



June 23, 1997

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Jim Durocher, President
Metis Nation of Saskatchewan
219 Robin Crescent
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
S7L 6M8

Copy:
** All, P.M.E.*
Lynn + Cullum
all Metis Senate

Dear Mr. Durocher:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your Executive members for the productive Bilateral Tier II meeting we had on May 30, 1997. These meetings are important to the Province and I am looking forward to continuing this process.

As you are aware, the Metis Strategy is going through its final stages of review within government. We are hopeful that the Metis Strategy will enable us to implement many of the initiatives discussed in the Tier I and Tier II meetings. However, since the Metis Strategy is currently under review it would be premature for us to engage in a process to consult on a Metis Act.

The "Metis Recognition Act" paper submitted by the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan in 1996 is being reviewed within the context of the overall Metis Strategy. The consultation proposal submitted to the Department of Justice is also being reviewed.

With respect to gaming issues, it is likely that an announcement on the Gaming Review will be made shortly. Metis-specific gaming issues are also being considered within the context of the overall Metis Strategy.

Due to the intensity of the information and conclusions contained in the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, the Province is anticipating that the federal government will respond soon. It is inappropriate for Saskatchewan to respond prior to Canada, especially since the federal government commissioned the report and has primary responsibility for all Aboriginal peoples.

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Dir: Allow
Lynn
Willy
Area Dir.

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I am confident that the Bilateral Process is providing us with an effective tool to deal with the issues we have discussed to date. I am looking forward to the next Tier II meeting this fall in order to discuss the status of many of your requests.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Lawton", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ernie Lawton
Acting Secretary

cc: Donavon Young