



Central Urban Métis Federation, Inc

315 Avenue M South ● Saskatoon, SK ● S7M 2K5



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CUMFI Opens the Round Prairie Elders' Lodge

December 3, 2021 – Central Urban Métis Federation, Inc. (CUMFI) is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Round Prairie Elders' Lodge, a newly constructed 26-unit residence for Métis Elders located at 412 Avenue P South in Saskatoon. The 25,881 square foot Lodge will provide culturally appropriate housing that is safe, affordable, and accessible.

CUMFI will deliver the proper supports while ensuring Elders are housed with dignity and a quality of life to promote health and well-being. CUMFI has long known the struggles faced by many Métis Elders, and the Round Prairie Elders' Lodge provides an opportunity to address challenges such as isolation, lack of cultural supports, and safety with its many shared spaces. An outdoor area hosts a fire pit, raised planters with traditional medicinal plants, and gathering area.

The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) Ministry of Housing contributed \$1.5 Million through the Regional Housing Strategy, with funding from the Canada-Métis Nation Housing Sub-Accord. The support went toward the land purchase and a deposit on modular units.

The funders in the cross-cultural partnership include Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative (IHII) (\$2,293,077), Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) (\$1,500,000); the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) (\$683,845 (Forgivable Loan); \$1,609,386 (Repayable Loan), Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) (\$632,845) and the City of Saskatoon (\$178,437).

Elders will be a valuable resource to the neighbourhood, with so many Métis knowledge keepers under one roof. Lodge staff intend to open the attached gathering room to the community to host meals, cultural and social activities, and provide teaching opportunities.

[Quotes]

CUMFI President Shirley Isbister said, “We are very excited to have the Round Prairie Elders Lodge opening in the Pleasant Hill Neighborhood. It’s been two decades in the making and our Elders finally have a place to call home. For years we have seen our



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Elders struggle and make decisions between rent and other essentials such as medicine or food. CUMFI is proud to help in this small way to overcome these issues and we will continue to work for our Elders and people. By working collaboratively with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan, Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, this Lodge is now a reality.”

MN–S President Glen McCallum said, “This project exemplifies the success we can achieve through partnerships. The Métis Nation–Saskatchewan funding is one example of our Métis government’s commitment to increase housing capacity and stimulate the economy across the province. We are pleased to be involved in such a well-rounded, culturally appropriate housing project dedicated to our Elders. The Round Prairie Elders’ Lodge allows our elders to relax in comfort as they so deserve.”

“Congratulations to President Shirley Isbister and the Central Urban Métis Federation on the completion of this new lodge,” said the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services. “The Round Prairie Elders’ Lodge will provide a safe, healthy and culturally sensitive environment for Métis elders for years to come. I would also like to acknowledge the support of our delivery partner, the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers or CANDO, and the advice and guidance of the Indigenous Steering Committee, in making this project a reality.”

“Congratulations to the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc., the Saskatoon Métis community, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan, and all partners on the opening of the Round Prairie Elders Lodge,” said the Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations. “This is a great example of how Métis-led projects benefit Métis, for safer and healthier environments for Métis Elders and knowledge keepers.”

“It is so exciting that the Métis Elder's residence developed by the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) is now completed and will serve Métis seniors in the Saskatoon area. This unique project brings critically important housing tailored to Métis Elders in need of culturally relevant, accessible, safe and affordable housing. The CUMFI project is just one of the 24 Indigenous housing projects supported through the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative that provides support for the development of Indigenous housing projects throughout Canada. Cando recognizes the urgent need for safe and healthy housing for Indigenous people as well as the critical role new housing development can have on community economic development,” said Ray Wanuch, Executive Director, Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (Cando).

“On behalf of the Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative (IHII) Steering Committee members, I offer congratulations to the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. on the successful implementation of its Indigenous Homes Innovation Initiative project to provide



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culturally relevant accommodations for Métis Elders. The steering committee saw the importance of this project - particularly the welcoming gathering space where residents can connect and build community,” said Sean Willy, of the IHII Indigenous Steering Committee.

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About CUMFI

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) was incorporated in 1993, by a group of Métis people living in the City of Saskatoon. The mandate of CUMFI is to promote heritage, culture, economic development, education, and social well-being of all Métis people and, more broadly, the Indigenous community in Saskatoon. CUMFI is a non-profit charitable organization serving the core community of Saskatoon. With properties throughout the core neighborhood, CUMFI is considered one of the leading Aboriginal supported-housing and wellness community organizations in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The organization is crucial to supporting the cities disenfranchised and vulnerable populations while also providing affordable living solutions. CUMFI’s intent is to provide continued support to women, children, youth, and families.

About Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is the recognized government of the Métis 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.

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