



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Métis Nation–Saskatchewan hosts ‘Guiding Our Children – Elders Sharing Their Voice’ early learning child care conference**

**April 29, 2022** – Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is hosting the second annual Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) conference in Saskatoon.

‘Guiding our Children – Elders Sharing Their Voice’ brings together 350 Elders, educators and child care providers from across the province. Delegates exchange ideas, discuss best practices and establish connections between Elders and early learning programs.

MN–S President Glen McCallum was honoured to be joined on stage this morning at the conference by special guests including Métis National Council (MNC) President Cassidy Caron and Canada’s Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, Karina Gould. Over the next two days, key note speakers will include Krissy Lemaigre, Karen Bouvier and Dr. Debbie Pushor.

Studies have shown that children develop stronger cognitive abilities, social development skills and are more school-ready with high-quality early learning and child care. The positive impacts also create a foundation for lifelong learning.

The power of bringing our Métis Elders together with our children and young people helps build strong kinships and promotes Métis cultural identity in our communities. This conference is designed to help delegates gain an understanding of regional early learning needs and identify opportunities for growth.

MN–S President Glen McCallum said, “With our Elders’ guidance and their firm grounding in our identity, culture, values and language, our children will have a solid foundation. Our Métis government brings our early learning community from the north, central and south of the province together to build a strong future for Métis Citizens in Saskatchewan.”

MNC President Cassidy Caron said, “Métis Elders have an incredibly important role to play in the building of a bright, prosperous future for the Métis Nation. Their guidance, knowledge, and love for our people has kept our culture and stories alive for generations. The work being done by the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan honours



and uplifts our Elders to ensure Métis children have access to supportive and culturally significant learning opportunities which, in turn, will contribute to building a strong Métis Nation.”

MN–S and the other Governing Members of the Métis National Council signed onto the [Métis Nation Early Learning and Child Care Accord](#) with Canada in March 2019. The agreement helps give MN–S the capacity to strengthen early learning and child care programs for Métis children in communities across Saskatchewan.

“Early learning and child care designed by and with Indigenous families and communities gives Indigenous children the best start in life. Our partnership will give more Métis children better access to high-quality and culturally-appropriate early learning and child care,” said Karina Gould, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development.

‘Guiding our Children – Elders Sharing Their Voice’ sessions are intended to build connections and discover ways to promote Métis identity, culture, values and language. The conference is live streamed at <https://metisnationssk.com/2022/04/25/guiding-our-children-elders-sharing-their-voice/> today and tomorrow, Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 2022.

A special edition of the Kitchen Party will also be streamed on the MN–S Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MNSask> this evening starting at 5:00 pm CST.

–30–

#### **About Métis Nation–Saskatchewan:**

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is built on a foundation of Métis identity, culture, values and language. Empowered by the Métis citizens of Saskatchewan, MN–S works to advance Métis rights and strengthen organizational capacity. 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:**

Rena Montgomerie – MN–S Senior Communications Officer  
[r.montgomerie@mns.work](mailto:r.montgomerie@mns.work) or 306-250-1092