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## BACKGROUND SUMMARY

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- In 1993, MN-S introduced and passed our Constitution. It is the framework in which we govern ourselves
- Constitutions are organic and require review when times change and our structures change to ensure that in future generations our values and interests are protected – they are basic structures of government
- We are asking for constituents to tell us which strong cultural values and principles MUST be incorporated into our Constitution
- For example: our Buffalo Hunt was key to our survival and thriving, and we had laws around that. Though we no longer depend on the Buffalo for survival, we depend on our knowledge to guide us
- Métis are a distinct group of people who emerged in what was Northwest Territory with our own language, cultural practices, heritage, traditions, government & law
- Métis in Saskatchewan faced many challenges from the inception of Canada (and before), however we were steadfast in our battle for recognition and respect and through various avenues and have had our voice heard and our organizations established
- In 1982, through fierce and fearless advocacy, Section 35 affirmed our rights in the *Canadian Constitution*
- Métis in Saskatchewan have been on the forefront of governance and we have more than five Acts that guide the work of MN-S and its elected officials
- These Acts speak to our priorities – *Métis Act, Citizenship Act, Regional Boundaries Act, Senate Act, Métis Nation Legislative Assembly Act* and the *Wildlife and Conservation Act*
- In June 2018, MN-S took a significant step and signed the *Framework Agreement* with the federal government of Canada
- This agreement is monumental as it creates a space to negotiate and articulate our Métis rights, our right to self-government and a process to address reconciliation on outstanding matters before the courts
- This agreement impels us to look at our Constitution to determine what is best under self-government

- Our initial discussions about the process for constitutional reform must encompass these four areas: simple, easy to read and use of plain language; dispute resolution must be included on how constituents can engage, ensuring clear roles for Elders and the Senate voices are included within the reform and, finally, transparency and accountability must be paramount throughout the whole process
- MN-S is listening, sharing, collaborating with our constituents and our leadership through a consultation process from all corners of the province to ensure our governance is reflective and respectful
- Through this process and through our Métis Nation Legislative Assemblies we are gathering your ideas, knowledge and direction on constitutional reform and we will share an Interim Report at the November MNLA

Share with your family, share with your neighbour, share with your Nation – your voice is valued and important.