



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Métis Nation – Saskatchewan teams with five school boards to offer Michif Early Learning Pilot Project (MELPP)

June 23, 2020 – Saskatoon, SK – Michif is an endangered language, only about 640 people in Canada speak Michif according to the 2016 census data. Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) is working hard to ensure it lives on and that the number of speakers increases.

As part of those efforts, MN-S Ministry of Education is partnering with five school divisions in three communities in a Michif Early Learning Pilot Project (MELPP). This program will offer Michif language immersion to students starting this fall. Select schools in Regina, Saskatoon and Ile-a-la-Crosse school divisions are participating.

Métis teachers and Michif Language Keepers will be engaged and supported in this program. Designed to connect children with Métis culture and immerse them in a full-day Michif language program, the program will also build capacity among educators. This initiative is part of The Future of Michif Program, a broader partnership between MN-S and the Royal Canadian Geographical Society aimed at revitalizing Michif language within the Province. We will continue this important work together to protect, promote, and practice Michif language. MN-S is also working to develop a Dene Early Learning Pilot Project with Northern Lights School Division in La Loche, and plans to support Dene language development for early learners.

Often children who have a strong cultural identity and shared respect for a multitude of language and cultures have increased academic success.

Registration for the Michif Early Learning Pilot Project for the 2020-21 school year is now open. Contact your nearest participating school board and get your children on the path to learning and conserving a beautiful and unique Indigenous language. The five school divisions offering the pilot project are Regina Public Schools, Regina Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Public Schools, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools and Ile-a-la-Crosse School Division.

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FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES:

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