

**METIS NATION
CONSTITUTION COMMISSION**

**MAY 2, 1993
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA**

SENATE COMMISSION

Peter Fraser

[REDACTED]
Fort Smith, N.W.T.
X0E 0P0

John Boucher

[REDACTED]
St. Louis, Sask.

P
O

Thelma Chalifoux
[REDACTED]
Morinville, Alta.
T0G 1P0

[REDACTED]
M.N.A. 403-255-2200

Ron Swain (Minister)

[REDACTED]
Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.
P0R 1J0

[REDACTED]
Office: 705-949-5161

Dave Barron

[REDACTED]
Chase, B.C.
V0E 1M0

[REDACTED]
same number for fax

Ed Head
Sherridon, Manitoba
R0B 1L0

[REDACTED]
Manitoba Metis Federation
408 McGregor Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R2W 4X5

Phone: 204-586-8474

Marc Leclair
MNC - Ottawa
50 O'Connor St., Room 310
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6L2

[REDACTED]
Fax: 613-232-4262

Edith McLeod
Macdiarmid, Ontario
P0T 2B0

[REDACTED]
Tel: 807-885-5501

METIS NATION CONSTITUTION COMMISSION
MAY 2, 1993
VANCOUVER, B.C.

In attendance:

Ed Head
Dave Barron
John Boucher
Gerald Morin

Edith McLeod
Ron Swain
Thelma Chalifoux

Chairperson:

Thelma Chalifoux

Opening Prayer: John Boucher

Chalifoux:

- we have to establish our priorities

Head:

- look at the resolutions

Chalifoux:

- look at the hiring of a technician to sit on the committee

Swain:

- look at a workplan; some kind of strategy

Head:

- we need a hiring policy in place

Morin:

- honoured to be here with distinguished people as the Senators
- the Minister responsible for Constitution commission will be involved at the top; his role is very important
- this is a priority number one agenda item
- role of the commission is very independent
- interim report is due to the Metis National Council in July
- a final report is due for November 16, 1993
- role of the commission is to come up with a document to present to the cabinet ministers
- final report will have a lot of influence on the executive

- consultations will be important; all Metis across western Canada must be consulted
- use other peoples input to build this important document
- Metis Nation must come first before anything else
- principals of the Metis Nation are what is important
- we have to do justice to our predecessors and for our children

Chalifoux:

- Ron Swain is the liaison between the federal cabinet and the MNC
- the commission plays an independent role
- it is paramount that we have a workshop with the federal cabinet
- consultation with the provinces and the people is paramount so they feel a part of the process

Swain:

- commission is going to be independent
- will be at arms length with the political structure
- principals of the nation come first!
- someone on the commission be deemed to go back and list our rights that were lost

Head:

- discussed the Supreme Court rulings on Metis people
- models presented before were not taken out of the air
- they were taken from things that were actually done
- the transcripts are the way things were
- look at the historic documents
- St. Laurent for Saskatchewan we need to look at that document

Morin:

- our challenge for the commission is to establish what is for Metis

Head:

- present day system compared to the past we have to remember there is change in front of us
- we are given the mandate by our governments to put in place something that is applicable down the road; it can't be just for now
- we need portfolios
- specific and clear mandates
- this show is not run by one person

Chalifoux:

- we were in a dictatorship
- if you wanted something you went to people like Dumont
- there were problems in the provinces
- we have to look at a democracy form of government

Head:

- make the government understand we act as a government

Morin:

- people in Saskatchewan recognize the importance of having structure
- cabinets are important

Head:

- I have trouble talking about self govt if we don't practice it
- we should have an interim report immediately (July)

Chalifoux:

- today is a brainstorming day

Head:

- clearly there is some models "St. Laurent"
- using the same model as European government is what I'm hearing
- council of about 16 people when they were arrested
- I don't think they were off in drafting their model
- we are not far off; we have to put those historical documents before the governments
- show proof of how the Metis government ran
- the MNC put in place a model that came from that document
- nothing critical when we swore them in; to indicate there is something wrong with it
- we have to sell it to government
- we need those documents

Leclair:

- what I saw in Vancouver were three things
- one: the model didn't have the historical background
- second: the federal/provincial component; nationally we know whats set out but what about provincially
- thirdly: the vested interest; there is a long history within the provinces of mistrust
- the sense of Metis nationalism is strong today
- in the last two years its become stronger and stronger
- it is not a problem but a challenge; we built this organization in the 70's and 80's
- the first generation is guys like Sinclair who had the social action on the street, (rough approach)
- they picked the movement up and took us to 1987
- the second generation would be Yvon Dumont and Larry Desmeules
- they were the strong players
- they took us through the constitution period
- Desmeules brought in the senates

