

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

Tape 1

**Start Time: 3:13.43.28**

**Nora Cummings:** But I'd like to comment, some of the, the Liberal part of when they ended here in the '30s here, as you notice the dirty '30s, you'll probably hear the southern people Métis people saying they were very, very, they hated the Liberals. Because they were on rations and, and they treated them terrible, very terrible. And you, even till this day some of the older people if you talk Liberal to them, they don't want to be bothered with Liberals.

**Ron Laliberte:** Yeah. They've got a long legacy.

**Nora Cummings:** And it was, I remember, the CCF, but you know why people were very political, when you talk about, I can remember, the old people they'd sit around the fires and they'd all discuss the parties. And my Dad used to wear rubber boots and then my old Grandpa used to wear moccasins and the other one would wear the mukluks, so they had a name for them. They used to tease one another. Of course there was the NDP, I mean the CCF, and then Liberals and the Conservatives. So they used, but they would get in some pretty heated discussions over these politics. So our people were very political even in those days, I can remember them talking about. But I know that Liberal wasn't one of their favorites. And if you, my uncles were great for that, my Uncle Clarence and my Uncle Ervin, when it

would come election time, they were always, come out to the community here to make sure people go out and vote. So they'd, so they'd hire them taxis. Boy that was a big thing get a taxi, you know, go in a car, a nice car, you go to vote. Of course, they would give them a little money and ...

**Ron Laliberte:** Oh is that right?

**Nora Cummings:** Of course, in those days they would pay them. So they'd buy, remember they'd some time have two, three jugs of wine so that was their....

**Ron Laliberte:** That's what I heard.

**Nora Cummings:** Celebration... **(Inaudible)**...

**Peter Bishop:** Oh yes.

**Nora Cummings:** And that's the how they....

**Ron Laliberte:** Politician would be in the bar buying drinks or something.

**Nora Cummings:** Yeah. And that's how they used to take our people and, and use them for, for the political, you know, thing. And, but I know it was the CCF that our people when it changed they had a little bit.

**Ron Laliberte:** Yeah.

**Nora Cummings:** I don't think either party really did a lot for any...

**Ron Laliberte:** Yeah.

**Nora Cummings:** ...of our people.

**Ron Laliberte:** Yeah.

**(Video Time: 3:15.49.22) Nora Cummings:** As these announced today. But I think it's, it's at least given them a right to speak up and a right to go out and do, you know, and become quite vocal in saying we voted for you.

Now they understand, and, and, and they make demands which was good because I think you have to, they have to do that and that helped them. You know, in things like that. School boards was another thing. I have the, I have the first minutes of the school board in Round Prairie where the old people sat on their School Board. And it, their minutes, and it's, it's so cute because I planned to give it to the Gabriel Dumont Institute.

**End time: 3:16.24.12**