't a demonstration and we do have to have some decorum of respect and propriety. So I'm going to ask the people with the signs if you want to join us you're welcome to it, if not then you're going to have to leave. Put away your signs and take a chair. Can we get more chairs in here? There's got to be chairs. Is there any, there's a couple over here, there's a couple there, there's a few here, there's one two three here, some back there and some over there. There's lots of room, you're welcome to join us. I'll ask you guys one last time, put away the signs or we're shutting down the meeting and we're not going to deal with these constitutional amendments, we're going to do this properly or we're not going to do it. You can come to a mike and you can speak your peace, you bet ya. If it's, no just a second, you can't speak, you can speak your peace on the motion that's on the floor. If another motion comes to the floor and it deals with that you can speak your peace on that. The motion was by Mr. Hamilton dealing with the definition of Metis people. The motion is that we amend Article 10 of the Constitution dealing with the definition of a Metis person, to a Metis person is a person who, one, self declares, two, is of Metis ancestry and three, is accepted by the Metis community. It's a constitutional amendment that's relevant. If you have a question regarding that, go to a mike and ask a question. Thank you for putting away the signs. Okay we'll deal with the motion, we have a mover and a seconder of that motion, we will now discuss the motion on the floor. Starting with microphone 5 back here to microphone 1 and if anybody else wants to speak make your way to a microphone and I'll acknowledge you. Microphone 5.

Participant

Ya, I know there was a lot of work done on this issue and there was a, membership applications, new membership application forms and the Senate review and the stuff that Bruce Flamont was doing, is this stuff all tied together in regards to this matter because I have some concerns about this self declaration because for instance, I seen a guy come out of Toronto and all of a sudden he self declares he's a Metis and next thing he's running the health institute or the MACSI centre and just like that from nowhere, self declaration, poof he's a Metis, he was adopted out, nobody can check it out. How do you determine, how do you control those things? I want to see something, and not only that the second thing about this, is what happens here is in the locals and we got arguments about non profits and people are getting thrown out of locals because they're asking questions about finances, okay, and the thing about that is the local over here that's demonstrating is most of them are Local 7 members and from one of the major clans that's in town here and like in a sense I've been asking questions about financial statements and they're not so popular and they haven't been given any financial reports and they haven't even made reports for two years and their corporation could get shut down but that's totally different, the non profit corporation acts in the Metis constitution. Who is the boss then? Is it the Metis people at the local community or is it this document in regards to the Metis constitution that we want to adopt. We got to get this membership straightened around because there's a lot of white people that are getting in here and making money off of us.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, there's a question that's been put on the motion. I will ask the mover or the seconder to respond. I think Mr. Hamilton would like to answer that.

Murray Hamilton

I will try. First of all we're dealing with two or three issues. I understand some people's frustrations. I want to deal with the definition first. This is a constitutional amendment to change the definition that's in the constitution. That's all it is. The definition itself does not appear on the citizenship application form. With respect to people abusing that, the system that has been put in place is much improved over the old system. You have an application form if necessary you have to provide some genealogy, there's an appeal process where anybody who is granted citizenship, somebody can counter appeal, if they're denied citizenship they can appeal. But all this constitutional amendment that we're dealing with at the moment, it has nothing to do with the registration process that's a separate issue. The constitutional amendment that we're dealing with right now changes the constitution, the definition in the constitution from what it is to what we're proposing today, that's all it is. Now if we do that it changes the constitution and the definition that goes in is the definition that local presidents, regional councils, the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and the Senate will be required to work with. I don't even want to get into those Metis that come along, or some person that comes along and says I'm Metis because my grandmother once ate bannock three generations ago, that's a different issue. It's quite clear, the constitutional amendment is quite clear. And I would remind the speaker that we do have a mover and seconder, I don't, it's not my place to cut off discussion, but if there's other questions, but let's not mix up all these things at once. If there's other questions I will try and respond to them.

Dwayne Roth

Okay is there anymore questions with respect to the motion that's on the floor. I think I said microphone 1 first and then I think Merrill beat you to the mike, so microphone 1, 2 and then back here at five. Microphone 1.

Participant

So anything in retrospect, how do you want to sponsor people who want to go to school and everything like that, like for the Metis people?

Dwayne Roth

Again as Mr. Hamilton was eluding to, there are other issues that kind of come out of this definition but what

Participant

He's eluding the question.

Dwayne Roth

Well the motion, it's not my motion, but just to try to clarify and help as my role as the chair and try to facilitate discussion, the motion deals with changing the definition in our constitution.

Participant

Okay, you're eluding the question right now. Is that what you do, is elude the question all the time?

Dwayne Roth

I'm actually trying to clarify what the motion on the floor is. It's not up to me to answer the question, it's up to me to try to help facilitate the discussion sir.

Participant

Okay clarify that and elaborate a little bit.

Dwayne Roth

Well I don't know if we can elaborate any more. There's a motion on the floor that says the definition in our constitution is going to be changed, do you support that change or don't you support that change?

Participant

What constitution is that?

Dwayne Roth

That's the constitution of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. That's our constitution. That governs how we, how our government works.

Participant

Okay, what government is that?

Dwayne Roth

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan. Sir if you don't have a question on the motion I'm going to have to cut you off because there's other people that want to speak.

Participant

Okay, okay I'm going to ask you a question. How come I can't go to university no more?

Dwayne Roth

I can't answer that for you sir, I'm sorry. Microphone number 2.

Merril Fiddler

I'd like a point of clarification. Currently in Prince Albert we have a member who sent in his ancestry and that to the Metis Nation. Bruce Flamont stated he was not Metis. When did we start kicking people out of the Metis Nation and do we have the technical expertise right now to decide who's Metis, I've never seen a list of genealogy charts anywhere's in the Metis Nation.

Dwayne Roth

Again I'll ask either the mover or the seconder to respond.

Murray Hamilton

Well I'm not the mover or the seconder but I'll speak to it. I may stand corrected but I believe that our constitution empowers the Senate to deal with these issues and then there's a further appeal to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly. With respect to the technical abilities I have every confidence that the Registrar's office in fact has a whole list of e-mail sites, the computer ability to access the St. Boniface Historical Society records and that of course, everything can always be improved, but do they have the expertise? I would say at this point, yes they do.

Dwayne Roth

I said microphone five next and then there's a gentleman here at microphone four.

Participant

Okay, Shirley Ross, Langham Local. I'd just like to clarify something as well. You've got number one, self declares, number two is of Metis ancestry and is accepted by the Metis communtiy. It should be by your community not yours, it should be by the Local you're living in, not your community.

Murray Hamilton

Well I believe that's what it infers.

Shirley Ross

Well it doesn't state that though and that can be changeable if it isn't worded right then it doesn't mean the same thing.

Murray Hamilton

Well actually I think it means both. You can't say, for example let's just use a practical example. Somebody says I'm of Metis ancestry. All right, that's the first step, you self declare. Then you fill out your

application and if somebody calls your bluff well then you go through the genealogy thing but Metis community if somebody's a Metis in Ile a la Crosse, then certainly they must also be Metis in Lebret, Saskatchewan, I mean

Shirley Ross

That's true Murray but if Lebret, Saskatchewan don't like you then you're not a Metis.

Murray Hamilton

Well then if Lebret, Saskatchewan don't like you, like Local 11 didn't like me when I moved to Saskatoon, I have the right to appeal to the Senate, to the MNLA and further on

Shirley Ross

I just think the wording should be clarified

Murray Hamilton

But again, again we're mixing apples and oranges here. We're just dealing with the definition. The registration process, I'll be the first to admit there's probably not one of us that hasn't had some difficulties in our lives trying to gain admittance to a local or to a region and you know those kind of politics are always going to go on.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 4. I don't know who was here first, I think Robert, no I mean next after four, two and then one. Microphone four.

Participant

My name is Dennis McLeod, I'm from Stanley Mission. I've been a local member for a long, long time. I have, I want to present to you with two scenarios. The first one is, if a Metis man marries a status Indian women, their children are brought by their mother to be in status. How is this definition number 2 going to affect that? Do these kids have a legal claim to regain Metis status even though they become registered. That's my first question. Maybe I'll let you answer that one first.

Murray Hamilton

Okay, I'll answer it this way. In addition to the community consultations that we held in the fall of 1998, we also the Metis National Council, Mr. Roth was present, our President, some of our other executive members at meetings across Canada because you all know that we, this is a national issue. The current thinking at least within Saskatchewan and I think it's very progressive thinking, is this, is that we cannot identify ourselves, Metis people cannot identify themselves by what I call external legislation. For example our current definition in the constitution as it stands right now says in order to be considered a Metis you

have to be descended from those people that were entitled to receive scrip. Now at one time that might have been sound thinking, it might have been overly nationalistic thinking. But, we cannot define ourselves by the Dominion Lands Act, we cannot ourselves by the Indian Act, we cannot define ourselves even by the 1982 Constitution Act, it's up to Metis to define themselves without using either provincial or federal legislation and that's my **(tape 1, side b ends)**

End Tape One.

