

**The Métis and Canada :  
An on-going Difficult Relationship**

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On September 19, 2003, the Supreme Court of Canada recognized the existing Métis right to hunt and the uniqueness of the Métis as an Aboriginal people. While this court decision is without any doubt an historical breakthrough, at the same time the unique contribution of the Métis people is still being contested in Canada. In this presentation, I propose to look at the history of the Métis and how their unique expression of nationalism has helped shaped the Canadian federation. I will look at the gains the Métis have made since 1982 and also at the insidious colonial processes that are still at play even after the *Powley* decision. Since on the one side the judicial power is using a discourse of existing and meaningful rights and on the other, governments, politicians and the general public are using a discourse that minimizes those gains, are we really seeing the renewal of a historic relationship? If a renewed relationship is indeed in the horizon, in whose principles will it be anchored?