

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

Tape 4

Start Time: 4:43.41.03

(Video Time: 4:43.41.03) Peter Bishop: I would like to see a large physical structure in a place like Saskatoon if not Batoche. And in that structure there should be a museum first and foremost. And a cultural activity centre. A place where the Métis can go and showcase their talents like Nora says. And it should be opened year around. Perhaps Saskatoon would be a more ideal place for it. Then we could have a place where our own people can, can go and showcase their talents, okay? And get a chance to see the museum side of it. You know pictures and bios of our past great Métis leaders and the things that they have done to contribute to the, their people in the province of Saskatchewan. That's what I would like to see. I been through a lot of places where, especially Indian Reservations in the United States. They all have their own museums and that's what they have. It's not just a matter of having a, a place where they, they display old costumes for dancing and whatnot. But there are certain activities that are going on all the time. You take the Native Theatre Company there headed by Donna Heimbecker, I mean we can do the same thing. Now that's primarily Status Indians that are involved in that, isn't it? That new native theatre that's directed by Heimbecker?

Ron Laliberte: I think there's both in there.

Nora Cummings: I think there's both... **(Inaudible)** ...

Peter Bishop: But we could concentrate on the culture of the Métis more than anything else.

Ron Laliberte: Something like Wanuskewin, are you talking about?

Peter Bishop: Something like that yeah.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Peter Bishop: And have performances every so often.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Peter Bishop: And maybe in the wintertime during the weekends hold dances and stuff like that for seniors....

Ron Laliberte: Something like the Voyageur Days in Winnipeg?

Peter Bishop: Yeah, yeah definitely.

Ron Laliberte: ...oh and that's a great...

Peter Bishop: Yes, yeah.

Ron Laliberte: ...a great thing to go to.

Peter Bishop: Prince Albert is doing that but ...

Ron Laliberte: Yes.

Peter Bishop: ... it's only once a year. Okay that usually happens in the fall.

Ron Laliberte: The fall Métis Festival yeah.

(Video Time: 4:46.05.27) Peter Bishop: But I would like to see that on a continuous basis. Let's show the people from Saskatoon that we are here to stay and this is our centre. If you want to come and watch us perform we can perform.

Ron Laliberte: Well I agree with you. There's a lot of Métis talent out there.

Peter Bishop: Right. Yes.

Ron Laliberte: All over.

Peter Bishop: And as far as I'm concerned we can always expand our education institutions too as well, you know, and going to the different areas other than training teachers and whatnot. We should have our own centre that we can train lawyers, stuff like that. Course they have Native Law Centre here on campus. But still why can't we do that? We should have our own law firms consisting mainly of Métis lawyers. I'm sure that's a possibility and I'm sure it would be very successful. You know, we can always use lawyers, you know.

(Video Time: 4:47.06.11) Nora Cummings: We can also have our own interp-, our own people teaching the language, I think the elders...

Peter Bishop: Yeah

Nora Cummings: I think the forgotten language is the most important thing...

Peter Bishop: Me, too.

Nora Cummings: ...is our language, teaching that and I think the traditions of the culture, the Métis and that's the thing I'm, I'm, I'm always concerned about because there's culture, we have our own, we're, our own culture. There are the First Nations and the Métis but we similar kind of with the, with First Nation but we do have our own. We're a unique people of our own and people don't understand that. And neither do our young people or some of our own people. But I think these are the things that we have to start

instilling and that's why when Peter talks about the museum or resource centre within that and the acting and all of the stuff that would continue to make our, our Nation become a very strong nation for years to come. And I would never like to see our, our identity lost. I think that it's rising and, and I think now our younger people, for our young people we have to start looking. And I guess when, when you get older like us, you'll say the same thing. We need...

Ron Bishop: I'm not far behind.

Nora Cummings: We have to say, we have, I'm, I'm a firm believer that our young people are our tomorrows. And in order for us to continue that then we have to educate our young people and we have to make sure they have the right teachings and there are a lot of people, like so many of our elders out there. And there's Peter, there's Mike Maurice, there's, look at Maria Campbell, great lady and, and there's so many of them, so we can't lose that and I think it should be done now before it's too late.

End Time: 4:48.54.07