

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

Tape 3

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Ron Laliberte: Oh, as far as his, you know, what do you think that he would like most to be remembered for when you think of his involvement with the Métis?

(Video Time: 2:54.43.10) Nora Cummings: Well, I think he would like, and now, the thing that I always say, and you know, it's funny I, I, when I was involved after, after Clarence passed away, my Uncle would come to me and I would have that guidance a lot of times. It was so real because and, and I honestly believe he was with me and a lot of times 'til this day sometimes I still think because there where times where it was pretty tough for me as a leader in leading our, our, our Locals and, and especially within the Métis politics and sometimes I would, it was so clear that it just seemed like there was a message sent to me. And I always felt that presence of him. And I'm sure that he still watches over us and I also know that and, and when he passed away this man had a very state funeral, very state funeral as far as that church was so packed people were standing on the outsides. So that tells me that this man was well-respected. The other thing I think when, what he probably would have liked to see is the nation continue and the people of the Métis would continue and work, whoever the leaders are that would fulfill the role of helping Métis people. And I think that was the

one thing that he would have loved to see happen and it is continuing, the young people, old people alike. And the other thing was Round Prairie was his pet. Him and I did the Round Prairie, restored the Round Prairie cemetery. And I used to tease him because even though he was older than I was he would rely on me about the people because when Clarence went away he never really had that contact. Where I lived with my grandma and all my people I knew all my families, or the, the older people and I had that connection. And so when we went out to get the names of the people that were, we had to go to the RM in Dundurn to find out what the names of the people were there, because my grandmother would say to him and I, "You guys now, you guys are smart enough to know. You guys have to do something because our great grandmother," and like his grandmother, my great grandma and grandpa and all our relatives are buried there. And that was her, her wish to have this looked after and it was in an awful mess before. So we went out to Dundurn and we collected the names and we were going over them and he'd say to me, "Well who's that? And who's the..." Finally, I looked at him, I said, "For goodness sakes you're my Uncle. I'm not as old as you." But we used to laugh about it. I said, "My God." But he'd say to me, "But you know all these people." Like you know he didn't...

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Nora Cummings: ...have that. So anyhow we, that was one of the project that he was very instrumental and, and to him that was very dear to his heart. And we got the plaques done up and we got it all done up and we had the blessing of the graves. And 'til this day we continue, I continue to look

after that cemetery. And I, I think because it was the family homestead as well. And that is where our heart is. And I think that is one thing that he would like to see and I've always, year after year, we look after that. Because I think that is something that was close and near to him.

Ron Laliberte: Well certainly he dedicated his life to, you know, the betterment of the Métis...

Nora Cummings: Yeah.

Ron Laliberte: ...and I think the Métis of this province certainly owe a lot to people like him because of where we are today.

Nora Cummings: Yeah.

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