Tape 2, Side A

Clem Chartier

written letters, I've written to the government, I'm saying it because that's what I believe. Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 5 and then the last speaker over here at microphone 2.

Participant

Okay, we're talking about how we're becoming members and stuff like that. All I want to know is once you have proven you are Metis and you've gone through all that, you have your membership, I want to know who decides that you're no longer Metis? How can they take away your membership and say no, you're no longer Metis, you can vote, you can't do this, you can't do that, you're kicked out, you're gone? It has been done before, I know it has, so why go through all the trouble, apply for your membership, get it, okay now I'm now I'm Metis, now I've said the wrong thing about the wrong person, I'm outta there. How does that work?

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much for the question. Do we have somebody, you're the mover or the seconder like to answer that question? Robert?

Robert Doucette

Well the process in the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan right now says that is that the Senate deals with stuff like that but it's, I can what John Hannikenne and you're saying and I can see what Murray's saying but all of that definition is linked together and that's the problem. There is a political component to it and you can't get away with and so how do you, the simple question is how do you take that political process out of applying for a Metis citizen because once you're a Metis citizen that's it, why should you have to crumb somebody when you don't believe in what they're saying or if you want a program and you don't agree with what they're saying and then all of a sudden they're say you're out of there. And then it doesn't get any easier, let's say if your aunty or uncle or whatever is sitting on the Senate and they side up with the people that are kicking you out or it gets even better when you go to the MNLA and they hear only a couple sides of it and they, then they say well you're out. I don't agree with that and that's exactly what's happening today so how do we take that political thing out of that definition.

Murray Hamilton

Well I agree that there's a political element to pretty much everything we do and I don't know the lady's name. Have your, your membership was taken away? Your's wasn't. Has that individual who lost their membership gone through the process, have they applied to the Senate?

Participant

I don't know. All I know is they had a membership, they got a letter, you're no longer a member, you no longer have rights, that shouldn't happen.

Murray Hamilton

Well absolutely it shouldn't happen and our President is absolutely correct. It shouldn't happen, it can happen, the constitution says membership shall be issued, not might be, not maybe, but if somebody's in that pickle the first step is to write a letter to the Senate saying look I think this is wrong, the Senate will deal with it after that if they're not happy with that it goes right to the MNLA.

Participant

No, no, no. If you're saying okay we're going to give you a membership if you go through these steps and if you prove you're a Metis we'll give you a membership. Well you should be saying we're going to give you a Metis membership you are a Metis for life. Watch your mouth, don't say the wrong thing, don't do the wrong thing or we won't like you no more and we'll take your membership. No, no, no, you're Metis, you're Metis for life. I can't go turn around and say okay, maybe I'll be Indian maybe I'll be white. I'm Metis, you've given me my membership if I open my mouth, you get pissed with me, you take my membership? No, put it in there if you're Metis, you're Metis for life.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much. Microphone number 2. The last speaker at microphone number 2 and then we will vote on the motion or the amendment.

Participant

My name is Rhonda Dyck and if I understand correctly what it says on this thing, is that in order to be a Metis person I need to say that I am Metis, I need to be able to prove that I am Metis on my family tree and then the community as a whole needs to look me and say yes you are? No, you can't go up to a Black man and say well I don't like you you're not Black anymore, you are born Metis, White, Black, Chinese, Japanese, I don't care what, you can't take that away, and to say that a community has to accept you in order for you to be Metis is bull. It's bull and who is the community? Because I am Metis, self declaration, it will be proven on my family tree, but I'm sorry I don't care what anybody says about me I will always be Metis. Whether I'm in a local, whether I'm part of the membership or not. So how can you say in order to be Metis you need to be accepted by the community?

Murray Hamilton

I tend to agree with you and that's why they're ordered in that way is that one if you self declare you're right nobody can take away your birthright,

Participant

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Sir, I'm sorry but whether I jump up and down and say I'm Metis or just keep it to myself and never utter it for my entire life, I was born Metis, I'm still Metis, I don't have to go running up and say I'm Metis in order to be Metis.

Murray Hamilton

That's right but on the other hand if we're going to define our citizenship, people are going to have to say yes, I'm Metis, and if somebody calls our bluff well then here's the proof and furthermore the community has always accepted me as Metis. We

Participant

But that doesn't always happen

Murray Hamilton

But if it does we have to have some criteria to work by

Participant

Who is the community? In order, if somebody comes to our Local and says I want to have Metis membership, I'm Metis, I'm declaring I'm Metis, who is the community? Do we send a picture of this person and a bibliography or biography on this person to everybody in the Metis Nation to say do you think this person is Metis? How can you say that this person has to be approved by the Nation or the community?

Murray Hamilton

This is criteria for citizenship within the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan. If people, there's lots of Metis people out there and probably for good reason that don't want to belong to the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan. That's their business.

Participant

If a person wants to be a member of the Metis Nation all they should need to do is to be able to show it on their family tree, whether the community likes them or not and whether they jump up and down saying I'm Metis. It doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is the family tree, if they have Metis blood then they are Metis and even God can't take that away. Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you very much. Your point is well taken. I take it you're speaking against the motion. That's it for the speakers that came up to the mike when I called the cut-off so we're now going to deal with the motion. And again the motion is to change Article 10 of the constitution or amend the Article 10 of the constitution dealing with definition to read, "**A Metis person is a person who, 1, self declares, 2. Is of Metis**

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

ancestry and 3. Is accepted by the community. All those in favour of that motion, please raise your hand. All those in favour. All those opposed. I think it was carried, I think we'll call for a hand count. So again, I'm going to ask you to hold your hands up and keep them up nice and high. All those in favour of the motion. You can put your hands down after she's come and counted you and give you the signal otherwise keep them up. So she's kind of over there, so you guys keep them up. **135 in Favour.** Opposed. **97 Opposed,** I declare that motion, wait a second. I know, I know, I got to figure this out to see what 75% is just a second. The will of the people have spoken and I think it's clear they need 75% of the people to pass this and they haven't achieved that with 135, they've achieved a majority but not a 75%, so therefore that **motion is defeated.** And just for greater clarity that means that the definition that we have or that we had before will continue and that definition is "Metis means and aboriginal person who self identifies as Metis, who is distinct from Indian and Inuit and is descendant to those Metis who received or who were entitled to receive land grants and or scrip under the provisions of the Manitoba Act 1870 or the Dominion Lands Act as enacted from time to time, or a person of aboriginal descent who is accepted by the Metis Nation and or Metis Community". That was the old definition and that one is still in place.

Michelle Harding

Okay the next amendment that came from November 5, 6, & 7th, Metis Legislative Assembly was moved by Clem Chartier and seconded by Murray Hamilton. The amendment reads, to amend Article 1 of our Constitution that the name of the organization be changed from the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan to the Metis Nation - Saskatchewan. If I could have Mr. Chartier speak to his motion please.

Clem Chartier

Yes essentially as we've said we are one people. The Metis Nation covers more than one province and we've been starting to make, starting from the Metis Nation of Ontario, Metis Nation of Alberta, Metis Nation of Saskatchewan, we're starting to break ourselves up by province and in fact the governments have been using this against us. They even started to use that in the courts to show that there is no Metis Nation, Metis Homeland or Metis people in Canada that we're not one people with a common history, common culture, language, things of that nature, so the name means a lot and in order to show that we are part of the bigger Metis Nation this change would simply say that, just says Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, so it'll just identify us as being that Saskatchewan portion of the Metis Nation and that's what the proposal is put forth for today.

Michelle Harding

Thank you. Microphone number 1.

Robert Doucette

Yes thank you Ms. Chair. A couple things, I support Mr. Chartier motion and that amendment. But I also want to say for the record I have my own amendment that wasn't put on the books here and I wanted , cause it was a constitutional amendment and I want it dealt with today. That's a separate issue but I want it dealt with. It was passed by an MNLA and I think it deserves the second reading but with respect to that I support Mr. Chartier's amendment.

Michelle Harding

Thank you Mr. Doucette. Would anyone else like to speak to this amendment? Question has been called. All in favour. All opposed. Any abstentions? The amendment is carried. The next one is and I'll deal with Mr. Doucette. I just want to clarify your question. We'll deal with, how are we going to deal with that? We'll deal with that at the end of some of this, okay. Okay the next one on the books was moved by Clem Chartier, seconded by Randy Gaudry. Eleven members of the Provincial Metis Council shall constitute a quorum, that would be Article 3, Section 6. Can I have Mr. Chartier speak to this amendment please.

