



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MÉTIS NATION–SASKATCHEWAN WELCOMES CITIZENS AND GUESTS TO THE 50<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION OF THE BACK TO BATOCHE DAYS**

**July 21, 2022 – Batoche, Saskatchewan** – Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is excited to welcome citizens and guests to the 50th celebration of Back to Batoche Days. This year marks a return to festival grounds, after two years of virtual celebrations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MN–S President Glen McCallum said, “The past two years have been a testament to the resiliency and courage of our citizens, but it has not been without sacrifice. Back to Batoche is always an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family and enjoy food, entertainment, and dance while visiting and hearing stories. This year’s festivities have special significance for us all because it marks 50 years of the festival coming back to Batoche.”

Back to Batoche Days is an annual celebration in the historic heartland of the Métis, on the national historic site of the Battle of Batoche. It is an opportunity to share our Métis culture, honour Métis veterans, and reconnect with the land where Métis heroes valiantly fought in the 1885 Northwest Resistance.

The festival showcases Métis culture through storytelling, fiddling, jigging, square-dancing, music, Métis artists, traditional land use teachings, voyageur games, chuckwagon racing, sports, contemporary games, Indigenous language, and traditional food.

This year, to honour those we lost during the pandemic, MN–S is hosting a special memorial ceremony at the historic graveyard in Batoche on Sunday, July 24th. The names of loved ones will be placed in a special urn which will be buried in the graveyard.

“With restrictions on gatherings over the past two years, many of us have not had the opportunity to come together to grieve for our loved ones and celebrate their lives as we would have traditionally done. This memorial will hopefully serve as an opportunity for people to properly say goodbye to those we lost during the



pandemic. We'll pray for them. Ka-yah-me-sta-moo-wah-na-wok," said President McCallum.

A full schedule of activities for Back to Batoche Days can be found at [www.backtobatochedays.ca](http://www.backtobatochedays.ca). You can watch along with a livestream of the Main Stage of the festival on this site or on the MN–S Facebook page.

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### **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 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. Social Media Links: @MNSask, @metisnationsask

### **FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES:**

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