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Dear Constituents:

Thank you for your support and understanding regarding my position on Bill 44, an Act to Ratify the Labrador Inuit Association's land claim agreement. This Bill may impose prejudice upon the Metis of Labrador who have filed a land claim with the federal government. The wording used in the agreement which stated it was the last Inuit claim in Labrador and Canada is not correct, as the Metis claim is founded on Inuit ancestry.

I stood and questioned government on this in the House of Assembly. While they said it was not their intention to prejudice or jeopardize a claim for Metis people, words alone was not sufficient assurance. The Metis people needed legislation in order to secure their claim to the federal government. I proposed an amendment to the legislation and fought hard to get the clarity needed; but in the end, the government defeated the amendment without the security for the Metis we had hoped for. I could not vote to ratify the LIA land claim knowing it would harm some of the very people I represent, the Metis of Labrador. On December 06, 2004 I stood for what I believed in. I spoke from the heart and as the only Metis person in the legislature, I stood alone among 48 members. But in my district and in Labrador, I stood with many who believed in the inherent right of our people.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this House, not to vote against the Inuit people of Labrador but to vote for the same freedoms and independence for my people, for the same dignity and same respect for the Metis people of Labrador.

Yvonne Jones

"I am a member of the Labrador Inuit Association.... this does not in any way cloud my thoughts or opinions of the members of the LMN. As you so eloquently put it, we are 'cousins'. It was the first time that I had the privilege of observing you in the house. And I must admit as a constituent I was very pleased with what I saw. Your passion and emotion to fight for what you believe in is commendable."

Tom Mugford, Cartwright

I encourage all of you to always follow your heart and have the courage to stand for what you believe in, it will strengthen you and your community.

Mr. Speaker, today I honour the struggles of people like Don Davis, Uncle Kenny Mesher, Guy Poole, Marie Rumbolt and Maude Russell. I applaud the work that they have done - Sandy Campbell, Don Kippenhuck and many others. They, too, want to be free to live a life of dignity and respect like our Northern Inuit cousins and to pass on a proud legacy to future generations that is founded on a past that have been proclaimed by Metis people."

Yvonne Jones

"I admire the way in which you stood before government and colleagues in the House to represent your district and the concerns of the Labrador Metis Nation. I am not a member of the LMN, but I know what you did yesterday was best for all people in the Cartwright-L'Anse au Clair district. I know the decision you made couldn't have been easy and I can certainly say that passion for the issue was well represented in the words you spoke."

Jamie Pye, Labrador Straits

there was a lot of emotion running through me yesterday when I "saw you standing there in that house, telling the whole world that you believe in who you are and who I am. I am so proud of you and commend your courageous actions."

Keith Poole, St Lewis

"Despite the often-divisive debate, Andersen was the first to approach Jones after the voting was over. He shook her hand and hugged her."

Rob Antle, The Telegram