



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### New signs recognize the heartland of the Métis and Treaty 5 Territory

**August 31, 2021** – Members of Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) and Cumberland House Cree Nation (CHCH) gathered today at the E.B. Campbell Dam entrance on Highway 123. The gathering formalized the long-term nation-to-nation relationship between CHCN and MN-S as leaders placed signs recognizing the heartland of the Métis Nation and welcoming people to Treaty 5 territory, ancestral lands of Cumberland House Cree Nation.

Métis and First Nations people have a long history of working and living together in Treaty 5 territory. Gathering today to place territory markers together solidifies that bond.

“We have always had a strong working partnership with our First Nations brothers and sisters in this province. In honour of that, we enter into an official nation-to-nation partnership that gives us a unified voice when it comes to exercising our rights as both distinct peoples Métis and First Nations in Treaty 5 territory,” says MN–S President Glen McCallum.

A sign that welcomed visitors to Treaty 5 territory, initially erected earlier this summer, was vandalized and then disappeared altogether. Today, two signs stand at Highway 123. One for the Métis Nation and one for Treaty 5 territory and the ancestral lands of Cumberland House Cree Nation.

The location of today’s event is also a reminder of the colonization of Indigenous people. CHCN Chief Rene Chaboyer says when the E.B. Campbell Dam was built, it was detrimental to his people’s way of life.

“Like other communities in the province, these signs welcome visitors to the region but also remind people they are entering a traditional area. The signs symbolize the partnership between CHCN and MN–S to work together to push our Indigenous rights and our culture. This relationship just makes sense,” says Chief Chaboyer.



An advocate for the nation-to-nation relationship, Barry Carriere, whose father James was a Métis Nation leader, watched proudly as the two leaders erected signs marking the shared Treaty 5 territory of CHCN and MN-S.

“This is what I’ve been longing to do. We are all one. We need to form an alliance to work together, for our future, for our children,” says Carriere.

MN–S and CHCN are committing to come together on economic development, governance, and resource sharing issues.

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### **About MN–S**

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is the recognized government of the Metis Nation in Saskatchewan. MN-S is built on a foundation of Métis identity, culture, values and language. MN–S works to advance Métis rights and recognition. MN–S represents the political, socioeconomic, cultural and educational interests of more than 80,000 Métis in the province through an elected representative system at local, regional and provincial levels.

### **FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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