

Mike Mercredi, Frank Tomkins, Ron Laliberte

Métis Political Activist Interviews (Jan 24, 25, 2004)

Tape 2

Start Time: 12:26:10.18

(Video Time: 12:26.10.18) Ron Laliberte: Good for you. If I can sort of go back to something I raised with Mike, when you look back on your political influences, what role did women play in, in regards to your background and so on? Were there anybody that, was there anybody in particular that influenced you? Were they politically active? What was the role of women in all of that movement...?

Frank Tomkins: Not...

Ron Laliberte: ...when you think back in that...?

Frank Tomkins: Not in my day anyway.

Ron Laliberte: Yeah.

Frank Tomkins: Not very active. My mother was on the board in the, in, in, in the Métis settlement in the, a, in Grouard, in the town of Grouard. She was on the board. And, but they had just like a local, you know, they had a president, a secretary, and everything to keep notes and they had board members to, you know, discuss policy and whatever will they do to try to raise money and basically that's what it was. How to organize, raise money for the, for the, for the politicians, you know, that was going try and do something for, for the people, that being Malcolm, Dad, and Brady. And that's, they didn't really have that much involvement except, you know,

arranging for dances, I guess and stuff like that, to try to raise money. But to be, actually get up and make speeches or anything like that, no. I don't recall any of that.

Ron Laliberte: So they sort of just stood behind what the men...

Frank Tomkins: Yeah.

Ron Laliberte: ...stood for in regards to politics.

Frank Tomkins: They just supported the men.

Mike Mercredi: But they did become more vocal... **(Inaudible)** ...

Frank Tomkins: ...as time goes by...

Mike Mercredi: ...as time went by but where we say the early '80s.

Frank Tomkins: Oh sure.

Mike Mercredi: Late '70s, early '80s, they become more vocal.

Frank Tomkins: Thirty years after so...

Ron Laliberte: Nowadays you certainly see a lot of...

Frank Tomkins: Oh yeah.

Ron Laliberte: ...women...

Frank Tomkins: Now a days yeah....

Ron Laliberte: ...in, in politics

Frank Tomkins: ...changes...

Ron Laliberte: ...you know, really speaking up and taking prominent roles.

Mike Mercredi: Of course you had to follow the example of the, of the federal government, and provincial governments again for when they started involving women in, in that level of politics and how many years ago was that? Quite recent really, compared to everything else.

Frank Tomkins: Yeah.

(Video Time: 12:28.04.28) Mike Mercredi: I think though it's that they should be encouraged and the women's movement should be encouraged and should be listened to and there should be some kind of connection within the Métis Nation and the Women's Organization. Right now I don't know whether they are or not. I know we have a number of very prominent women in our Senate, and again I can see faces but I can't remember names. And I remember, you know, when I was in Alberta there was at least two ladies that were really active within the Métis Association of Alberta.

Frank Tomkins: Times have changed an awful lot, an awful lot and of course it's the education. People are educated now. There's a lot of women that got involved...we've got a president in Alberta, president here in Saskatchewan.

End Time: 12:28:54.26