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Yvonne Boyer and Larry Chartrand (Editors), *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community*

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Yvonne Boyer and Larry Chartrand (Editors), *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2021), 221pp. Paperback. CA\$32.95. ISBN: 978-0-7748-6597-5.

Yvonne Boyer and Larry Chartrand's edited edition, *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community*, engages readers in a conversation on Métis identity, but also utilizes a constitutional lens to discuss the Métis nation's place within and alongside that of the Canadian state. In doing so, Boyer and Chartrand bring forth a collection of writings from those discussing Métis recognition and jurisdiction that had been agreed to from the negotiations and implementation of the *Manitoba Act* (1870), Section 35 of *The Constitution Act* (1982), as well as from Supreme Court of Canada (SCC), rulings that have related to the Métis nation.

As Boyer and Chartrand highlight: 'This book aims to correct the dearth of legal scholarly material by Métis scholars on the considerable concerns relating to Métis identity and constitutional rights jurisprudence doctrines in an era of reconciliation' (p. 6). I agree with Boyer and Chartrand – the pages and authors within *Bead by Bead* assist in introducing the reader to a discussion on what they seek to do and help in explaining key rulings, agreements, and arguments that not only impact Métis people but also the ongoing discussions and debates within the Métis nation. Scholars such as Thomas Isaac, Brenda L. Gunn, Karen Drake, and Adam Gaudry, to name but four,¹ assist in helping editors Boyer and Chartrand with this important discussion, as well as highlight the differing opinions and ongoing debates amongst the Métis – contributing to an understanding that the Métis experience in colonization and control by the Canadian state is a unique experience that is not completely the same as that shared by First Nations or Inuit.

Throughout the chapters of *Bead by Bead*, the reader is led to understand the difference between Métis and *métis*, the impacts of the *Manitoba Act*, the *Dominion Lands Act* (1876), British Canada's encroachment, as well as the significance of the *Powley Decision* (2003), *The Manitoba Métis Federation Decision* (2013), and, especially, the *Daniels Decision* (2016). All of these discussions are significant in understanding the Métis today and their continued push for the recognition of their rights, jurisdictions, and ability to discuss Métis identity. In turn, *Bead by Bead* is a must read for those learning not only about Indigenous rights and relations but especially Métis rights and relations alongside the Canadian state.

That said, in order to more fully ground the discussions on Métis rights, land, and identity it would be also beneficial to see a discussion on agreements and treaties that had, and do, exist between the Métis and First Nations whom also call the same territory and lands home. As someone who is a mix of Michi-Saagiig Nishnaabeg and Irish background myself, I am left thinking about what relations were like between many of the Prairie Nations and the Métis nation. Is there precedent to further argue the entrenchment of Métis rights and recognition, via agreements made with those nations that many Métis today have lineage from as well? What are those agreements and how have Prairie Nations and the Métis nations supported one another in relation to recognition prior to and throughout the encroachment and colonial infringement not only by the British but the Canadian state itself? Perhaps this is something to consider in a future edition by those who contributed to this edition.

¹ Note: Other contributors in *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community* include Sébastien Grammond, Christopher Gall, Brodie Douglas, Jeremy Patzer, D'Arcy Vermette, Darren O'Toole, as well as a "Forward" by Tony Belcourt.

Overall, *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community* is an edited collection that anyone interested in the Métis nation should be adding to their reading list.

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