- he found a way to get people interested
- he used the cultural side as well (through the music...proud to be Metis)
- crystallized the nationalism
- the third generation are the people we have now
- Morin, Swain, Blais
- the structures and history of distrust
- go back to that
- beat down the walls of distrust
- the constitution is an evolution of three generations of leadership
- the senate is important because of the nationalism involved
- it showed that they are a fundamental part of this process
- it's the senate that has the experience
- this is our tenth year (one decade)
- part of the senates work is to capture the 3 generation message
- the evolution that occurred
- evolution will be a major part of this assembly
- we need ideas how we will do this
- through a video; a documentary
- writing the history of the movement and fitting things in like the swearing in as part of the movement; it needs to be captured

McLeod:

- there aren't as many Metis in Ontario as people say there are
- 90% are Bill C-31
- a lot of Metis grabbed on to the C-31
- where are the Metis? they are all C-31's

Fraser:

- one Metis is as good as ten C-31's

Chalifoux:

- would a video start bringing them out of the woodwork
- we haven't done much advertising for Metis people
- there is nothing on t.v. relating to Metis people

Morin:

- is it possible to do a joint venture with the national film board

Chalifoux:

- I'm after CBC over the coverage we received in the new government
- we are not the "and others"
- communication; how do we communicate what we are doing
- contacts with papers, wire service, journalists

Head:

- I am concerned about the number of Metis people
- I feel 70-90,000 are out there but not coming forward
- Metis people are there
- down the road there will be metis settlement
- those people can legitimately go to government and say we are the descendants of the Red River
- what will happen when they take over
- policies that will not affect us when we get a settlement
- we need proper english in place; if you are not going to identify in the enumeration then you can no longer make the distinction when we do settle

Morin:

- two things that are coming out here
- first is the enumeration; who are the Metis
- some people are advocating dual citizenship
- they want to be both Metis and C31
- we need a cap on the enumeration

Chalifoux:

- in Alta we had the historians come up with a definition
- definition and then an application to the definition
- appendix one
- provide the document to the leadership
- the Metis government should take it and make it simpler

Leclair:

- things have to be somewhat general yet specific details spelled out in the legislation
- on identity there seems to be a problem
- we may have 15,000 on our electoral roles but we know there are a minimum of 155,000
- right now we are representing 10% of the population
- we have to deal with it
- communications plays a major role
- the only publication we've had in 10 years is Metis on the Move
- we need to look at every angle
- birth of organizations
- what did they do - newspapers first off
- get the word out
- focus on communication
- in Manitoba they helped establish pemmican publishers
- all the land research we did is sitting in boxes

Chalifoux:

- with reference to the Metis National Council brochures (attached)
- these brochures are good but printed in 1984
- there is even the old address of Sparks Street, Ottawa

Head:

- we need propoganda of ourselves
- when MMF organized we had to get the message out to the people
- thus we formed regions
- now we can't get out of that
- it was the students who brought out the research
- programs being developed were the problem
- programs have to be dealt with at arms length
- University students said we have to have something in place on our history

Swain:

- I'm compelled to say this
- this is the most important thing we have to do
- we don't have a constitution
- what a constitution is: a constitution is the law that governs government

Chalifoux:

- we need a charter of rights and freedoms for the Metis nation
- others who read it should be able to identify from it
- the nation has to accept the citizen
- Charter of Rights, Freedoms and Responsibilities
- we are doing things in Alberta that should become national
- such as a code of ethics for civil servants, etc.
- we require the same charter, the same across Canada

LeClair:

- look provincially to see if there is self government there
- provincially the people can see the national picture
- it's a little more difficult at the local level
- find a way to bring in the others (the 100,000)
- northerners need to see themselves in the parliament

Morin:

- communications is crucial
- new breed is an excellent communication tool

Chalifoux:

- we are not the indians
- we are Metis
- traditional

Leclair:

- look at our occupational categories
- Metis are doing well
- we have the capability
- nationally set up a development company; publishing

Chalifoux:

- perhaps a Metis wire service
- it only takes two people

Fraser:

- Indians are a ward of Government
- Metis are wards of the Hudson Bay Co.
- everyone wanted to be Metis
- along came C31
- now they want to be indians
- Metis people had big families, 10 kids
- we can't get across we have a development corp with a lot of money
- it however is made up of mostly treaty
- they come to our meeting and take over
- we go to indian meetings and we can't even talk
- in NWT we are doing a census of Metis/Dene
- seniors go door to door, sit down and write the information out
- go back in your life history
- there is also a health questionnaire
- we are tying the two together to determine who is Metis

