



November 30, 2005

Hon. Jack Layton, M.P., P.C.
 Leader of the New Democratic Party
 House of Commons
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Layton:

RE: POLICY PLATFORM ON MÉTIS ISSUES

I am writing to you in order to obtain your party's policy platform with respect to the Métis Nation in Canada in the current election.

The Métis National Council is in the process of undertaking an analysis of the federal parties' policy platforms vis-à-vis Métis with a view to informing our citizens. Our analysis will be posted on the Métis National Council's website and widely circulated to Métis people and communities from Ontario westward.

In order to complete this work, I am requesting a copy of your party's Aboriginal policy. In addition, I am requesting answers to the following questions:

1. Does your party acknowledge the existence of the Métis Nation, as an Aboriginal people, within Canada?
2. Does your party recognize that the Métis have existing Aboriginal and Treaty rights that must be recognized and accommodated by the federal government?
3. Does your party support and commit to implement the \$5.1 billion transformative change package agreed to between First Ministers and National Aboriginal Leaders on November 25th, 2005?
4. Does your party support and agree to implement the *Canada-Métis Nation Framework Agreement* that was signed between the Government of Canada and the Métis National Council on May 31st, 2005?
5. Does your party have any specific commitments to the Métis people within its election platform?

**GOVERNING
 MEMBER
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 #3 - 500 Old St. Patrick St.
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 Fax: (604) 801-5097
 www.mpcbc.bc.ca

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6. Does your party recognize and support Métis self-government?
 - a. How would your party work with Métis governments in order to fully implement Métis rights and self-government?
 - b. Does your party support the establishment of a Métis Comprehensive Claims process?
 - c. Would your government commit financial resources to undertake this work with Métis governments?
7. Would your party continue and/or enhance the current federal resources provided to Métis governments for the implementation of the Supreme Court of Canada's decision in *R. v. Powley*?
8. Does your party support a distinctions-based approach between the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples? Would your party abandon pan-Aboriginal approaches (e.g., Urban Aboriginal Strategy) which have resulted in poor results and access for Métis?
9. Does your party commit to addressing the issue of compensation for Métis veterans?

I look forward to reviewing your party's platform with respect to the Métis Nation and receiving responses to the questions outlined above. In order to ensure we can complete our review as soon as possible, I am asking for some form of response to my request by December 15th, 2005.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Yours sincerely,



Clément Chartier, Q.C.
President

c.c. Métis National Council Board of Governors