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EXCITING STAFF CHANGES FOR PRAIRIE HARM REDUCTION AND MÉTIS NATION–SASKATCHEWAN

March 1, 2022 (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)- Prairie Harm Reduction (PHR) is announcing a change in leadership. Jason Mercredi has taken a job with the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) as their Homelessness Manager, and Kayla DeMong has been promoted from Associate Director to permanent Executive Director.

“The PHR Board thanks Jason for his excellent stewardship of the organization. Under his leadership, we have experienced unprecedented growth and development, offering vital new programming through the most challenging times for Saskatoon’s at-risk citizens. We wish him the best as he applies his considerable skills and energy in his next endeavours. We are pleased to have Kayla DeMong step in as Executive Director and anticipate continued success for PHR going forward.” says Sheena McCallion, PHR Board Chair.

Kayla DeMong, PHR Executive Director, states, “I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead Prairie Harm Reduction and to continue to support the incredible work of PHR in our community. This is a time of immense growth and change for PHR and I am excited to take on the challenge.”

“Seeing how Saskatchewan has embraced Prairie Harm Reduction over the last nine years: the policy, programing, awareness, and advocacy we have developed and implemented, I am content with my time at the organization. Kayla is the right person to lead this organization into the future and I look forward to donating to PHR and purchasing their next line of clothing. I am excited to take on this new challenge with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan on addressing homelessness in rural, remote and northern settings,” says Jason Mercredi.

MN–S President Glen McCallum states, “Addressing homelessness is a priority for our Métis Nation–Saskatchewan government, and we have a great team in our Ministry of Housing and Infrastructure. Jason is an excellent addition with his 17 years of experience in Community Based Organizations, and during that time, he has shown great leadership, ideas, ability and compassion. We are pleased to welcome Jason to

work within our Métis government. We are determined to engage with our Métis citizens to accomplish great things together for our Métis communities.”

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About Kayla DeMong

Kayla DeMong has been providing support to families, youth, and children in Saskatoon for the past 15 years. She graduated from SIIT in 2008 with a diploma in Addictions Counselling. She has spent the past 9 years with Prairie Harm Reduction focusing on harm reduction programming with families and youth. Kayla is on the board of directors for Quint Saskatoon, Station 20 West, and CUISR. Kayla has been in recovery from substance use disorder for 18 years. She is a proud mom of 2 and has spent her entire life in Saskatoon.

About Jason Mercredi

Jason has worked in Community Based Organizations for over 17 years. He is a co-founder for Canada's National HIV Testing Day (2018), wrote the policy to introduce safer smoking supplies into Saskatchewan needle exchanges (2018), successfully advocated for the provincial expansion of the take home naloxone program (2019), opened Saskatchewan's first Safe Consumption Site (2020), wrote the policy to increase earnings exemptions for people on social assistance (2019), was project lead on the for Canada's first Indigenous language condom campaign (2017), and worked in partnership with the Government of Saskatchewan to establish drug checking services in Saskatchewan. He is of Denesuline, Métis and Scottish ancestry and is a member of the Chipewyan Prairie First Nation. He was born and raised in Treaty 6 Territory and the Traditional Homelands of the Métis.

About Prairie Harm Reduction

Prairie Harm Reduction is a national leading Harm Reduction organization that is focused on improving the quality of life for all members of the community through gold standards in Harm Reduction; emphasizing local action with national impact.

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.

For media inquiries:

Kayla DeMong
PHR Executive Director
306-380-5421

Julia Burns
MN-S Director of Communications
306-850-1670 or jburns@mns.work