LeClair:

- realignment of identities
- we brought together Metis and non status indians
- we pulled out on the prairies
- the realignment took place in 3 prairie provinces
- this came before C31
- C31 was a blessing in the sense it helped finish the realignment

Swain:

- talk about protecting the citizenship of the nation
- national perspective sets the tone for the provinces
- Senators have to put your mind to writing out the principles
- citizenship across the nation is fundamental

Chalifoux:

- the ground work is done
- this commission has to review it
- we don't have to re-invent the wheel
- the money we are getting it from the Royal Commission
- because of this we have to involve the communities
- this is what the people are saying now you as gov't take it back to the federal people

Boucher:

- look back at what is happening
- the friendship centre we had full control
- indians came into it and started running it
- problems will increase and get worse if we don't take immediate action
- the national group has to take control
- get the pride back in to our whole nation
- Metis people running business and government; not Bill C-31
- hold our head higher
- we didn't draw up the rules for C-31 the Canadian government did
- then you choose to take it
- they then had the advantages
- as Metis we wait

Head:

- the provinces are at different levels
- Saskatchewan/Manitoba for example
- I won't let C31's talk at our meetings
- the Metis reserves in Manitoba; they chose to become indians
- we have to manipulate the resources at this table to continue our struggle
- the younger people have to grab and put things into place
- grab the resources while you have them

Barron:

- I was at the annual general meeting at Fort St John
- PMF, Unity meeting with Louis Riel's group
- it confused a lot of people

Morin:

- the whole issue of Indian/Metis people has impacted both indian communities and Metis communities
- when we are all dead and gone there will still be a large Metis population; Bill C31 doesn't last forever
- indian communities owe us a thank you for what we've done for them
- distinct Metis communities; two authorities two jurisdictions
- jurisdictional wars
- we have to get rid of municipal thinking

- may want to consider in November we are a nation
- we derive the authority from our history
- the government we set up should be derived from the Metis history
- you are the commission
- a commission of senators
- you hold independent status to report to the council
- take your roles seriously
- positive results will come from this

Rivard:

- there are six ideas to cover
- terms of reference
- economic development
- history
- social & cultural issues
- there is overlap in some of the areas
- duration of the contract is Sept/Oct 1993
- we are negotiating for another funding agreement
- the MOU is signed and implemented
- the areas of metis concern are land, youth
- initially \$50,000 was targeted
- Ottawa office expenses come out of Royal Commission money
- 30,000 for Guy Lavallee to do his research activities
- the constitutional money is gone
- the main source will come from the Royal Commission
- we can overlap with Justice
- agreement to work on national policies that deal with Metis justice concerns
- no workplan yet for justice activities
- maybe we can tap from there
- the federal/provincial relations office is another source
- access to 200,000
- proposing we hold a series of workshops dealing with items the ministers have been appointed to do
- SIP proposal is becoming a reality looks 90% favourable
- we have the EIC proposal for 275,000

Chalifoux:

- we need a resume from each Senator
- it will create a pool of information

Leclair:

- what do we have for money
- what do we need
- we have 7 months to work with
- we have assemblies through the summer to build our workplan around
- independent meetings outside of the assemblies may cost a lot
- we have to be selective

Chalifoux:

- what are the qualifications of this \$50,000
- how much do we have to spend on a workshop

Rivard:

- 12,000 per meeting

Chalifoux:

- four meetings
- 48,000

Rivard:

- look at SIP
- favourable
- justice is secure

Chalifoux:

- we are obligated to community consultations
- where does that money come from
- Sask/Territories
- Alta/B.C.
- Ontario/Manitoba
- 3 meetings two day workshop
- Alberta assembly in August

Budget:

airfare/mileage (6 x 550)	3300.00
rooms (3 x 600)	1800.00
meals (3 x 300)	900.00
taxi/incidentals (150 x 6)	900.00
honorarium (600 x 6)	3600.00
meeting rooms (3 x 100)	300.00
miscellaneous	300.00

Total 11,100

Meetings/Hearings:

Information gathering -

- mail surveys - questionnaires!
- community meetings
- input
- annual assemblies
- board meetings
- special meetings (i.e. eic)

Leclair:

- questionnaire through the Royal Commission

Chalifoux:

- need a technician to do the work
- where do we get the money and how much

Rivard:

- six months

Chalifoux:

