

The Métis in the 21st Century Conference

June 18-20, 2003

Saskatoon

Day 3 – Tape 3

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Jean Teillet: And so the reason I'm raising this is because I think I have a hard time—I appreciate Fred coming here and saying these things—but I have a hard time with the position that, well, we just, the federal government saying, "We just have to sit back and wait for the outcome of the litigation." Because in many ways we're forced to litigation 'cause they won't sit down and talk to us meaningfully until we get an answer from litigation. But they won't give us the money to litigate. But they stall us and force us to the most expensive long-term protracted type of litigation that we have to pay for out, where we get the money, you know, is another whole issue, but those kinds of things, I think, are outrageous on activities on the part of the government.

And the reality is that what it's telling us, and what the attitudes we've been told here, are very clear. They don't want, I think, they want to have the question resolved because otherwise, if they really did want to have it resolved one way or the other, you'd pay for it. So we can actually get down and do the negotiation, get an answer, and move on. But, but that doesn't happen. And so we move as quickly as we can, which is at a glacial pace, because we don't have the money or the time or resources. And we've only now got the Métis lawyers who are taking it **[unclear]**. So I have a hard time with the "Let's sit back and wait for litigation."

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