



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Record crowd gathers for Back to Batoche Days 2023

July 25, 2023 – Batoche, SK – The 2023 Back to Batoche Days festival brought a record number of attendees together to celebrate Métis identity, culture, entertainment, and language. The festival was anchored in honouring this year's theme: Year of the Youth. More than 40,000 people attended festival favourites such as jigging and musical entertainment featuring talent from across the homeland, the Louis Riel Cup Slo-Pitch Tournament, the SMEDCO Métis Market, Chuckwagon, and Indian Relay races, Voyageur games, and much more.

Kicking off the celebrations several dignitaries were present for the Grand Entry and opening ceremonies including Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe (the first sitting Premier to attend Batoche), Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations 3rd Vice Chief Aly Bear and Parliamentary Secretary Terry Duguid, RCMP Commissioner Mike Duheme, representatives from the opposition parties both provincially and federally. The Métis Nation was well represented and led by Métis National Council President Caron and all governing members - Métis Nation British Columbia, Métis Nation Alberta and Métis Nation Ontario. And finally, the MN-S Provincial Métis Council was in full attendance.

“In a post pandemic period where coming together means all that much more, I am invigorated by the entire weekend. What an incredible Back to Batoche Days this has been,” reflected MN-S President Glen McCallum. “Our Métis Nation continues to grow and share our vision and hope for future generations. Everyday at Batoche I was impressed by the sheer numbers in attendance – the total combined was more than the population of Prince Albert! By far our biggest Batoche in recent memory.”

“To witness the collaborative nature of the opening ceremonies is in the spirit of Métis culture. Our government has been proactively developing relationships with governments, agencies, organizations and people from all different backgrounds and experiences to work with Métis Nation. I heard the resounding key message from all that spoke was the importance of working together for a prosperous future. I reflected on the remarks as I joined the annual procession on Sunday to



remember those leaders and citizens that continually challenged for recognition and inclusion, and was overcome with pride” McCallum stated.

In addition, this year marked a special event as John Arcand, Master of the Métis fiddle was recognized and honoured for his contributions to Métis music and culture. Mr. Arcand in turn created a new composition that honoured and recognized President Glen McCallum and the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan. This composition will be used at MN-S events and experiences as an acknowledgement of how far the Nation has come.

“I am humbled and grateful to John Arcand for his original composition honouring myself and our Métis Nation in Saskatchewan. Our focus was on lifting him and his work up and this is indicative of the work he does and I am honoured to be part of it. My deepest appreciation to the Master of the Métis fiddle for recognizing our efforts,” said McCallum.

“Finally, I want to share my deepest gratitude to those that organized this year’s Back to Batoche Days festival, as our Nation continues to grow so does the Festival and it is no small feat to organize and prepare. We had guests from our homeland all the way to Norway and the feedback has been incredibly positive.” President McCallum concluded.

Relive the memories made at this year's festival.

Visit <http://Metisgathering.ca/livestream> to view live streams of Main Stage entertainment Thursday through Sunday. More information can be found at backtobatochedays.ca.

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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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