Clem Chartier

Thank you. The Provincial Metis Council is made up of all the Regional Directors, that's 12, the four executive, that's 16 and the Metis Woman, that's 17. Our current quorum is only 9, well is 9, and it's felt that in order to have a better representation that the quorum should be increased to 11, so it would be 11 out of 17 and if the constitutional amendment passes for the youth it'll be eleven out of 18, so it's just to bring up the number of quorum from 9 as it exists to 11.

Michelle Harding

Thank you. Mike number 4.

Participant

I just want to raise a point of order. I think this needs to be dealt with after the resolution on the youth just because if you add membership to the board, then what's going to happen is that this may have to be raised or lowered. So I was just, I think it's just out of order in the actual presentation.

Michelle Harding

Microphone number 5

Clem Chartier

Yes I agree with that, there's actually three amendments with respect to the youth that have a bearing on this, well two that do but might as well deal with all three at this time before coming back to this, so I believe it should be in that order. And perhaps those that are making the, the people proposing these amendments perhaps should be invited to the mike if they want to make them, if they don't I'm not sure if you necessarily need to read them off.

Michelle Harding

Okay thank you. Is there anymore discussion on this amendment, 11 eleven members of the Provincial Metis Council shall constitute a quorum. Sorry. Okay. Sorry about that I misunderstood you.

Clem Chartier

I guess we're just tabling it until after the youth ones are dealt with.

Michelle Harding

Okay.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, I'll deal with the next one. I think that does make sense that last point because some of the ones that they're talking about the youth will actually increase the size of the PMC so you have to deal with the quorum issue there, so we'll deal with it later I guess we'll table that. The next one we've got on the list is moved by Clem Chartier, second by Gary Bedore. Okay.

Clem Chartier

I think the suggestion was to deal

Dwayne Roth

To deal with the youth ones now, okay.

Clem Chartier

Yes, if you don't mind. And also the suggestion was even though you have these in your hands they're not necessarily going to be brought forward perhaps by the proposer, so maybe you should let the proposers deal with them if they so choose. If they don't that ends it.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, let's get on to the youth ones then. Does anyone want to propose one of the youth amendments? Microphone number 2.

Ralph Kennedy

* Ralph Kennedy, Minister of Youth. I would like to propose Article 12, Section 1.2 **That the Provincial Metis Youth Council shall be designated one seat on the Provincial Metis Council and four seats at the Metis National Legislative Assembly.**

Dwayne Roth

Okay, so the mover there was Ralph Kennedy. This was dealt with by the Legislative Assembly, it's a constitutional amendment here for ratification. Mr. Kennedy is again presenting it. Any discussion on that amendment? Microphone 4, I think I'm in trouble again.

Dale McAuley

Thanks Dwayne. I just want to say right now as we could have 12 seats that are youth, in the constitution right if they were elected. I just, just for clarity here, are we going to be appointing one or will this youth be elected provincially? Because right now the youth could be area directors in all 12 regions.

Dwayne Roth

It's a valid point, Ralph.

Ralph Kennedy

That youth would be appointed by the youth, by the Provincial Youth Council. But I guess my colleague is right we could 12 youth from the regions elected but lots of these youth, it takes a little while to break into politics and a lot of them don't have the experience to get into become Area Directors right off the bat like that. There's lots of resources that are geared towards the youth, there's lots of money from Heritage Canada, there's lots of money from crime prevention, from different things that are geared towards the youth that presently come through the Metis Society and the youth feel that they're going to be the leaders of tomorrow and they should have a place in our Nation. So they're asking for one seat on the Provincial Council and I don't think that's too much to ask for.

Dwayne Roth

No further clarification on that? Any other questions on that amendment? Question's been called but we have somebody at the mike. Microphone 1

Robert Doucette

I would just for clarification, I would get the President for Metis Youth, Trevor Kennedy to explain how the process works for Metis Youth so we could just have further clarification to ensure that it's not going to be appointed by one or two people. That's just my suggestion.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, Trevor Kennedy if you want to give us some information as to how the Youth Council designates that one seat or how it's proposed.

Trevor Kennedy

The youth will be seating on the PMC will be the President or the Chairman of the Provincial Youth Council which is elected by the Provincial Youth Council.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, thank you. Any discussion on the amendment? Do I hear question. Question's been called, all in favour of that amendment. It's an amendment. Read it again, it says, Article 12 **That the Provincial Metis Youth Council shall be designated one seat on The PMC and four seats on the MNLA.** All those opposed. **CARRIED.** Does anybody have any other of the ones they want to bring forward?
Microphone 2, Ralph Kennedy.

Ralph Kennedy

Article 3, Section 1, **That the Provincial Metis Council shall be comprised of one elected Regional Representative, the Executive, one representative from the Metis Women of Saskatchewan and one Representative from the Provincial Youth Council, for a total of 18 Provincial Council members.**

Dwayne Roth

Okay. Amendment by Ralph Kennedy, kind of a housekeeping thing to change the numbers. Any discussion on that amendment? Microphone 4 are you.

Dale McAuley

Dwayne I just have a question here regarding, when things are passed at the MNLA, those are the words exact words and reading of the resolution at that time. How can we come here and just amend it, when we were supposed to just adopt it?

Dwayne Roth

Are you saying that this one's a different wording as well?

Dale McAuley

I'm still behind on the other one. I'm not against it

Dwayne Roth

Just on the other one, I looked at my tab 15 of the kit that I got at the MNLA in June in Batoche that MNLA didn't go ahead because we didn't have quorum but we still had the kit there so that wasn't a resolution dealt with there. Mr. Hamilton said that, that wording was the accurate wording and that's what we dealt with.

Dale McAuley

So the wordings that were dealt with then and now are the same.

Dwayne Roth

They should be.

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Dale McAuley

It's clear I guess, but still I don't know, okay, it was just for clarity, but I'm still not clear.

Dwayne Roth

Any other discussion on the motion, I mean the amendment, sorry? Discussion on that amendment? Do I hear question? Questions been called. All in favour of that amendment. All those opposed to that amendment. Any abstentions? **CARRIED**

Ralph you might as well make it a triacta and deal with the other one as well.

Ralph Kennedy

Article 2, Section 2. That the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be comprised of Local Presidents, the Provincial Metis Council, four representatives from the Metis Women of Saskatchewan and four representatives from the Provincial Metis Youth Council.

Dwayne Roth

Okay. Any discussion on that amendment? Do I hear question? Questions been called. All in favour. All opposed. Abstentions. **CARRIED**

Now Mr. Chartier do we want to go back to that one that was tabled? Okay I think he had already explained it a little bit. We're going back to the one that says with quorum on the PMC we've upped it a little bit and now we're saying we want eleven members to be quorum on the PMC. That's the amendment, it was passed by the legislative assembly and it's here for ratification. Any discussion on that? Question's been called, all in favour. Eleven members of the PMC shall constitute a quorum. All those opposed. Abstentions. **CARRIED**

Do we want to allow them a little bit of time to make their draw or do we want to keep going. The will of the people will prevail. All in favour of taking a little tiny break to do the draw for the Metis Women on the mocassins. All in favour of the draw happening put up your hand. All those who want to keep going. Looks like we're going to keep going. Does anybody else have amendments to bring forward? The women aren't making you guys mocassins no more they said. Microphone 5.

Clem Chartier

Yes I have several to make so if I could just go through and make mine then I'll get out of the way. With respect to Article 2, I'd like to see added a new section called Section 2(a). It's at the top of I think the last page. It says **Notwithstanding section 2, the Vice President of a Local shall serve as an alternate member of the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly in the event that a President is not able to attend.**

End Side A, Tape 2

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Side B

Clem Chartier

of the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly shall be held on the last Saturday of May every three years with the first election under this section to be held in May 2004. Well if you want to go in 2001 that's fine but, no I'm making an amendment, it's my constitutional proposal I read out my proposed constitutional amendment.

Dwayne Roth

Well

Clem Chartier

It's strange that a little while ago someone got up and said that you could make amendments in the constitution and it wasn't out of order it's strange all of a sudden that this one is out of order. I thought the assembly had a lot of power and could amend amendments.