- full time
- how much
- 3,000 per month would be 21,000 for the salary
- travel 1,000 month (7,000)
- co-ordinator wage and travel \$30,000
- has to be top priority
- looking at 80-100 thousand overall
- the technician has to be a writer

Leclair:

- we already have a document it just needs updating
- add on three chapters and it will be complete
- (reference to John Wienstein report)

Rivard:

royal commission	50,000
justice	30,000
FPRO	20,000
SIP	
EIC	10,000

Total 110,000

Chalifoux:

- we need an overview not a book that nobody will read
- for this exercise an overview of the situation will do

Rivard:

- rationalize what you are going to address in November

Chalifoux:

- point taken however the political history of Metis in Canada is sitting around this table
- Edith McLeod involved since 60's with womens issues
- the research is here
- you need the story from the Senators that are here

Leclair:

- research is primarily interviews with all of the players
- chronology of events

Rivard:

- it's an ambitious plan like Meech Lake, etc.
- nice but don't have the resources
- have to capture the work at hand
- a re-visit wouldn't accomplish anything because Meech Lake and Charlottetown failed

Chalifoux:

- workplan
- we've moved into the workplan area briefly
- the budget seems to be in order and identified
- it has been identified that we should have four meetings
- consider having one in each province
- this is the initial meeting
- open consultation meeting in the territories if SIP comes through
- deal with the resolution from the Metis National Council assembly

LeClair:

- no legal implications
- to explain the process is your job
- here's the process and it's no legal problem

Chalifoux:

- this is a working committee
- if women want to be involved they have to do their part
- they can't keep switching players

Head:

- change the motion to "one" delegate

Chalifoux:

- can't change the resolution however we can rationalize it
- hiring policy of this commission

Head:

- if we are hiring we have to be consistent
- we need service but we also need a Metis
- there are a lot of Metis who could do the job
- the policy should be Metis first
- that covers it all
- I believe that our people are a number one priority

Chalifoux:

- hiring of the technician
- how do we handle it
- hire someone immediately
- I have a resume from Laurent Roy

Head:

- I threw out feelers but I don't have anyone in mind

Chalifoux:

- must be fully involved and understand where we are coming from
- Laurent is from Sask.
- speaks cree, french,
- Thelma read the full resume of Laurent Roy

Head:

- my concern is we need someone now
- if he's good let's hire him

Leclair:

- consider bringing him in for the next couple of days

Staff:

- co-ordinator knowledge
 ability
 proximity
 resourceful
 can write
job description communication
terms of reference term contract
 organization
 contact person

co-ordinator

assets

responsibility to commissioners
to attend all meetings
arrange for minutes

meeting rooms
travel (with MNC assistance)
backgrounders for reports, briefs
preambles reports
communications
work out of the MNA office (Edmonton)
liaison with the Minister, commissions, MNC
offices

and any other directives from the
Commission

contact person - Thelma Chalifoux

LeClair:

- communication is important
- this should be news
- news release/press release
- communiques

Chalifoux:

- need to develop a network
- CBC, etc.
- have contacts within the media
- contact aboriginal newspapers (i.e. Native network news,
Newbreed, Les Metis, others)
- draw up a contract

The Contract:

- 3,000 month
- responsible for his own U.I., CPP, income tax
- 7 month contract (21,000)
- between Laurent Roy and Metis Nation Commission (representing
MNC)

Duties:

- as outlined in these minutes

LeClair:

- organizing the work
- function is a "legal" function

Chalifoux:

- lets start the workplan from the beginning and work in the
legalities

- the actual consultations

Rivard:

1. Prepare backgrounders
2. Work of the Commission
3. Terms of Reference
4. Mandate outline
5. Public announcement
6. Press Release
7. Informational contact
8. Phone numbers, addresses,
9. Administration concerns

Who, what, why, where, when, how

CONSULTATIONS

Assemblies
Written submissions
Questionnaire/Surveys
News surveys (publish)
Key contacts!! staff
Mail outs
Northern strategies
Communication strategies
Talk shows
Key interviews
Regular updates, native network news
Community T.V.
Community Radio Shows
*** Neutral body ***
Political sensitivity

- "Metis" mandate
- political awareness
- maintain credibility, independence and objectivity

Swain:

- even credibility in picking the co-ordinator
- Senators to come forward with the name

Leclair:

- political environment
- have the elections
- northern Sask situation is destabilizing
- we have to say that this is not political
- that the Senators recognize the situation

Objectivity: Metis Nation
Building
Working toward Metis self government!
Showing by example (i.e. our Ministries)

LeClair:

- there is the history of mistrust that the commission has to get over
- get to the assembly and capture the 3 generation ideas
- if we were to do the video based on the 3 generations and honour the Senators as step 3
- honour the leaders through the vignettes
- in 1983 we were recognized in the Constitution
- in Charlottetown we were recognized by 13 governments
- we were acknowledged

CONTENT - FORMAT

- social & cultural aspects
- identity
- sashes, flags
- demonstrations of Metis Culture!!!

