

## MEDIA RELEASE- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MARCH 31, 2022 Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance Welcomes Two New Members

The Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance (PAREDA) welcomes two new members at an official signing on March 31, 2022 of an agreement extending the original Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on March 19, 2019. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan (MN-S) and Sturgeon Lake First Nation (SLFN) are the newest members to join the Alliance.

The new members join four original founding members including the City of Prince Albert, the Rural Municipality of Prince Albert, the Town of Shellbrook and Peter Ballantyne Developments LP. An extension of the Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance (PAREDA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will take effect immediately and will run through until the end of 2024.

MN–S President and Economic Development Minister Glen McCallum says, "We are pleased to be joining the Prince Albert Regional Economic Development Alliance as we work together to advance economic growth in the Prince Albert region. Many of our citizens live, work and thrive in this region and it is important for our Métis Nation–Saskatchewan Government to continue supporting the economic, social, and cultural health and wellness of this great area."

SFLN Chief Greg Ermine says, "Sturgeon Lake First Nation is proud to be a member of PAREDA. Working together towards advancing one's goals and developing is a proven efficient and positive approach to building capacity"

The work of PAREDA over the past three years has been focused on building the foundation of the organization including recruiting employees, establishing the Tourism arm of the organization, reopening of the Visitor Centre and developing a new welcome package to support labour attraction.

Looking ahead, a strategic plan has recently been approved by the Board and focuses on the following core areas:

- 1. Job Creation
- 2. Revenue Generation
- 3. Collaboration w Provincial and Federal Government
- 4. Investment Strategy
- 5. Tourism
- 6. Capacity Building

PAREDA is the region's first grassroots driven approach to regional community economic development. We see the value in a cooperative and coordinated approach in looking to work together to support the region's business climate and encourage investment across all jurisdictions.

## About Métis Nation–Saskatchewan

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan 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.

## About Sturgeon Lake First Nation

Sturgeon Lake Reserves 101 and 101A are located 55 kilometers north west of the City of Prince Albert. The two reserves are in the Forest Fringe area of Saskatchewan and cover 5,500 acres in total. Just under half of the nearly 3,000 members of the First Nation live on reserve. Most of the other members live in the cities of Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Canada and the States.

For media inquiries, please contact:

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