Dwayne Roth

I'll read what it says again. I read it once, Robert read it once. I'll read it again. This is what we can do at the General Assembly. It says, and this is out of our constitution, Article 11, Section 2, The General Assembly shall provide a forum whereby the members of the organization will receive information, review developments and provide guidance to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and discuss, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the Constitution. Now we've never, I'm at a loss to say what the precedent would be in this situation, I don't think we've ever amended something that came to us from the PMC and I guess we'll discuss that a little bit amongst ourselves and see what we want to do, the rule of the people will prevail. Do you want to speak on that particular provision.

Clem Chartier

Ya, maybe just for clarification, I'm not saying let's not have an election next year, I'm saying this amendment would kick in in 2004, which is another election away, that's all I'm saying, but if it's out of order then and Mr. Doucette convinced you it's out of order, it's fine, we can make it another year.

Dwayne Roth

Well, I don't know if it's out of order or not it says, it does say we can amend amendments to the constitution, clarify, amend, vote on and ratify amendments to the constitution, so not just ratify, amend but I think we had a brief discussion earlier where it said well if we want amendments do we have to send them back to the MNLA? So that's the question I have if we deal with it and ratify an amendment today does it go back to the MNLA? And I think it properly would be but it's not really up to me I'm just here to facilitate discussion and I'm here to express the will of the people. So if we want to discuss that particular

provision as to what we'll do if it is amended, if you're leaving it stand as 2004 or if you want to keep it the way it was presented to the Legislative Assembly at 2001 we'll deal with it that way.

Clem Chartier

Well perhaps if I could be more clear. I've stated, I've made it my proposed amendment, if it's not accepted then that ends it, I have no further proposals to make.

Dwayne Roth

So it's to be held on May 2004. So this, you're saying the one coming up will be the regular one in February like always but the next time it's going to be for May 2004. Okay, well I guess you're entitled to amend it and I think we'll have to send it back to the MNLA, it's not going to affect this election anyway right? We'll have three years to look at it and go back to the Legislative Assembly and see if they agree with that amendment to the Constitution. So we'll have some discussion on Clem's amendment, proposed amendment. Max microphone 6.

Max Morin

Thank you Dwayne. I think Clem clarified it. Only concern I had is the amendment says 2004 but that's for an election four years from now. The upcoming election slated for February will still go on. But this amendment will have to go back to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly for ratification, right?

Dwayne Roth

That's, I think that's the process we'll have to follow yes. Because the one that the Legislative Assembly passed and brought to us for ratification dealt with this coming up election, being in May 26 of 2001. But that's not the one that 's being presented. We're saying we'll leave the one here and for 2004 for the next one we'll have in May instead.

Max Morin

Okay, I don't have any problems supporting that amendment because it deals with the election coming up in February and then in May of the year 2004 for the other elections, it's a little bit better weather for people to come out and stuff like that, I think that'll be a lot more people showing up for elections so I would, I support the amendment but it would have to go back to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, now Clem I just wanted to clarify again, the one I'm reading it says the first election under this Section to be held May 2004, is that still what your amendment is or did you change that part, because if it's the first election that'll mean the first election we're going to have now is 2004. I just want to get clarification on this first.

Clem Chartier

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

It doesn't say the first one but if you want to say the next one, that's fine too. It basically says, well you're a lawyer, you figure it out.

Dwayne Roth

Well I'm telling you it says

Clem Chartier

The alternative is just to table it, I'm easy either way but while it's on here I thought it would be an opportunity to get some clarity and some I guess security that in future years whoever's going to be elected next and I don't know who that is, they will have a mandate and everyone will know that the next one from now will be in the spring time as opposed to in the winter time, that's really all I'm trying to do here.

Dwayne Roth

Well to me it seems like it says the first election under this section will be May 2004 and that could be read, I'm not saying it will, but it could be read as meaning the first election we're going to have now is in 2004 and there might be some confusion there is all I'm suggesting. Point of clarity here at microphone 1 and then microphone 4.

Robert Doucette

Yes, Mr. Chair I just want to read what the constitution of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan reads. And it reads simply this, the constitution shall only be amended by the majority of 3/4's of the members of the MNLA and ratified by 3/4's of the members of the General Assembly. All proposed amendments to the constitution must be registered with the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Head Office 30 days prior to the sitting of the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly whereby where reasonable advance notice of the Legislative Assembly is provided, where the minimum 30 days notice is provided under Article 2, Section 8, all proposed amendments must be registered 14 days prior to the sitting of the MNLA. And the reason that I'm telling you that is that, that motion that Mr. President is making is out of order and it contravenes the constitution. It's quite clear that, that motion that was passed at the MNLA says 2001. And I don't know if he wants, doesn't want to deal with the original motion but I think that that's out of order. And I find it a little tough to swallow because two years ago I had proposed that the terms be four years and Mr. Chartier and all of those people convinced everybody that that was against the non profit corporation act and now I hear hypocrisy here today, now they want to change it. Well make up your mind. So two points, it's against the constitution and it's out of order and I think that if we're going to do that we should have that the constitution respected and that should have been in there in the first place and not come through the back door because I'm not really sure because I've got a lawyer asking a lawyer for an opinion here. And I'm not going, I'm tired of the back door treatment and I don't think, I think you should rule it out of order, you should exercise the right even if it is the President of the Metis Nation cause he's just an individual like everybody else here.

Dwayne Roth

Again I want to tell you I'm reading from the same page as you and it doesn't say that 30 days notice to the General Assembly is required, it says 30 days notice to the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly and I think what we were discussing was the fact if this amendment goes through it has to go back to the Legislative Assembly because this amendment isn't the one that they dealt with before. Well that's why it has to go back

Robert Doucette

It didn't make the first, Clem never sent that into the office 30 days prior to that MNLA. It says 2001 so if he wants to make the motion for 2004 then he can make it for the next one, don't bring it here and try and push it through the back door.

Dwayne Roth

I'm not trying to, I'm just trying to clarify what we're reading from the same thing and you said 30 days notice but that's not for this that's for the Legislative Assembly, I wanted to clarify that point. But I think it's a moot point because he's clear that it's going to be for the next one not for this one. Microphone 4.

Dale McAuley

If this is ever going to happen, right now it's only an additional 3 months we're talking about if it's going to happen it'll happen, if not it'll be argued maybe by then if we just follow this one and pass it or defeat it whatever it doesn't matter to me, but what I'm saying is why don't we just deal with this motion and get it over with but if we didn't, if it get's defeated or , I mean if it goes on at least maybe within these 3 months we'll know who's Metis.

Dwayne Roth

So you're suggesting we deal with the original 2001? The problem with that is the person that is sponsoring that motion if you will is not presenting that same motion to us today.

Dale McAuley

Well even if he doesn't want to he doesn't have the right now, we have to deal with it the way it's worded.

Dwayne Roth

But it's his motion. If you want to make that motion you can. But right now we're dealing with his amendment.

Dale McAuley

Well I'm sure he'd agree with me, he never argues with me, why would he argue with me in public.

Dwayne Roth

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Microphone 5.

Clem Chartier

No I believe there's a fair amount of confusion around this, there is no back door. We can barely even afford a front door. But in any event the constitution I believe allows this to happen. But just for the sake of not creating any unnecessary I guess misgivings in the future at this time, I'll just table this proposal, if there's someone else that wants to grab a hold of it and take it forward they can do so but I will table this proposal.

Dwayne Roth

So you're withdrawing that amendment at this time. Okay. That one's withdrawn. Is there any other amendments that people want to bring forward from the list? Microphone number one.

Robert Doucette

My amendment to the constitution isn't on the list but nonetheless it was an amendment made by the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly in 1997 and it never got the chance for discussion on the floor at an AGM and I'm bringing it to the floor today.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, I've anticipated this, that this might happen, it wasn't in our kits, I assumed that it wouldn't happen but if you're bringing it forward we're going to have to deal with and again it's going to be the will of the people. Ya, that one's got to come but we'll deal with this one. It's go to be the will of the people. What he's suggesting is that he brought an amendment forward and I think it's the one that dealt with the preamble. It was dealt with on November the 14, 1997 by the Legislative Assembly at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, it's a 3 page addition to the preamble. Now subsequent to that we had another AGM that dealt with all of the Constitutional Amendments that happened. That AGM happened on December 13, 1997, so this amendment that he's proposing happened before the last so again I don't know what the president is in this situation. To me it seem like we should deal with all of the amendments that occurred since the last AGM and if some were missed they should go back to the Legislative Assembly and come here. So we deal from between AGM's but it'll be the will of the people I guess that decide how far back we go with these amendments, do we go back to the last AGM or do we go back until whenever if somebody wants to bring a motion in that wasn't dealt with.