Policy

- one day honorarium to be paid for travel
- this will cover hotel expenses and travel expenses to and from the meeting place
- the one day honorarium
- there will be no meals paid on the travel day; these expenses are to come out of the travel day honorarium

Monday, May 3, 1993

Chalifoux:

- turned the meeting over to Marc

LeClair:

- outlined the kit
- Friday, October 29, 1993 text has to be signed off
- three day assembly
- start on a Sunday, continue Monday, Tuesday
- November 16, 1993
- meet the last week of October; 28th & 29th
- the work will be done; focus on the text
- November 13, 14, 15, 16 gather in Winnipeg (working day)

- interim report by June 30

Chalifoux:

- can Bohnet fund two senators for a meeting in the north
- to publicize the Senate
- be public for the Canada Day events

Fraser:

- speeches, etc. for Canada Day

LeClair:

- the June 30 interim report is a milestone to have instruments
- content of the consultations
- what we are looking for

June 23,24,25 1993

- interim report
- have survey questions prepared
- samples ready to send out
- have objectives set out in information packages
- have work plan completed
- consultation scheduling
- communication strategy
- provincial organizations assembly dates

Phase I - May 4 - June 24

Introductions continued. Ground Work Completed!

Phase II - July - October 15, 1993

Implementation/Consultation

Phase III - October 29, 1993

Final stage
Report
Position

Leclair:

- intro
- methodology
- proposals
- conclusions
- recommendation
- list of hearings
- appendix
- draft constitution (all in a publishable form)

Phase II

IMPLEMENTATION/CONSULTATION

- key people organizations targeted for the surveys/samples
- assembly dates
- get on the assembly agenda for presentation & feedback
- OMAA July 15, 16, 17
- co-ordinator interviews with key people (telephone)
- targeted for the surveys/samples

TARGET GROUP

- staff members
- members
- political staff/executive
- key individuals
- membership list
- random sample
- local presidents
- come from community
- community input
- volunteer factor
- local functions - agenda
- Metis bureaucrats in and out of governments (consult them)
- affiliates: GDI
 - Pathways
 - Recreation
 - Housing
 - Metis public service
- Metis newspapers are key; keep them involved
- Aboriginal voice
- Native Network News
- New Breed
- Le Metis
- Territories ?

Poitras:

- looking at retaining and advancement of aboriginal people
- Deputy Minister of transport Canada is involved

Leclair:

- in the provinces they will be told to do the survey
- at the assemblies we can do the survey
- do a survey of the members
- for 600 women the cost was 10-30,000
- another group to consult is the Senators & Elders
- consult the Senators specifically

Roles:

- target groups
- senate-senators
- women national/regional/provincial/local
- youth
- veterans (?) Metis
- representation by population
- democracy
- structures/powers/jurisdiction
- third level of government (order)

IDENTIFY THOSE PEOPLE YOU WANT TO RESPOND

- Metis!
- concerns re: Ontario / N.W.T.
- nation
- definition of Metis
- continuity/consistent

Metis - Identity - Descendants of the Red River

- * Manitoba Act
- * Dominion Lands Act
- * Metis Nation Accord Criteria
- * **Not** mixed blood **only**

Metis: level of proof *
 linkages
 nationhood common factors

- history
- geography
- government
- laws (St. Laurent Buffalo Hunt)
- how you think about yourself (psychological makeup)

Leclair:

- go through the conception first and then go back and deal with the issues/principals

Clear Mandate and Criteria !

