



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2022

**SASKATOON, SK** – The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan (MN-S) is disappointed and frustrated with the provincial government of Saskatchewan with the introduction and First Reading of the *Saskatchewan First Act*, an act that ignores the constitutional rights of the Métis within Saskatchewan.

The Métis Nation—Saskatchewan is of the firm view that the province must evolve its approach to natural resource development in collaboration with the Métis. This legislation does nothing to advance Indigenous rights and reinforces consultation policies that are unconstitutional, and which work to minimize and marginalize Métis voices.

“Métis in Saskatchewan, and our government, want to see Saskatchewan prosper, but it cannot be achieved through the denial of our inherent rights,” stated MN-S President Glen McCallum. “Our Métis ancestors built communities in Saskatchewan that are thriving to this day. They once prospered on the natural resource wealth of these lands. The rights of Métis peoples are constitutionally protected and must be reflected in Saskatchewan’s approach to natural resource development.”

The MN-S continues to call on the government of Saskatchewan to work with Indigenous governments to create dialogue on natural resource development. Indigenous rightsholders, including the Métis, must play a key role in both the provincial and federal regulatory processes, and need to be included in these processes from the outset. It is unacceptable that the *Saskatchewan First Act* disregards Indigenous rightsholders from natural resource development in the province.

Saskatchewan must also immediately abandon its unconstitutional consultation policies. This government has made little to no effort to reach out to Métis leadership and efforts to minimize and marginalize Métis voices are not only reprehensible but could also result in legal action with Indigenous peoples – this is not what reconciliation looks like.

The MN-S calls on the Saskatchewan government to work in good faith within Indigenous governments and rightsholders to fix the processes and policies that the *Saskatchewan First Act* only reinforces. Rather than returning to the colonial past, we call on the government to create policies that drive the interests of Métis people, Saskatchewan, and industry forward. There is a path that benefits all – we just need the will of the Saskatchewan government in order to get there.

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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 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.

Social Media Links: @MNSask @metisnationsask

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