



**MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
**RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Supreme Court Won't Hear Johnston Family Appeal**

Ottawa, ON – Métis National Council (MNC) President Clément Chartier expressed his disappointment today with the Supreme Court of Canada's decision not to hear Grace Johnston's appeal to block the disinterment of her late son, Constable Leo Johnston.

Const. Johnston was one of four RCMP officers killed in the line of duty in Mayerthorpe, Alberta in March 2005. A citizen of the Métis Nation, Const. Johnston was buried in his hometown, the Métis community of Lac La Biche, Alberta.

Const. Johnston's widow has since made an application to move his remains to the national RCMP cemetery in Regina, Saskatchewan. The disinterment has been opposed by the Johnston family who want Const. Johnston to remain near his Métis ancestors and community.

"This has been an extremely difficult time for Grace and the rest of the Johnston family," said President Chartier. "My thoughts, and those of the entire Métis Nation, are with them today."

While the Supreme Court's decision does allow for the disinterment to proceed, President Chartier said he still hopes a compromise can be reached between the Johnston family and Kelly, Const. Johnston's widow.

"Everyone involved wants the same thing; to honour the memory of a brave, courageous and beloved man," said Chartier. "I am sure a way can be found to satisfy the wishes of his family, his widow and his community."

For more information, contact Greg Taylor, MNC Communications, (613) 296-9263, or [gregt@metisnation.ca](mailto:gregt@metisnation.ca)

*The MNC represents the Métis Nation in Canada at the national and international level. The Métis Nation's homeland includes the 3 Prairie Provinces and extends into Ontario, British Columbia, the Northwest Territories and the northern United States. There are approximately 350,000 – 400,000 Métis Nation citizens in Canada, roughly a quarter of all Aboriginal peoples in the country.*