

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Reconciliation in action - on and off the ice

April 22, 2024 – Treaty 6 Territory & Heartland of the Métis, Saskatoon, SK – Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) has successfully hosted the inaugural 'Breaking Barriers to Reconciliation' Louis Riel Cup hockey tournament in Saskatoon.

The tournament was designed with inclusion in mind. Each participating team was required to include Métis, Indigenous and non-Indigenous players. The weekend was jam packed with action on the ice as teams from across the province came together in an exchange of culture, providing a positive example to our youth.

Spectators were greeted outside by a showcase of youth ball hockey that immediately set the tone for the goings-on inside. Any young person wanting to grab a stick and shoot the ball was welcomed to play.

The Louis Riel Cup hockey tournament was the vision of MN–S President Glen McCallum. "Hockey is a passion of mine, always has been. As president of the government representing Métis in this province, it's a priority to lead by example. We hear the buzz word 'reconciliation' all the time – this weekend – we saw it in action when all cultures, all nations came together on and off the ice, in the spirit of reconciliation through sport."

Former NHLers Rich Pilon and Bryan Trottier were among the names advocating for the tournament from the start. Of his committee involvement, Pilon said, "When I was a kid playing hockey, I could never really play in tournaments because my family couldn't afford it. When MN–S and President McCallum approached me with the idea for the Louis Riel Cup two years ago, I didn't hesitate to lace up and get in the planning game. We hope the Louis Riel Cup Hockey tournament will help raise awareness and inspire Métis youth in sport."

While each participating team deserves congratulations for embodying the true spirit of reconciliation, we note in particular the winners on the men's and ladies' sides, the Long Lake Selects on the men's side and the Badgers on the ladies' side. First place teams walked away with \$30,000 in prizes and hopefully much more in fun and experience. Complete tournament results are at



<u>https://www.louisrielcup.com/</u>. Thank you to everyone who came out to play, cheer, and celebrate the MN–S Louis Riel Cup Hockey Tournament.

MN–S specifically acknowledges the support of our tiered sponsors: CN, Mosaic, Battleford Tribal Council, SMECO, SIGA, USask, Dakota Dunes, MacDermid LaMarsh, Discover SK, media partners, and volunteers. The tournament would not have been possible without their cooperation.

-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 <u>r.montgomerie@mns.work</u> or 306-250-1092