Robert Doucette

Point of clarification Mr. Chair. The reason why it wasn't brought to the last AGM was because we had that meeting at the Saskatoon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre and I never had the chance to bring it to the floor because there was a discussion over the election act and then everybody left and you guy's ruled the meeting dead and I wanted to bring it there. And so I ask Metis people at this Assembly just to hear this out and let's just deal with it because all it is, is an amendment to the Constitution, if they don't like it they can defeat it, it's no big deal.

Dwayne Roth

I agree but there's another principle involved that goes beyond this particular issue because if we open up a president here that we're going to deal with past motions that should've happened at previous AGM's then it's not just this motion that's affected, it's a president that's going to affect other things, what if somebody today didn't deal with a motion and then the next AGM they want to bring in a motion that should've been dealt with here today. I'm saying that perhaps the thing to do is to take it back to a Legislative Assembly then bring it to the next AGM and that wasn't done with Robert's. I'm not saying that that's the way to do it, I'm just saying that that's what particular happens. So before we deal with Robert's proposed amendment I need some clarification from you whether or not we want to deal with amendments occurring prior to the last AGM or we're going to have a cut off for the time limit just dealing with Legislative Assembly things that happened since the last AGM. I need some clarification because I don't know what the answer is. Microphone 2 and then 5 and then 4.

Ralph Kennedy

We have a long day, it's pretty stormy out, we can't just open the floor to everything all the time. We have an agenda, we have kits that's got all the information, now to go and just reopen it, we can't be doing that.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 5.

Raymond Laliberte

Dwayne what we're dealing with here is another constitutional change. So if you need constitutional change you require 3/4's of the assembly to do that. And I would say if you want to put something on the floor, Robert just got up to the mike and he just rattled on rightly or wrongly about process and we have to respect the process and his motion currently does not respect the process so it has to go back.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 4.

Dale McAuley

Ya, Dwayne I guess it is trying to go through the proper process and protocol. I think we should just go ahead and deal with these motions the way they read. Otherwise we can't keep changing things, we should, these were already approved and adopted by the MNLA, so why don't we just deal with them, if they're defeated or they're approved, let it stand. Then we're, at least we'll have some production that way.

Dwayne Roth

Is your suggestion then that we deal with all the ones that come forward even ones that pre-date the last

AGM or the ones that were dealt with by the Legislative Assembly since the last AGM.

Dale McAuley

The way, what's on the paper, we're here to deal with

Dwayne Roth

There's a new one that Robert is proposing, that's the one that I'm seeking direction on, it's this one.

Dale McAuley

Well Robert could wait for next time, but we should deal with this one.

Dwayne Roth

So you're opposed to that then?

Dale McAuley

You know if we're ever, this was passed by the MNLA all we're supposed to be doing here is ratifying these that's it, not changing things and making us crazy.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 1 and then 2.

Participant

I agree with Mr. McAuley that whatever motions were made at a former meeting should be dealt with in the form that they are made because they were motions and seconded and then they're supposed to be dealt with here. And this here was part of an agenda which is an official meeting of this organization it was, or, there was advertising, letters were sent to the President's this was in the kits, so you have to deal with what was in the kits.

Dwayne Roth

But Robert's motion wasn't in my kit. He just handed it to me. Ya, the other ones, but I'm seeking clarification on the one that Robert's trying to, okay, okay. Microphone 2 and then 3 and back to 1.

Wayne Paul

As long as you've been arguing up there about not hearing what Robert has to hear on those 3 pages I think if we'd have listened to what he had to say on those three pages we'd been done already. But instead you're wasting half an hour here arguing about it, just let him say what he has to say.

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Dwayne Roth

Well I'm arguing because it's an important thing, I'm not doing this for nothing. It's an important issue, it doesn't deal with just this one motion, it's something that if we change the way we do things, in the future when we come to these AGM's there might be other ones that will be affected by this. We're setting a president here and I want to make sure that we do it properly and we do it the way the people want it to be done, it's not up to me to make that determination. That's why I'm giving you the fair hearing and allowing people like yourself to come forward and giving me those instructions. It's an important issue, it's not just dealing with Robert's motion. Microphone 3.

Participant

Well why don't we be fair about it, you're being a lawyer towards this guy but when Clem was talking you sure in the hell were no lawyer there.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 2 again.

Wayne Robert

When Robert's talking you're being a lawyer towards him all of a sudden, but when Clem was up there you had nothing to say, you weren't being your lawyer.

Dwayne Roth

Well I'm not here as a lawyer, I'm here as a chairperson and I'm here to tell you that this is an important change in the way we're going to deal with things and we should have input from everybody, you're entitled to your opinion but so is other people here and I want to get everybody's opinion and we'll vote on it and then the will of the people will rule the day. Microphone 3.

Henry Cummings

I think it was me sticking to the agenda and if there's any constitutional amendments than Robert should be taking that to the MNLA.

Dwayne Roth

Microphone 1 and then 4.

Robert Doucette

Thank you Mr. Chair. Well I'll tell you what about 2 weeks ago I was given the task to put all the constitutional amendments together in a kit. And I did that and then all of a sudden yesterday I come here

and all of a sudden, whoops, this was left out. Conveniently. So what's going on here? Is this little 3 page amendment to the constitution so scary that they would want to leave it out? The people will decide that and that's all I've ever lived my principle on is that people would decide that but they gave me a task I did it and then I get the back door treatment again. You know and I'm tired of it because it doesn't encourage anybody else to come up to the mike and deal with this because and I'm sorry Ray, this did follow the process, it went to an MNLA in 97 it received the assent of the MNLA and for whatever reason it didn't get to the AGM and I'm saying that this is on the books and it should be dealt with here today and please just respect the process that's all I'm saying.

Dwayne Roth

I agree and I want to, all I'm trying to do at this point is clarify the process because since that was ratified by the MNLA, we've had an AGM, we've already had a AGM that should have dealt with all of the previous constitutional amendments. Now this AGM that we're dealing with are we going to deal with just those constitutional amendments since the last AGM or are we going to go back to the ones that weren't dealt with before and that's the question that we have to resolve. Microphone 3 and I think 4 and then back here.

Ralph Kennedy

Ralph Kennedy again, if, let's let the people decide, let's just have a vote right now if we want to hear 3 more pages of resolutions or if we don't, let's have a vote.

Dwayne Roth

I'll do what I did for the last one, we're starting to get wound down for time so if you want to speak on this, get to a mike, otherwise who's ever at the mike now will be the last ones to speak and then we'll be done with it and we'll vote on how far back we for these resolutions. Microphone 4 and then 5 and that'll be the cut off after microphone 5.

Participant

I'd like to speak to order please. One of the things that we got in our kits as registered representatives of our locals is this piece of paper here that has a number of amendments that had been proposed and we still have one to deal with. Also I'd like to think that we're a big enough people that our ears are big enough that we can hear what other people have to say. There are always going to be problems in process and procedure and we have to find a way to be able to deal with those. There are always going to be issues that will somehow not get filed into packages like this but they're important and we need to deal with them and hopefully we're kind enough people that we can hear people out and make our decisions and vote accordingly. Thank you.

Dwayne Roth

Thank you. Microphone 5.

John Mellenchuk

Correct me if I'm wrong, is this not an Annual General Meeting for the people? This sounds like this is an executive meeting here. Let the people here talk and decide. You guys are having your little fights, do that back in your offices, we're here to do business to people and I'm going to get back to that Ombudsman, we need that Ombudsman Mr. Roth.

Dwayne Roth

Okay, now the question that I need to be resolved right that I need you to vote on is to give me direction as your chair as to how far back we go with these amendments? Do we go back just to the last AGM and any of the amendments that happened in between? Or do we go to amendments that happened before? And this is what Robert's amendment is, it happened before the last AGM. So all of the people agree that we should just deal amendments since the last AGM, raise your hand. Since the last AGM. Well this, the one that Robert has isn't the one I'm dealing with right now. His amendment is from, it was dealt with by the Legislative Assembly on November of 97, well they haven't, have some respect for the people who would like some clarification please. Again as I'm saying this ratification was done November of 97, since then we've had an AGM but this wasn't dealt with and my question is do we still deal with things that happened before the last AGM or do we just deal with things that happened since the last AGM. That's the question that we need resolved. Okay. So all those in favour of just dealing with things since the last AGM, not before the last AGM raise your hand. All those people who want to deal with things that happened or resolutions since, or that happened before the last AGM, raise your hand. This is a long day. That's carried. We've set a president here today. Took us a while but that's our self governing process at work. We just changed the way we do things. So, Robert if you want to come up. Microphone 1.

Participant

How about we deal with what we got right now, we only got one more article to do and then we can go to Robert's.

