

RED SKY MÉTIS

Independent Nation

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The Honourable Christopher Bentley
Ministry of the Attorney General &
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs
160 Bloor Street East, 4th floor
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M7A 2E6

April 20, 2010

Dear Minister:

Thank you for declaring 2010 as the "Year of the Métis". Since our history precedes, and is integral to, the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, it is with great pride that we look forward to the events of the upcoming year that reflect your Government's acknowledgement of the Métis presence in Ontario. More importantly, we encourage and look forward to your Government's acknowledgement of the diversity of Métis groups in Ontario.

However, we are surprised and very disappointed that your April 19, 2010 announcement in the Legislative Assembly recognized the history of Manitoba and Saskatchewan Métis through the exploits of Louis Riel but failed to recognize the diverse and rich history of Métis from Ontario. While Louis Riel fought for the rights and culture of Métis in western Canada, his actions are post-confederation and limited to the interests of western Métis, particularly those in Manitoba.

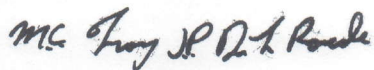
As the descendents of the original 84 "half-breeds" recognized in the Robinson Superior Treaty of 1850, we are a separate and distinct Métis people of Ontario.

Although your officials are well aware of nearly three centuries of our history in Ontario, we were inexplicably not referenced in your Government's announcement. In this context, we wish to emphasize that the Métis Nation of Ontario does not represent all Métis in Ontario and they do NOT represent the members of Red Sky Métis Independent Nation.

Therefore, we respectfully request that this oversight be corrected so that Red Sky Métis Independent Nation can take its own place in the celebrations of "The Year of the Métis".

We look forward to your favourable reply.

Salute et Meegwetch



Métis Chief Troy J.P. DeLaRonde
Red Sky Métis Independent Nation
Indigenous Métis First Families of Upper Canada

cc Hon Michael Gravelle -- Thunder Bay-Superior North
Bill Mauro -- Thunder Bay-Atikokan
Hon Monique M. Smith -- Nipissing
Bob Chiarelli -- Ottawa West-Nepean
David Oraziatti -- Sault Ste. Marie
Ted Arnott -- Wellington-Halton Hills - PC Critic to Minister of Aboriginal Affairs
Andrea Horwath -- Hamilton Centre
Gilles Bisson -- Timmins-James Bay