Leclair:

- as things come up this afternoon lets list them as questions
- we will have to have a real working session this afternoon
- constitution broken into six parts
- review of the executive overview (tab 2 in kit)
- government constitutions have the same basic structures
- nobody but the parliament can surrender rights
- should we consider this a question in the survey

- how do we bind ourselves in the Metis Nation Accord
- * Question: If the Metis nation leaders negotiated an agreement with governments how should that agreement be ratified?
- * Question: If I have Metis citizenship does that entitle me to work in the United States?
- dealt with through "Aboriginality"
- * Question: What is your definition of Metis?
- * Question: Do you identify as a Metis of the nation, personal definition, etc.
- * Question: Should we have a principle which forbids discrimination? If so, should it be strongly worded?
- walk through the third tab items and issues
- * Question: What do you consider as the Metis homeland?
- maybe this should be part of the preamble
- map of the homeland obtained for the final report
- questions to be asked about the homeland
- what do you want your government to be called is a question that people will feel involved by answering
- * Question: "annual" meetings
- even if we create a parliament they may not meet that often
- * Question: In your opinion how often should the legislature meet?
- figure out the "quorum"
- how many members of parliament
- all the boards (each board member is also a member of parliament)
- how many elected representatives from each province
- representation by population?
- the flow will be speaker/legislative assembly (majority) and the senate
- on the procedures we could develop our own procedure for the Metis Nation Policy
- new procedural code will be the updated version of the laws of St. Laurent
- sessions of parliament are open to all Metis people

Federal
Government

Provincial
Government

Metis
Government

Levels
of
Governments
in
Canada

Kiss (Keep It Simple, Stupid)
simple

Rivard:

- read the progress report
- next meeting is to be held in Edmonton, Alberta
- June 25, 1993

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- business cards
- letterhead
- Metis Senate Constitution Commission is the official name
- set up an office for Laurent
- start getting media contacts
- communication strategy
- approach The Journal to do a piece on Metis
- do a "piece by piece" reporting of events
- a chronological reporting of the meetings, events, etc. will be part of the communication plan
- Laurent needs personal contacts within the media
- press conferences

Leclair:

- the story we are telling is a big story
- when there is a blurb here and there it's good but not enough
- if we capture the 3 generation message it will benefit the future

Chalifoux:

- with communications we have to peak the curiosity of not only Metis but the public in general

Head:

- we need the exposure from the media
- we have to make sure our people are aware

Rivard:

- our task is to work on Metis self government
- the role of the Commission is to go with the workplan that has been developed
- we have to get the message across to thousands of people
- this is just one project but it's not the end
- this could go forward for years
- a real contribution to the Metis movement

Leclair:

- there is also importance in symbolism
- we have to capture the symbolism
- we can make history and be part of history
- we can make progress and chronicle it

- at the next meeting we can look at how to capture the symbols
- we've done the technical part, we need the consulting part and focus on the message

Chalifoux:

- a good communication strategy is required for November
- we have to look at the symbolism; the videos we show to get people geared up
- the contacts are another important part

Leclair:

- a 20,000 communication budget is what we have
- can we do something internal
- profile of the dinner

Chalifoux:

- Lyle Donald can do the job for minimal costs
- this has to be recorded as we are making history here

Leclair:

- I've been talking about this since Regina with the cabinet ministers
- a video is needed to reflect the symbolism

Rivard:

- there is coverage in Alberta, Saskatchewan
- do a video review and find out what we have
- pull them all together in a collage
- it will end November 16 with the story

Leclair:

- we have to do something with the footage instead of leaving it on the shelf
- we have Vancouver taped, we have the Regina meeting taped, theres a lot out there that is available

Chalifoux:

- we also have to capture the little family out in the boon docks
- how it will affect these kinds of families
- it has to show meaning

Leclair:

- Larry's funeral was a powerful message, put it in the video and show this to people
- we have to have a cost breakdown to do this undertaking
- Lyle Donald is good at digging out money in Alberta

Rivard:

- how do the Senators feel about the meetings we've had
- what are your feelings on your role here

Head:

- this committee I thought would have to break water
- now I don't think so
- we have a good team to go ahead
- we have the job to make ourselves visible that's the easy part
- we have to get the flow going
- we have an action plan and know where we want to go
- the last two days have been excellent

McLeod:

- I'm new but truthfully I felt good about this meeting
- I have good feelings about working with this team
- my only problem is "locals" they have treaties in Ontario to deal with
- this has to be dealt with
- when the questionnaire comes out I will do my job locally
- I'm honoured to be part of this
- we have to separate the Metis at our Ontario assembly

Fraser:

- my thought was to bring forward the business of a Metis Nation run by treaty indians
- Gary Bohnet was against me bringing this up at this meeting
- it is a concern that I have and has to be addressed
- this has been a good meeting but things were pushed a bit to fast

- the message is here and we will take it to the federal government
- we are serious about this
- we are a good team and have to continue working as a team
- we can look ahead to progress and leave everything else behind
- the Bill C-31 is a government problem created by the government
- you can't serve two masters
- this has been a good meeting and I look forward to more
- concentrate on an agenda to be sent out 2-3 weeks in advance
- something to work by
- it also speeds up the meeting
- discuss our problem areas more thoroughly