Dwayne Roth

Do you want to table yours for a minute? Which one are you looking at? Again that was one that was sponsored by Clem Chartier and he's advised my co-chair that he's no longer sponsoring that amendment so it's not on the floor unless someone else wants to bring it. Microphone 2.

Ralph Kennedy

That, I don't think that vote was a 2/3's does it have to be 2/3's on that vote.

Dwayne Roth

It wasn't a constitutional amendment that I was asking for. Okay well that's it then. Robert, microphone 1.

Robert Doucette

Metis Nation - Saskatchewan, General Assembly, November 18, 2000 Tape 2

Thank you Mr. Chair. Did you want to speak Dale?

Dale McAuley

Hello I'm Johnny Cash. Just one simple little question. Can we make amendments to what we're dealing with? What we're supposed to be dealing with? Could we make amendments?

Michelle Harding

You mean, were you talking about the wording as you were talking about before? Do you mean amending the wording to each of the

Dale McAuley

Well I strongly believed we were here to come and deal with these. As per words and whatever. Do we have the right to changes things here that we're just supposed to ratify? That's a simple questions and I can't ask it any simpler. And I want a simple answer.

Michelle Harding

No you certainly can't ask it any simpler. You guys just decided that. You just decided on the change for Mr. Chartier's amendment.

Dale McAuley

I never asked for no changes I just want to deal with these.

Michelle Harding

My answer would be no. That you can't change, what do you mean Dale, like can you be clearer, God, I can't deal with this.

Dwayne Roth

Dale I think when we dealt with Clem's it was a change, it was an amendment the Constitution says that we can amend those changes that are brought to us. We can amend them here but we agreed that it's got to back to Legislative Assembly still. I think that what we had agreed that's.

End Tape 2

Tape 3, Side A

Dale McAuley

They're defeated, they're defeated. That's all we should be dealing with.

Dwayne Roth

I agree but there's a provision in the Constitution that says that the AGM can also amend and that's the part that we have to respect.

Dale McAuley

Okay if it's in stone I'll take your word for it but I want to check into it.

Dwayne Roth

It is. Okay any other, microphone 1

Participant

I don't know if I should talk Cree so I could understand better but okay. These constitutional amendments for the ratification of the General Assembly and today's date and on the next page it says Special Assembly and it deals with the Articles that were presented at that meeting, they were duly moved, they were seconded. Now I think having been on memberships on different organizations and going to court a few times, the process is that they go to this meeting and whether they're defeated, whether or not they're, like usually too, what happens is that my understanding is the mover has moved, there's a seconder, if there's going to be changes they have to be agreed by the people who moved and seconded. I don't know what, if there's a different type of system here, but that's my understanding. So these people who, like Mr. Chartier was the mover of one of these and he said, he wanted to withdraw it but we still have to deal with it firstly and talk about it at this assembly the way it is. And if was going to be changed then you have to approve it by the mover and the seconder. I don't know, that's the way that the corporations act reads, there's a process, that's the way I understand things to be. (Speaks in Cree)

Dwayne Roth

All I can say is ????. Okay Robert.

Robert Doucette

Well firstly I want to thank the Assembly for giving me the opportunity and just in brief I just want to say I think we should give the staff Wilf Blondeau, Roger, Tristan, Sandra, Brenda and all the METSI employees for being there for us and let's just give them a round of applause cause they put this together, thank you guys and ladies. Well quite simply what happened in 1997 is that I made a motion and it was passed. It was seconded by Garnet Parenteau and I'll just read it really quickly. And this is an addition to the Preamble because, and I set this up the way it is because we had, we kind of have a collective statement

about Metis rights and I was concerned for the very fact that there were individual rights, the individual rights of Metis people were being trampled on as we have heard today. So we propose this amendment and this is what it reads.

"We the citizens of the Metis Nation recognize the inherent dignity to equality and rights which can never be taken away from the Metis people as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the Metis Nation. The ideal of all Metis enjoying all civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Metis may enjoy their civil, political rights economic, social and cultural rights. The promotion of universal respect for an observance of all the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Metis. Realize that the Metis individual having duties to other Metis individuals and to the Metis Community to which they are part of is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Metis rights, therefore, we the citizens of the Metis Nation agree to the following articles:

All Metis have the rights to self determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Metis Nation will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.

The Metis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all individuals within the Nation and subject to its jurisdiction, the rights without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions.

To ensure that any Metis person who's rights or freedoms are herein recognized or violated shall have an effective remedy.

To ensure that any person claiming such remedy shall have their right thereto determined by a competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities of the MNS.

And to ensure competent authorities as enacted by the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan shall enforce such remedy where granted.

The Metis Nation undertakes to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles.

Every Metis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence.

And no Metis citizen in the Metis Nation shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community they reside.

All persons shall be equal before the Metis Legislative Assembly in the termination of any issue which they are charged. Every Metis person shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by the Metis Legislative Assembly.

No Metis person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation.

Every Metis person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

No Metis person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt the belief of their choice.

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan shall respect for the liberty of parents or guardians to ensure the moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions.

Every Metis person has the right to hold their opinions without interference.

Every Metis person shall have the right to expression. This right shall include the freedom to seek, receive, import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print in the form of art or through any media of their choice.

The right of Metis people to assemble and organize at the community level shall be recognized.

Every Metis person shall have the right of association. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by the Metis Legislative Assembly which are necessary to protect the interests of the Metis Nation.

The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Metis Nation and is entitled to the protection of the Metis Nation. Every Metis child born of a Metis man or woman is a citizen of the Metis Nation and shall be registered immediately.

Every Metis person has the right to:

take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives to

vote and to be elected to the local assembly or representatives or the Metis Legislative Assembly all votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantees the free expression of the will of the electors and all Metis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Metis Nation Affiliates.

All Metis persons are equal and entitled to the protection of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Thank you very much.

Michelle Harding

Okay, any discussion on that motion? Or on that amendment? Mike number 5.

Participant

Well that sounded just about perfect I think because it covered the rights of the people and we can't overlook the rights of those people. That document covered everything that we're about, everything we should stand for as Metis people. We are Metis and let's be proud of who we are and that is perfect. That is some of the best document I've ever heard out of the Metis Nation.

Michelle Harding

Mike number 5.

Participant

I support what you said about the rights but there's just one technicality in it that worries me. Was the part where you said every child born of a Metis person would be Metis. But if it's a Metis/Treaty union would that allow dual citizenship.

Robert Doucette

Well no quite clearly our citizenship act takes care of that. It says, I can't remember what the citizenship act, but, well then I would say that the possibility of that being there is there, I would say I'd have to say that's there, ya.

Michelle Harding

Microphone number 5.

Raymond Laliberte

Can you repeat the motion? Just kidding you Robert. No the thing, I like what's in it, I haven't reviewed the details but I don't mind what's in it but what I have to talk about Chairperson is that if our Secretary Robert, Robert you know the process, if you cannot respect the process we just broke the Constitution just by that last vote we took. Mr. Kennedy just asked if it's a 3/4 thing on the Constitution, Mr. Chairman it was a Constitutional change. There's a process to come to this AGM, we just broke it. Because we never tabled that particular motion that we made on the Constitution so it was, it's the process that's in question. I like what's in here, I might be out of order Mr. Chairman, but I'm talking about the process.

Dwayne Roth

I'll let you finish but I just want to just want to say that last motion that we did wasn't a constitution change, I was seeking direction as a Chairperson and I asked for the will of the people, that's the majority rules

Raymond Laliberte

But I'm challenging you in saying it was a constitutional change

Dwayne Roth

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I know. But I'm just saying ya it could, to answer your question.

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Robert Doucette

Okay if you want to change it I don't have a problem with that sir. Let's change it then as long as it's, if Garnet's in agreement. Okay well then I don't have a problem with that.

Tape 3, Side A Continued

Robert Doucette

If the assembly says yes, then it's yes.

Michelle Harding

Okay, mike 2, 4 and then 5

Ralph Kennedy

I guess there's quite a few good things in that article and it sounds pretty nice. I'm wondering on some of our legal stuff how does that affect our Metis Act, how does that affect our Citizenship Act, how does that affect some of the different processes that we have in place?

Robert Doucette

I'm sorry Ralph. Sorry sir

Ralph Kennedy

I said, there's a lot of good things that it sounds like in that constitution change but there's no feedback. Some people here don't even have a copy of it but I'm wondering how it affects on the legal aspect on some of our Acts, our Citizenship Act, our Metis Act. How does these things affect what the Constitution has presently in place?

Robert Doucette

Well the Acts, when this came up, I tried to make sure it was, if flowed with these acts. And the will of the people at the MNLA with respect to those Acts would take, would have to be adhered to. And so, to answer that quite clearly I couldn't give you an answer for a scenario that hasn't happened yet. So I don't know what you would be referring to.

