



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2024

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT GLEN McCALLUM OF THE MÉTIS NATION-SASKATCHEWAN ON WITHDRAWING SUPPORT FROM BILL C-53:

SASKATOON, Saskatchewan – “Today, in a historic meeting, the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan Provincial Métis Council unanimously passed a motion withdrawing its support for Bill C-53, *An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, to pursue direct negotiations with Canada on our self-government Treaty.

Bill C-53 was structured as enabling legislation to recognize future Métis governments in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Ontario. This “one-size-fits-all” approach did not recognize the unique context of MN-S and exposed the legislation to legal and political pressures due to outstanding issues in Alberta and Ontario. As a result, the legislation has been stalled.

As the Métis Government in Saskatchewan, it is our duty to put the needs of Métis in Saskatchewan first.

This is not a duty we take lightly. We have been working tirelessly to make sure the path to self-government continues to create a meaningful and concrete future for our citizens and the Métis Homeland. MN-S has decided to make creating a comprehensive Treaty, alongside the Canadian government, our top priority. This path will lead us to achieving the meaningful self-government that is inherently ours.

Bill C-53 does not need to be part of our journey to completing and ratifying Treaty. At this stage, it is ultimately holding us back. We will achieve self-government our own way, on our own terms that respects and upholds our identity, culture, values, and language.

As President of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan, I remain committed in fulfilling Louis Riel’s vision and dream of achieving self-government for the Métis Nation. While the past year of parliamentary deliberations has been challenging to say the



least, I will say this:

Today is a pivotal point in Métis history, and we are writing it as we speak. This is what our Métis government and all the political leaders that have come before, have fought for. We are on the precipice of having it in our hands. Today our people take control of our own fate. Our Métis story has been one of resilience, as we move forward on the path our ancestors started, it will be a story of triumph.

MN–S will continue to provide updates on the progress of the Treaty negotiations in the months ahead. For more information, please visit www.metisnationsk.com.”

–30–

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](#)

For media inquiries:

Rena Montgomerie – MN–S Senior Communications Officer
r.montgomerie@mns.work or 306-250-1092