



PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE POSITION OF TREASURER OF THE MÉTIS NATION - SASKATCHEWAN

On June 8, 2020, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan’s Provincial Métis Council met in Batoche to hold a socially distanced meeting to continue its valuable work of guiding the affairs of the nation during these turbulent times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was held in an open area and conformed with all requirements of the current Health Order issued by the Province of Saskatchewan. Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and private security were on hand to ensure the requirements of the Health Order were met. We are thankful for their efforts to keep us safe.

Following the meeting, the former Treasurer gained access to the site under the guise of seeking to pay tribute at the memorial erected on the Batoche grounds to honour our veterans and their noble sacrifices. She entered the meeting site shortly after the gathering had concluded and requested documents provided to voting members of the Provincial Métis Council. She was not provided with any documentation. Her presence at the meeting may have been in violation of the Health Order as numbers were being closely monitored and restricted on site to ensure the safety and health of all participants was protected. The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan takes the health and well-being of its members, including its elected officials, very seriously and this action illustrates a wanton disregard for the safety of others.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan remains firm in its belief that the resignation of the former Treasurer was tendered and properly accepted. The March 2020 decision of the court providing a declaration to the contrary is wrong in law and is incompatible with the right of self-determination, the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan, and the decisions of our law-making Assembly. As such, the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan will continue to pursue our right to appeal.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan is the recognized government of the Métis within the province. The right of self-government is enshrined in s. 35 of the Constitution of Canada. As a self-determining people, the Métis of Saskatchewan has established our own system of laws, government, and decision-making. This includes the Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan adopted in 1993, which is the supreme law of our government.



The Constitution of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan establishes the Métis Nation Legislative Assembly (MNLA) as the ultimate decision-making body of our government. The MNLA met on April 14-15, 2018. At this meeting, the matter of the resignation of the former Treasurer was thoroughly discussed and deliberated. Through a motion passed by a majority vote of the democratically elected Métis leaders that make up the MNLA, the Assembly directed that the resignation be accepted, that a duly elected member of the Provincial Métis Council be appointed as Interim Treasurer, and that a by-election be postponed until the next general election. This election is due in 2021.

The Métis Nation – Saskatchewan remains steadfast in our position that the MNLA has carefully considered the matter of the resignation of the former Treasurer and has addressed the matter through the laws and procedures of our Métis government in a manner that is open, transparent and democratic. This action and decision by the MNLA and the constitutional order that underlies our government mandates that the Provincial Métis Council act in compliance and with full deference to the role and authority of the legislative branch.

The Batoche grounds upon which the Provincial Métis Council met today are those upon which our ancestors fought and died in battle to protect our right to self-government, self-determination and to live according to our own laws and ways. We will honour their sacrifices, always.