Michelle Harding

Microphone 2.

Ralph Kennedy

I'm referring to how does it affect the Acts? And you're saying Robert you're not sure and we'll deal with it whenever it comes there. If we're making a constitutional change we have to know how it implements on all the rest of the stuff. There's some good things in there and there's some things I'm sure a lot of people in here agree with but there's no clarity as to how it affects the Acts, how it affects the constitution of the Metis.

Robert Doucette

Well if I, I could get my book out and start reading and comparing right now if you wanted me to. But I would say this, quite simply Ralph, is that since I've been involved with the Metis Nation I've heard nothing but attacks on individual rights of people in this organization and quite frankly I got tired of it so that's why I brought this to the assembly in 97 and it was passed and it was just to protect the individual rights of Metis people so that they would feel good about being in the Metis Nation. And so that they felt part of it and felt like they wanted to belong to something and that's exactly what this whole thing is all about. And as Mr. Hannikenne has said that's what he believes in, it makes him feel good and that's exactly what this is all about.

Ralph Kennedy

As you've stated you could bring out your book and show how it affects everything in our process, maybe some of that should have been done before this was put before this was put for a constitutional amendment so we'd all understand how it affects us.

Michelle Harding

Okay, microphone number 4.

Ann Dorian

Our people didn't receive a copy of the document under discussion, however when the document was being read out I do have to ask for clarification on points number 10 and number 15 because they appear to be contradictory and I would like your interpretation of how those two would be reconciled. Thank you.

Robert Doucette

Well I don't see them as being contradictory. It says in number 10, no Metis person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to unlawful attack on their honour or reputation. It's quite simple. We get Metis people being attacked at their home. Karen LaRocque was attacked at an office. And so if we've got this thing in here that says let's just say Robert Doucette rammed Karen LaRocque's car and put influence on her. Well then we would have something that says, you know what Robert Doucette you're wrong and so we're going to take it to the Senate and the Senate's going to deal with you because you had an arbitrary and unlawful attack. Number 15 it says every Metis person shall have the right to expression. And this right shall include the freedom to seek, receive and import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print, in the form of art or through any media of their choice. It is subject though to the, right to the front where it says that, realize that Metis individuals having duties to other Metis individuals to the Metis community to which they are part of is under the responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all of these Metis Rights. So we would be obligated to respect Karen LaRocque and if Karen LaRocque isn't respected for her opinions and I arbitrarily attack Karen LaRocque then I would be subject to the full weight of the Metis Nation as an individual because everybody needs to be protected. It's not only the collective rights that we have to protect people, we're a Nation and we have to protect the individual rights of the people. And that's true of

any Nation in this world.

Michelle Harding

Mike number 5.

Lisa McCallum

I speak against the document itself for the simple fact that it, for the ones that didn't have, it's too bad that document is not present it, if Robert wanted to present he should've he should have provided copies for us. However, on that note that document talks about the freedom of people and that. However, that document would be really good for individuals that were involved with organizations such as the United Nations of people, because it would include all indigenous people. We are the Metis Nation we don't need to include documents in our, this document is a proposed to our preamble to be included in our constitution and when we talk about including all indigenous people, Robert's talking about his treaty children that he wants to include and his treaty wife. Well excuse me they have the FSIN to go to, we don't need them in this organization. They had a process to follow, they chose to be Bill C31's and they can continue to be Bill C31's I don't have a problem with that, I congratulate if that's what they want to do but they don't need to be included in our constitution and that's why we put a constitution for the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan and for our people as Metis.

John Mellenchuk

Give us an Ombudsman you guys.

Robert Doucette

Well how do I respond to that? It's true, it's true that my children are treaty but I didn't know that was an issue. My family is my own business. And quite frankly, let me just give you a quick story about my son Brady, it'll take 2 seconds. In, he went to school one day and it was Canada Day, and they were all talking about well who are you and the teacher said to my son Brady, "Are you a citizen of Canada?" and he said, he stood up and he said "No", and she said, "well what are you?", he said "I am a citizen of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan" she said "Well what are you talking about isn't that Canadian flag your flag?" he said "No, the Metis infinity flag is my flag cause I'm a citizen of the Metis Nation". That 's exactly what my five year old son said. So he's proud to be Metis and as far as I'm concerned we have a process here that ensures that there isn't this dual citizenship thing going on because that's another issue that has to be dealt with as Dennis McLeod was talking to today. And that's for another day but I'll tell you what, I just saw and arbitrary and unlawful attack upon my honour and I don't respect, that's awful!

Michelle Harding

Okay it'll be mike 5, 6 and then 1

Chris Lafontaine

I just want to speak for the motion I think if we would've had this adopted you wouldn't of had that attack just a few moments ago. One of the things I want to just encourage you to think about, this has already been passed by the Legislative Assembly, it's been approved, I think we've got to show some respect for it, we're here to ratify it, we need to make a decision whether we're prepared to accept the principles in the Preamble.

Michelle Harding

Mike 6.

Participant

Yes, I heard that it was also passed at the MNLA, so it's just for ratification here. And that is the rights of our people. What happened to him is just an example, because she tried to do a little bit of a character assassination on his family. It could happen to anybody. That is the rights for all our people here. That piece of paper, that is our human rights as Metis people. The rights of the people.

Michelle Harding

Mike 1.

Julie Pitzel

I'm for that motion because it really expresses what it means for me to be a Metis person and how I would like people to respect my, me as a person who belongs to this Nation and how I would like to respect other people too. And I might not agree with everybody in this room and the way that they do things but I try to go and see people and speak to them in a good way, not to run them down or anything like that but get them back on task for being a representative of me and my family. So I really support that paper.

Michelle Harding

Okay, we'll have mike 2 and then 6.

Clifford LaRocque

I support this document and I would like to even take it one step further, rather than the Preamble I would like to see this made a code of ethics. Thank you very much.

Michelle Harding

Mike 6.

Clem Chartier

Thank you madam Chair. Some of those principles are very noble principles and we must all agree with them. And I certainly agree with most of them, they went by me quite fast but there are some and Robert made some references to one of our members from Regina as an example and I fully agree with that example and I was going to get up and also say well, something like would also protect not just people at the community level but also the executive, because I felt quite insulted today by what happened, I don't mind people carrying signs, but the signs were quite derogatory and not only attacking me but attacking the woman that I live with and making undue innuendos. And I know that Robert is a good friend of theirs, I'm not sure to what degree he collaborated in this, I hope he didn't do any of it but if this helps that's fine, I don't believe Robert did, I hope that in the future he would do that. But I must say those are noble goals, those are noble objectives and I know Robert is sincere at heart and this thing passes he will continue to promote those objectives. And I'm hoping, what I tried to say is I hoped he would have been able to influence those people not to have done that, I don't blame him for that I'm just saying things like that would not be allowed if we have this as our principles that guide us.

Michelle Harding

Questions been called. What should I do. I'm going to allow microphone number 5 to make a comment.

John Mellenchuk

My comment again gets back to the Ombudsman you guys. And I don't want to sound crazy or nothing but if the provincial government already put money aside for it why aren't you guys, look at this mess, we'd have a place to go bitch and complain instead of tearing at each others families and everything. The Ombudsman would deal with it and it can't be the Senate. The Senate is respect your elders, we can't put this kind of stuff with them. An Ombudsman has to deal with it you guys, the government bought it, come on you guys, phone Bob Brault and let him know, I talk to him all the time in Ottawa.

Michelle Harding

Thank you. Questions' been called. All in favour. Opposed. Abstentions. The amendment has been **CARRIED.**

Robert Doucette

I want to thank the assembly and just for clarification let me tell you.

Dwayne Roth

I don't mean to disrespect you but the motion's done. If you have another thing that you'd like to speak to you can go to the mike, but we've dealt with the motion, it's passed, we'll move on with our business. What's next? What, the draw, who gets to win the mocassins? Marlene Laliberte gets new mocassins For all the hard work and walking that she does for our people she deserves it, where is she. Marlene Laliberte I'm told by the people over that there was one more, one more amendment. Ron do you have an

amendment? That one was withdrawn by the presenter there. So unless I'm mistaken, that's it. Don't leave yet guys, we still got our closing prayer and stuff. Microphone 1.

Participant

I have a question here and I think it's stands for all the regions. I'm talking about our region Eastern Region IIA, looking at the directory, three years ago we had eleven locals and a year ago I got another piece, another book which I think I have here in front of me. We're down to eight locals and as the Local President for Spy Hill, now when we call a meeting in Yorkton, in Eastern Region IIA.