Barron:

- agenda is a good idea
- that is one problem with communication
- I feel positive things will change with our new working force here
- I have good vibes we are on a positive road
- communicating with our people is important

- Kelly Lake article is a good example
- they want to take dancers and march on parliament hill
- we don't have to do that to make news
- let them print the positive things we are doing
- the "definition" Thelma provided is an excellent tool
- we are behind Pete on the Bill C-31 issue; we support you
- history is the one thing I am really happy about
- it should be written by Metis people
- everything written so far has been negative

Head:

- the C-31 made a choice so they can stay out of our business

Leclair:

- I will pull together all of these definitions for our next meeting
- we will have a spreadsheet to review and compare
- we can analyze the definitions better if we do it that way

Head:

- we are generous people but enough is enough
- we can't let another nation in

Boucher:

- I'm very pleased to be here
- the last few days have been productive
- I'm glad we have people here that are not political
- that is the most important issue
- our plan is coming and we are making steps we should make
- Metis Nation Constitution is problem
- when we go back to our people they will say what is that
- if I say metis government they will understand
- they don't understand the word "constitution"
- on the bill C-31 issue in Saskatchewan it was made clear that we would split Metis and non-status
- the interference we have from Bill C-31 was created by federal government; it is their point to keep us separated
- it's not our problem it is the government problem
- C-31 have a different agenda than us
- we can't drag people along that have different views than us
- our commission is pleasing to me
- we are all in agreement here at this table
- we will do the best for our people

Chalifoux:

- honoured to be here making history for the Metis Nation
- our names will be put in the history books of Canada
- as for an agenda

- no way could an agenda be drawn up this time
- this is a brainstorming meeting
- everyone must bring their thoughts to the meeting
- from there we developed the agenda together
- I sympathize with Edith and Pete and what they are going through
- I watch the struggles in Saskatchewan with power
- a recommendation from this commission might help
- our information will be Metis only
- I will not hand a survey to a C-31
- a possible agenda item for the next meeting would be the Bill C-31
- thank you to each and everyone here and I'm proud to be here
- we've done a lot of work in two days

Barron:

- the Forks is a good reunion
- no date set at this time
- I hope you can all come

Rivard:

- it's been a real pleasure to meet here
- I gain new insight on what we are all about
- I think we will do a hell of a good job
- we have the Metis enthusiasm
- we understand our own political circumstance
- we know the difficulties/barriers that we have to overcome
- the annual assembly threw out a challenge and we accepted it
- this is very serious
- you are not going to take a backseat to the politicians
- with everyone working together we can all help each other
- you are making history
- we are making great strides
- we've got problems but they can be overcome

SYMBOLISM

Chalifoux:

- a sash is important
- symbolism with different colors of the sash
- our anthem should be played
- we need the words "I'm proud to be Metis"
- how are we going to go to the assemblies
- people don't have to sing the words it's the listening to the words that is important
- we have to make a statement

Head:

- we go to the assemblies as Metis people
- we kick out the Indians
- we kicked out the Chief

- we came in with our regalia
- we made it known who we were
- let your viewers know that you are Metis
- we are not afraid of the others

Rivard:

- it is the heart and sole of our being
- that is why we broke away from the Native Council
- we chose to break away from the Indians
- we lost money and resources doing it but we feel strong
- the symbols make the statement

Leclair:

- on the anthem I've heard criticism that its like a song
- most anthems are balads; our anthem is a balad
- we have to look at the length of it
- capturing the homeland
- it has to be capable of being played successfully with fewer instruments
- we want it to work with just a piano, or just a fiddle,
- it is "powerful"

Chalifoux:

- the fur trade routes are our homeland
- Nova Scotia cannot be considered homeland
- I hope the MNA holds the copyright to the anthem

Head:

- we have a song to parade with

Chalifoux:

- identity is key
- flags, banners, etc.

Head:

- Manitoba is developing a sash
- our own colors
- it takes \$1,200 to develop one sash

Chalifoux:

- that's for Manitoba, mine is for Alberta
- now we need a special sash for the Commission
- our own colors

Leclair:

- if the senate came up with its own sash it would reflect the

mosaic

- it shows we are all interconnected

Sash:

blue - Alberta
red - Manitoba
turquoise - Ontario
white - Sask
gold - B.C.
green - N.W.T.

