



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **'Métis Rights Conference on UNDRIP – Shaping our Future'**

**May 5, 2023** – After a three-year hiatus, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is hosting its second Métis Rights Conference, the *'Métis Rights Conference on UNDRIP - Shaping our Future'*, on May 5 and 6 at Dakota Dunes Resort. The 'Shaping our Future' theme is carried throughout the week, as a special Youth Conference was held on May 4. Our youth are an integral part of our government and will help move our Nation forward in Saskatchewan for generations to come.

The *'Métis Rights Conference on UNDRIP - Shaping our Future'* begins on National Red Dress Day, a significant yet sombre reminder of the inequities faced by Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit people across the country. Participants at the conference will mark the day accordingly.

In his opening remarks, MN–S President Glen McCallum said, “Our Métis identity, culture, values, and language are what will animate the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This document reinforces the path we are on: to support and make strong our families and our communities through self-government and self-determination. Your participation in this conference is a testament to your commitment—and your MN–S government’s obligation—to our Nation.”

Vice President and Justice Minister Michelle LeClair outlined the MN–S position paper on UNDRIP and said, “From water, land, and resources to health and wellness, Métis people must be consulted on all areas that impact us and our communities. As we continue to advance toward self-government, we require proper government recognition of Métis people, our residential school Survivors, and Saskatchewan’s duty to consult. What our citizens provide to this MN–S government over the next two days will contribute to the quality of life, preservation of Métis culture and tradition, and socioeconomic future of our children.”

The *'Métis Rights Conference on UNDRIP - Shaping our Future'* is a public event featuring special guests, including Brenda Gunn, Director of Academic and Research for the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation and Professor of Law at the University of Manitoba; federal representatives; Métis knowledge keepers; and academic experts.



Over the weekend, citizen input will build on the foundation laid during the first Métis Rights Conference in 2020 and give the MN–S government a clear direction forward. Delegates will engage in discussions about issues pertinent to the Métis Nation. Keynote speakers will provide insights on how UNDRIP could impact Métis communities; our advancement toward self-determination and self-government; Métis harvesting, land, and water rights; the preservation of Métis culture, language, and values; and the health and wellness of Métis women, families, and children.

The conference will also give all participants the chance to strengthen relationships, build partnerships, and share best practices with those in attendance.

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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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