



MÉTIS NATIONAL COUNCIL  
RALLIEMENT NATIONAL DES MÉTIS

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## Manitoba Court of Appeal sides with MNC in case against former Governor

Ottawa, ON – The Manitoba Court of Appeal has sided with the Métis National Council (MNC) in its case against Yvon Dumont, former Governor of the Métis Nation.

“I am pleased with today’s unanimous decision,” said MNC President Clément Chartier. “The court made it very clear that the terms of reference agreed to by the Métis National Council and Mr. Dumont were valid and enforceable.”

The lawsuit was filed after Mr. Dumont ran unsuccessfully for President of the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) in 2003, which was prohibited under the terms of reference he agreed to after being appointed Governor of the Métis Nation.

“When Mr. Dumont accepted his appointment as Governor he agreed to the terms set out by the elected representatives of the Métis Nation.” said Chartier. “He disrespected the Métis people by acting as if the rules didn’t apply to him.”

“This court decision shows that in the Métis Nation no one is above the law,” said Chartier

The MNC appointed Mr. Dumont Governor in 1999. In 2002, he accepted the terms which prohibited him from seeking or holding political positions with the MNC or its Governing Members, including the MMF, while Governor, and for a further 2 years after leaving the position.

In its decision the Court of Appeal said not only did Mr. Dumont agree to the terms prohibiting political activity, but he also acknowledged them to be reasonable and necessary in order to maintain political neutrality.

“This decision clearly shows the importance of the Métis National Council establishing and enforcing its own conflict of interest policies,” said President Chartier. “This is essential as the Métis Nation continues to develop its own transparent and accountable self-governing institutions.”

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*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.*