



OFFICE of the PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

September 22, 2020

Mr. Jim Durocher
Past-President, Métis Nation - Saskatchewan
Île-à-la-Crosse, SK

Mr. Durocher,

Your past record of service to our community is commendable. The letter I received from you today is a discredit to that service.

While I appreciate the passion with which you wrote this letter, the fact that you relied upon inaccurate reporting, comments by anonymous sources and, frankly, gossip, is reprehensible and you should know better.

If you had such concerns, I would have expected that a former public official would have had the decency to contact me directly and ask if these egregious allegations were true. Instead, you have likely made the situation worse. The last thing people need is to fear getting tested or to fear how people will react to them if they test positive for COVID-19. Your letter only serves to create fear and sow division.

That is not leadership.

I have worked tirelessly since my election to bring accountability and transparency to the Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and I am pleased with what we have accomplished together. I am proud of the work of this government and staff - they give 100 per cent of themselves daily and ask for little in return.

I will not allow a health matter - particularly one that is gripping the entire nation - to be used for nefarious purposes. Health authorities in this country have stated that they are concerned the stigma associated with COVID-19 will result in a greater spread of the

virus. If people feel shamed, they are more likely to continue going to work and be out in the community, which will only cause more suffering, more spread, and less testing.

I urge you, Jim, to put animosity aside and focus on working to control this virus. We need to work together to make it acceptable for people to come forward when they feel they are experiencing symptoms. None of us is perfect, but I can assure you that what you have read is inaccurate. I would never knowingly risk the health and well-being of our citizens and their businesses.

As of today, there are 146,000 cases of COVID-19 in Canada, and 9,232 people have died. These are people's parents and grandparents, friends and spouses - this is where our focus needs to be. This ongoing global pandemic is difficult enough, please do not make it harder by spreading disinformation. You have clearly jumped to unwarranted conclusions and while I can only speculate as to why that is, I urge you to stop and put your efforts toward something more beneficial to the community.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen McCallum," with a comma at the end. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glen McCallum
President

September 22, 2020

Mr. Glen McCallum
President, Métis Nation-Saskatchewan.
Saskatoon, SK

President McCallum:

I have been involved with the Métis political movement as one of its leaders in Saskatchewan since the early 1970s. During that period of time I served for many years both as Treasurer and President, and currently as the President of A la Baie Métis Local at Ile a la Crosse.

Never in all of this time have I witnessed such unprofessional behavior that has been reported in the media over the past few days, and especially your complete disregard for others you have come into contact with since you took your COVID 19 test last week, until your notification by the Public Health Authority that you tested positive.

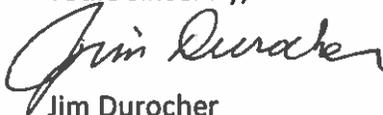
Your continued convening of the MNS Ministers and their staff at Waskesiu and your complete disregard of the hotel owners' directives was a complete lack of respect and arrogance on your part. While this is within your natural behavior towards others, during this time of the COVID 19 pandemic you should have modified your behavior and respected the health of others, as well as their economic well-being.

From the CBC report, it is clear that the Hawood Inn will be seeking economic compensation for the financial disaster caused by your callous behavior. While they have a good case for the economic harm you caused them, the liability is solely on your shoulders and the MNS should not be expected to pay any costs which may be attributed to you.

Thousands of us over the past decades have worked hard to bring our Métis community into a positive light in this province, developing a reputation through our Affiliates as a positive asset to the economic and social life of the province, only to see a potential negative backlash against us from this unprofessional action on your part.

Further, due to the serious nature of this emerging crisis, and the negative reputation which the MNS will be experiencing due to your reckless and unforgiveable behavior and disregard for the health security of the potential hundreds of people you interacted with, it is incumbent on you to do the right thing and resign.

Yours sincerely,



Jim Durocher