- the colors represent things
- royal blue represents our history with the Northwest Company
- red for the RCMP and how they did dirt to us
- white is for the strong religious ties
- red & white bringing the two races together
- gold is for the enterpreneurial spirit of the people
- turquoise is for the mountain lakes, scenery
- green symbolizes the grass, buffalo and prairies

Wrap-up

Rivard:

- you are not alone
- you have encouragement
- Marc is available, I'm available, Linda is available
- I wish everyone the best of luck
- I know you will take the challenge very seriously

Chalifoux:

- we have to look at ourselves
- be strong in our convictions as to Who the Metis are
- there is only one way to deal with the C-31's
- someone will get hurt but we can't have it both ways
- it is a choice that those people made and they are not Metis
- I am Metis and I take that stand
- as far as our commission is concerned we are Metis and only Metis

PROGRESS REPORT

Further to the resolution of the annual assembly and the Metis National Council executive meeting in Manitoba the Metis Senate Constitution Committee convened in Vancouver on May 2-4, 1993. The purpose of the meeting was to establish a workplan/budget for carrying out the Commissions work. Senatorial representatives from all Metis National Council provincial and territorial affiliates were present along with the President of the Metis Nation and the Minister responsible for the Commission.

DAY ONE

The Commission commenced its work by undertaking a thorough examination of the role of the Commission and the current political environment. While there was no definitive substantive constitutional proposals adopted the Senators generally felt that a new constitution must reflect the values of the Metis people and be drafted in such a way that individual Metis people can find themselves in its reading. The Commission examined a number of political issues raised over the last several years being:

- * Definition of a Metis
- * The impact of bill C-31
- * Evolution of the Metis Nation political structures including the development of the Senates
- * The progress the Metis people achieved in the Metis Nation Accord
- * The growing sense of pride of the Metis Nation

The Commission also discussed the potential uncertainty resulting from the large number of provincial and territorial elections to be held during the course of the Commission's work.

In organizing the Commissions work it adopted a three phase approach to conducting its work.

Phase One

The first phase of the Commissions work will be devoted to getting the Commission and its personnel geared up to undertake consultations with the Metis community on the development of the Metis Nation Constitution. This will involve preparatory work including developing survey questionnaires, directed at Metis people at the community, regional, and provincial level as well as Metis people working in the Metis public service. It will also involve establishing the consultation schedule and the timing and nature of onsite hearings at Metis provincial and territorial assemblies. Finally, a communications strategy will be developed.

Phase one is to be completed by June 25 to comply with the resolution of the annual assembly which calls for an interim report prior to June 30, 1993. The Commission will be seeking a meeting with the metis nation cabinet on June 25 to discuss the consultation instruments and the consultation process.

The first undertaking was to establish the budgetary requirements of the Commission. it was determined that approximately 110,000.00 was required to carry out the work. The budgetary breakdown is as follows:

Commission co-ordinator	\$30,000
Commission travel	48,000
Commission report	12,000
Communications	20,000

Possible sources of financing for the work of the Commission were discussed as follows:

Royal Commission	50,000
Justice	30,000
FPRO	20,000
EIC	10,000

Phase Two

Phase Two will involve undertaking consultations with the Metis community and implementation. The results of the consultations will be analyzed throughout phase two. It is anticipated that consultations will be undertaken with Metis people during set events to reduce costs. Among the people to be consulted; local presidents, members at large during annual assemblies, the boards of each of the provincial and territorial affiliates, Metis womens organizations, Metis veterans and youth identified by local presidents. Phase two is to be completed no later than October 24.

Phase Three

Phase three will focus upon the development of the final report of the Commission incorporating the views of those consulted and will consist of a set of recommendations for the constitution of the government and the people of the Metis Nation. In addition to the report, the Commission expects to table a draft constitution for consideration of the Metis Nation Cabinet and the Metis Nation Assembly. Production of the report will be completed by November 12, 1993.

Action Plan

Phase I

Phase II

Phase III

Write final report

November 16

Riel Commemoration/Barbeque and Bingo

Sack Races

Liars corner and bullshitting contest

(Note: politicians are ineligible for this event - amateurs only)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SASKATCHEWAN

Annual Assembly - undetermined
Batoche Days - undetermined
GDI Annual Meeting - undetermined

MANITOBA

Annual Assembly - undetermined
Cultural Reunion - undetermined

ALBERTA

Annual Assembly - August 20, 21, 22, 1993
Lac La Biche Pow Wow - July 30, 1993

ONTARIO

Annual Assembly - July 15, 16, 17, 18, 1993

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Assembly - held March 1993
Unity Conference - held March 1993

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Annual Assembly - July 9, 10, 11, 1993
Fort Smith