

Jim Sinclair, Jim Durocher, and Ron Laliberte:

Métis Political Activist Interviews (April 17, 2004)

Tape 2

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**(Video Tape: 7:15:04.00) JIM DUROCHER:** What I always believed in, and I don't believe in this whole concept of a Senate, you know. What I've always believed in is maybe a council of elders or something like that. You have a council of elders, but you don't give that council any Constitutional powers, you know, because they're not elected, you know. And that's the mistake that, that, you know, a lot of people are making and, you know, that really shows up, you know, now. You know, they're having a lot of problems with the Senate because the Senate has been given Constitutional powers and the biggest power they've been given is the power to, to run the membership. I mean they can, they can look at a, they can pick out your name and say hey you're no longer on here and take you right off and then what recourse do you have? You know, because they're not elected. You can't go through the democratic process and try to get them elected out or. You know, so, so those kind of things, you know, exist and they don't, there needs to be some changes in those things. I have no problem with a council of elders that are, you know, going to sit there and then you, you talk to them on issues, on Constitutional matters, Constitutional issues or rights... **(Inaudible)** ...

**RON LALIBERTE:** As an advisory board sort of thing?

**JIM DUROCHER:** As an advisory board, and, you know, and, and you, you need that because, you know, Aboriginal... **(Inaudible)** ...

**JIM SINCLAIR:** They have a lot of knowledge.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Yeah, they have a lot of knowledge and, you know, you need to use that, that knowledge. But you don't give them Constitutional powers that, that, that they're not, especially when they're not answerable to anybody, you know. They're not...

**(Video Tape: 7:16.34.02) JIM SINCLAIR:** That's an argument I have because I noticed that, you know, that some local elections, people are, the whole local is, ballot box is thrown out.

**JIM DUROCHER:** Oh, they, they, they kick out ballot boxes.

**JIM SINCLAIR:** And, and, and again I, I never buy into that because you can't leave out whole communities. I mean it could be a number of reasons why they're out, why they're, it's done that. But it takes away the whole concept of this one person, one vote, you know. And sure we had problems in our days but we still let them vote, we went through an argument if we thought somebody was doing wrong things with the ballots. But we never took away people's right to vote, you know, you don't do that. And you don't, you don't take a membership. I was, the time I took the membership away from Howard Adams, as much as Howard and I got into arguments I said, "You can't do that, you can't take a membership away from, you can't kick him out of his homeland." Noriega of all the things he done wrong in Central America, he still, they still wouldn't kick him out of the country. They still wouldn't say he was, he was banned. You know, Indians had ways of doing it in the old ways, banning people out of the tribe, but, you know, you cannot take a person and just say I'm taking away their membership for such and such and you no longer are a Métis. You can't do that.

**JIM DUROCHER:** You can't deny a person Métis rights. Métis, you know, that's...

**JIM SINCLAIR:** Nope, we've always took the approach of inclusive rather than exclusive. You know, I want to be inclusive, people should be inclusive. I want to find ways of screening in, not screening out. That's the way I've always done it.

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