

CLEM CHARTIER CAMPAIGN OFFICE

SASKATOON, SASK [REDACTED]

Phone: ([REDACTED])

December 17, 1997

Dear Senators and Members of the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I am able to express my thanks for the moral, political and financial assistance that was extended to the "Metis Rights Defence Fund" and the defence of our people who were charged with various hunting and fishing violations. With the help that was extended to them, and myself as their legal counsel, we were able to show that these were not violations. On the contrary, they were activities carried out based on our Aboriginal rights as Metis.

While we have made great strides up to this point, we have a long way yet to go. In particular we have a big battle ahead of us to defend the hunting and fishing rights we have secured to date. We also have a big job ahead of us in securing our Metis Aboriginal title to our lands and resources. Once we accomplish that, we will have a solid basis upon which to negotiate a new relationship with the federal and provincial governments.

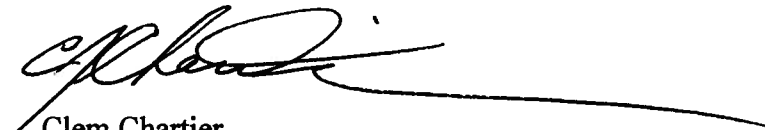
While fighting for those long term objectives, based on a "**Metis rights agenda**", we also must devote adequate time to addressing our current problems with respect to housing, health, justice, employment, training, education, social services and other areas of concern. In this connection, we must continue building on our Affiliates, which must be allowed the freedom to operate at arm's length from our political body, but nevertheless remain accountable to our people through the Metis Nation Legislative Assembly.

We must also continue carrying on the respect for our values as a Metis people. In this regard we must pay the proper respect owed to our Senate of Elders. Further, we must continue encouraging the total participation of Metis women and youth in all of our activities. This is particularly so with respect to our youth, as we already have strong participation by Metis women through their own efforts at the Local level and through their Organization. The youth do not have this same infrastructure and must be encouraged and assisted in getting organized.

By now most of you are aware that I will be a Candidate for President of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan when we go to the polls in February 1998. In this connection I would like to solicit your support. If you feel that I would be a suitable President, I would appreciate your help in speaking to members of your Locals so that they are aware of what I have to offer if elected. If you require further information, or wish to lend your support to my campaign, you can reach me, or Bruce Flamont, at the above phone number. Call collect if you want.

In closing, I extend my best wishes that you have a good Christmas and a festive season as we enter into the new year.

Yours for Metis self-determination.



Clem Chartier