

1310 Louise Ave.
Saskatoon.
Jan 19, 1974.

Dear Germaine & Mary:

I wish to thank you ever so much for the large number of petitions that you sent. It is pretty obvious that the people in your area are against Jim Sinclair and the Metis Society.

Also, I was glad to hear from you the other night on the phone. Well, this time, the Metis Society got bad publicity on its sit-in at Buffalo Narrows from the Saskatoon news media. On Monday night, the TV news made them out as little more than thugs by having brought the native people of La Loche down to B.N. ~~and~~ under false impressions, and then made them stay at the sit-in. And even threatened with violence if they left the sit-in. Then when the white official (L'Heureux, I presume) offered to charter a bus for ~~back~~ back to La Loche, practically all of them returned.

That sit-in certainly discredited the Metis Society people this time. They are the same gang of staff that go around to many other communities and disrupt meetings and terrorize the local people. At an area meeting that I represent (Saskatoon & North Battleford & west) these same gang of workers attended an area meeting and disrupted it in a near violent way for more than three hours. Finally the people voted to expell them from our area.

But we still have not got rid of Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher and the gang of workers that Sinclair keeps on the pay-roll, that is a hundred or more. He is still in control of the 3 million dollar budget, and the governments still recognize him as the authority with whom they must deal for the Metis people of Sask. It is a very tough struggle.

The city police of Regina are investigating criminal charges against Sinclair because of misspending government funds. There may be criminal charges laid, but that maybe not for awhile yet, because of the investigating that has to be done.

I have been struggling against him in the Metis Society Council since last August, together with four other members, but we have not been successful in getting control of the Council. Each time, he succeeds in buying off another Council member, and then he turns against us. Anyway, Sinclair does not pay any attention to the Council decisions or constitution.

I have had many petitions from several Locals throughout the province, but never with as many names as yours. Most of the Metis people are against Sinclair and his crew, but we still cannot put them out of office. For one thing, the Secretary of State in Ottawa who gives much of the money to the Metis Society is covering-up for Sinclair. Not because he is favouring him, but because Faulkner knows there is such a mess in the whole thing, and he will look bad for not doing something before now.

I am thinking that a provincial meeting of the Metis

Society should be called next month. The constitution provides for such a meeting. We would need to have 50% of the Locals present in order to have a quorum. But I'm sure there would be no difficulty in getting that many. Providing we can the Metis people interested in the Metis Society. So many, who once belonged have dropped out over the last few years and are so disillusioned and disgusted that it is hard to get them interested once again.

What I would like to see done would be to amend the constitution so that there would be no power placed in the President, Executive or Council. That all the power and authority would be put in the hands of the Regions and Locals and let them deal directly with the governments. Government grants would be divided seven ways as there are seven Regions and sent directly to each Region. The local people would run the Regions. A central Executive and Council is always dangerous for putting all the power in the hands of a few who easily become corrupted thru power and money. Also nothing ever reaches the local people.

Would you people in Buffalo Narrows be interested in attending such a provincial Metis Society meeting if I can get it arranged, and taking part in re-organizing the Metis Society. Of course, we want also to put Sinclair out, because most of the Locals want to remove him.

I was pleased to receive an invitation from you to go to a meeting in B.N. I am hoping to be able to make it soon. I am not exactly sure yet when. I want to see Mr. Bowerman in Regina this week, and there are some other things that need my attention right now. But I shall try to go soon. Anyway I can phone you, since I have your number.

I am enclosing some printed material for you to read and pass around to anyone who is interested. It will give you some idea of what has happened in the Metis Society.

Thanks again for your wonderful assistance.

as ever,


Howard Adams.