Dwayne Roth

I'm sorry sir is this a constitutional amendment.

Participant

No, I'm just asking the board whether we're losing some of our locals in the regions.

Dwayne Roth

Well I again I don't want to sound disrespectful or anything but there was an agenda that was adopted this morning, it dealt with constitutional amendments until 3 o'clock and then there was a closing prayer. We don't really have room for other business.

Participant

Well I guess if you don't have room for that I guess we'll have to handle it with Clem Chartier later on.

Dwayne Roth

Is there any other constitutional amendments? Microphone 2.

Clifford LaRocque

I would just like to know what the donations came to for our hunting fund.

Dwayne Roth

Murray had announced that it was 500 and some, 545 dollars. Microphone 4.

Participant

Yes I'd like some clarification on Article 8, Section 3.1. The election, can this be brought back again and the elections held in May 26 or is it a dead issues now.

Dwayne Roth

Well it would have to go back to the Legislative Assembly and then come back to us for ratification.

Participant

And when would that be?

Dwayne Roth

The next Legislative Assembly and the next AGM, I don't know when they're going to be.

Participant

So when's the next election?

Dwayne Roth

The election's going to be **End Tape 3, Side A**

Side B

and the PMC passed a motion to have it February 17. Your welcome. With that I'd like to call Senator Boucher up to the front and ask everybody to stand and take your hats off for our closing prayer.

Senator Boucher

Lord God oh great Manitou we thank you for this day. We thank you for the accomplishments that we have done today. We have a very long long ways to go yet with our self government. Be patient with us, give us strength that we renew our vow to go ahead and work it out, plan it out together. We ask you oh Lord for all these people who have come that they have a safe return trip home. And that when they get home that their families will be safe. Amen.

Dwayne Roth

With that I'd like to close out this meeting of the General Assembly but I want to remind you that immediately following this assembly is a workshop. Metis Employment & Training is conducting a workshop, they're going to be providing you with information and that type of thing, so if you want to stick around to receive that information as to where our education system is going you're welcome to stay.

End Tape 3, Side B

General Assembly concluded.

Metis Nation General Assembly, November 18, 2000, Tape 3

Tape 3, Side A

Dale McAuley

They're defeated, they're defeated. That's all we should be dealing with.

Dwayne Roth

I agree but there's a provision in the Constitution that says that the AGM can also amend and that's the part that we have to respect.

Dale McAuley

Okay if it's in stone I'll take your word for it but I want to check into it.

Dwayne Roth

It is. Okay any other, microphone 1

Participant

I don't know if I should talk Cree so I could understand better but okay. These constitutional amendments for the ratification of the General Assembly and today's date and on the next page it says Special Assembly and it deals with the Articles that were presented at that meeting, they were duly moved, they were seconded. Now I think having been on memberships on different organizations and going to court a few times, the process is that they go to this meeting and whether they're defeated, whether or not they're, like usually too, what happens is that my understanding is the mover has moved, there's a seconder, if there's going to be changes they have to be agreed by the people who moved and seconded. I don't know what, if there's a different type of system here, but that's my understanding. So these people who, like Mr. Chartier was the mover of one of these and he said, he wanted to withdraw it but we still have to deal with it firstly and talk about it at this assembly the way it is. And if was going to be changed then you have to approve it by the mover and the seconder. I don't know, that's the way that the corporations act reads, there's a process, that's the way I understand things to be. (Speaks in Cree)

Dwayne Roth

All I can say is ????. Okay Robert.

Robert Doucette

Well firstly I want to thank the Assembly for giving me the opportunity and just in brief I just want to say I think we should give the staff Wilf Blondeau, Roger, Tristan, Sandra, Brenda and all the METSI employees for being there for us and let's just give them a round of applause cause they put this together, thank you guys and ladies. Well quite simply what happened in 1997 is that I made a motion and it was passed. It was seconded by Garnet Parenteau and I'll just read it really quickly. And this is an addition to the Preamble because, and I set this up the way it is because we had, we kind of have a collective statement

about Metis rights and I was concerned for the very fact that there were individual rights, the individual rights of Metis people were being trampled on as we have heard today. So we propose this amendment and this is what it reads.

"We the citizens of the Metis Nation recognize the inherent dignity to equality and rights which can never be taken away from the Metis people as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the Metis Nation. The ideal of all Metis enjoying all civil and political freedom can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby every Metis may enjoy their civil, political rights economic, social and cultural rights. The promotion of universal respect for an observance of all the collective and individual rights and freedoms of all Metis. Realize that the Metis individual having duties to other Metis individuals and to the Metis Community to which they are part of is under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of all Metis rights, therefore, we the citizens of the Metis Nation agree to the following articles:

All Metis have the rights to self determination. By virtue of that right we the citizens of the Metis Nation will freely determine our political status and freely pursue our economic, social and cultural development.

The Metis Nation undertakes to respect and ensure to all individuals within the Nation and subject to its jurisdiction, the rights without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions.

To ensure that any Metis person who's rights or freedoms are herein recognized or violated shall have an effective remedy.

To ensure that any person claiming such remedy shall have their right thereto determined by a competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities of the MNS.

And to ensure competent authorities as enacted by the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan shall enforce such remedy where granted.

The Metis Nation undertakes to ensure the equal right of men and women to enjoy all civil and political rights set forth in these articles.

Every Metis citizen shall have the right to liberty of movement and freedom to choose their residence.

And no Metis citizen in the Metis Nation shall be deprived of the right to join a local in the community they reside.

All persons shall be equal before the Metis Legislative Assembly in the termination of any issue which they are charged. Every Metis person shall be entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal established by the Metis Legislative Assembly.

No Metis person shall be subject to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence nor to unlawful attacks on their honour or reputation.

Every Metis person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.

No Metis person shall be subject to coercion that would impair their freedom to have or adopt the belief of their choice.

The Metis Nation of Saskatchewan shall respect for the liberty of parents or guardians to ensure the moral education of their children is in conformity with their own convictions.

Every Metis person has the right to hold their opinions without interference.

Every Metis person shall have the right to expression. This right shall include the freedom to seek, receive, import information and ideas of all kinds either in writing or print in the form of art or through any media of their choice.

The right of Metis people to assemble and organize at the community level shall be recognized.

Every Metis person shall have the right of association. No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of this right other than those prescribed by the Metis Legislative Assembly which are necessary to protect the interests of the Metis Nation.

The family is the natural and fundamental group of the Metis Nation and is entitled to the protection of the Metis Nation. Every Metis child born of a Metis man or woman is a citizen of the Metis Nation and shall be registered immediately.

Every Metis person has the right to:

take part in the conduct of public affairs directly or through freely chosen representatives to

vote and to be elected to the local assembly or representatives or the Metis Legislative Assembly all votes shall be of equal and universal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot which guarantees the free expression of the will of the electors and all Metis shall have the right to access all public services offered through the Metis Nation Affiliates.

All Metis persons are equal and entitled to the protection of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan.

Thank you very much.

Michelle Harding

Okay, any discussion on that motion? Or on that amendment? Mike number 5.

Participant

Well that sounded just about perfect I think because it covered the rights of the people and we can't overlook the rights of those people. That document covered everything that we're about, everything we should stand for as Metis people. We are Metis and let's be proud of who we are and that is perfect. That is some of the best document I've ever heard out of the Metis Nation.

Michelle Harding

Mike number 5.

Participant

I support what you said about the rights but there's just one technicality in it that worries me. Was the part where you said every child born of a Metis person would be Metis. But if it's a Metis/Treaty union would that allow dual citizenship.

Robert Doucette

Well no quite clearly our citizenship act takes care of that. It says, I can't remember what the citizenship act, but, well then I would say that the possibility of that being there is there, I would say I'd have to say that's there, ya.

Michelle Harding

Microphone number 5.

Raymond Laliberte

Can you repeat the motion? Just kidding you Robert. No the thing, I like what's in it, I haven't reviewed the details but I don't mind what's in it but what I have to talk about Chairperson is that if our Secretary Robert, Robert you know the process, if you cannot respect the process we just broke the Constitution just by that last vote we took. Mr. Kennedy just asked if it's a 3/4 thing on the Constitution, Mr. Chairman it was a Constitutional change. There's a process to come to this AGM, we just broke it. Because we never tabled that particular motion that we made on the Constitution so it was, it's the process that's in question. I like what's in here, I might be out of order Mr. Chairman, but I'm talking about the process.

Dwayne Roth

I'll let you finish but I just want to just want to say that last motion that we did wasn't a constitution change, I was seeking direction as a Chairperson and I asked for the will of the people, that's the majority rules

Raymond Laliberte

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Dwayne Roth

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