



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Métis culture and tradition celebrated during Year of the Youth at Back to Batoche Days**

**July 21, 2023 – Batoche, SK** – Bringing people together across the Métis homeland has been the backbone of the Back to Batoche Days festival since its inception in 1970. So many of our young people have grown up attending the Back to Batoche Days festival, and now they're bringing *their* children to the country's largest celebration of Métis identity, culture, values, and language.

Métis numbers are growing across Canada and to recognize our youthful population, this year's four-day festival is themed 'Year of the Youth'. From today through Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, festival goers can enjoy youth-focused events such as the family dance, movie night, and a wide variety of activities at the Lil Jiggers' Village.

In his opening remarks, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) President Glen McCallum said, "This celebration has grown every year and is now a formidable showcase of our rich Métis history based on our identity, culture, values, and language. We continue to build relationships and partnerships, municipally, provincially, and federally. Having Premier Scott Moe join our grand entry is a testament to how far we have come as a Métis Nation in this province. Today, we continue down the same path that was led by Louis Riel, dedicated to securing our self-determination, self-governance, and recognition of our rights as Métis citizens."

President McCallum is also being recognized for his contribution to our Métis Nation with a special presentation Friday afternoon by John Brady McDonald.

This year, Back to Batoche honours President of the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC) Autumn Laing-LaRose and her partner as they serve as the 2023 ambassadors, Mrs. and Mrs. Batoche.

All the festival favorites are back this year! Including live performers, an artisan market, traditional Métis food, Chuckwagon, Chariot, and Indian Relay races, Voyageur games, and the Louis Riel Cup Slo-Pitch Tournament.



A new event introduced this year is the Sunday Showcase featuring jigging contests, dance demonstrations, and a fiddle tribute to John Arcand. John Arcand has earned the distinction 'Master of the Métis fiddle' throughout the Métis community, and the tribute honours his contribution to Métis heritage and knowledge-sharing with Métis youth.

Information about the festival and a live stream of Main Stage events can be found at [backtobatochedays.ca](http://backtobatochedays.ca).

Please find the festival schedule [here](#). And a map of the festival grounds [here](#).

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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 within Saskatchewan, MN–S works to advance Métis rights and strengthen capacity. MN–S represents the political, socioeconomic, cultural, and educational interests of the Métis in the province through an elected representative system at local, regional, and provincial levels. Social Media Links: @MNSask, @metisnationsask

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