



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Métis Nation–Saskatchewan takes the voice of our citizens to the international stage

April 14, 2023 – Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is in New York this week with other Governing Members of the Métis National Council (MNC) attending the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII).

MN–S President Glen McCallum, Vice President Michelle LeClair and MN–S delegates are joined by Survivors of the Île-à-la-Crosse Residential School: Elder Antoinette LaFleur, Elder Emile Janvier, and Louis Gardiner. Together, they will deliver two main messages to the international audience: the importance of upcoming Métis Self-Government Recognition legislation and the need to recognize our Métis Residential School Survivors in a meaningful way.

Métis leaders have historically struggled to be heard on a national level in Canada. The United Nations gives our MN–S government a voice on a global platform to advocate for the rights of our citizens and call on other nations and Indigenous governments to stand with us in support of our nation and our Residential School Survivors in their quest for justice.

“We are on the verge of self-governance in Canada, yet so many Métis issues are still not being addressed. We will bring that message to the world’s attention through the United Nations. To share our Saskatchewan Métis government perspectives and be heard by the esteemed global community is an opportunity for us to express pride in our Métis identity, culture, and values comfortably, confidently - and in our own language,” said President Glen McCallum. He will be a part of the MNC, Canada, and Denmark Side Event “Legislating Indigenous Voices” in New York on Tuesday, April 18.

The theme of this year’s UNPFII session is “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health, and climate change: a rights-based approach”. With strong ties to our land in Saskatchewan, MN–S is focused on distinctions-based approaches that feed into the health of our nation as a whole, including the mental health of our Île-à-la-Crosse Residential School Survivors and their families. MN–S will seek the support of the UN in the Survivors’ quest for acknowledgement, justice, and healing.



Vice President and Justice Minister Michelle LeClair will sit on the Survivors panel at a Side Event hosted by MN–S on Monday, where Survivors will share their stories and provide details on their new class action lawsuit against Canada and Saskatchewan.

“Our Survivors have such a compelling message of resilience for this audience, having lived through the traumas of a system that robbed them of their childhood, culture, and language. Still, they have maintained a strong Métis identity and will share experiences not unlike those witnessed in other countries around the globe. MN–S will stress the urgent nature for both Canada and Saskatchewan to respond now to the Survivors’ call for proper recognition and ask the UN delegates to join us in our call to action,” said Vice President LeClair.

MN–S and other Métis Governing Members will attend several sessions of the UNPFII, including Side Events hosted by other UN delegations throughout the week. This is an important avenue for advocacy for our Métis government in Saskatchewan and MN–S is committed to utilizing the opportunity for the betterment of our citizens.

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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](#)

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