



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Partnerships to create Métis specific transitional housing for women, children and our 2SLGBTQIA+ community members fleeing domestic violence**

**September 24, 2024 – Treaty 6 Territory and Heartland of the Métis, Saskatoon, SK** - The need is great and the Métis Nation Saskatchewan government (MN–S), along with partners Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan, is committed to addressing issues of interpersonal abuse. Funding has been secured to construct and operate a long-term, culturally specific transitional housing unit in Saskatoon. The housing will provide services and programs through a Métis lens and serve Métis, Indigenous, and non-Indigenous women, children and the 2SLGBTQIA+ community members removing themselves from abusive situations.

MN–S Minister of Health and Mental Health and Addictions Marg Friesen said, “Our Métis government has listened to its citizens about the gaps that exists between emergency crisis shelters and the availability of safe, affordable housing for families. Regardless of their journey in life, families deserve to live in a respectful, culturally appropriate environment with the necessary supports to turn things around in the best interest of their families.”

MN–S Transitional Housing is a referral-based program that will provide culturally appropriate and safe surroundings for individuals seeking longer-term refuge. Eighty per cent of affected people are Indigenous however, each admission will be assessed based on individual needs and regardless of culture or nationality. The 16-unit, 24-bedroom building will provide housing, education, employment and/or counselling support, and childcare for at least two-years. Support workers will be on hand 24-hours a day to assist with everything from crisis response to facilitating available community programs, services, and documentation needs.

The government of Canada has invested \$3.48 million to the Saskatoon project through Indigenous Shelter and Transitional Housing as well as a subsidy from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) for ongoing operations and support.

“The federal government is committed to prioritizing housing investments for those who need it most. People experience violence often face immense obstacles in finding secure housing and that’s why we partner with various levels of government and local organizations to create homes for the most vulnerable populations, including Indigenous women, children, and 2SLGBTQI+ communities. Today’s announcement in Saskatoon is a testament to our National Housing Strategy’s efforts to ensure safe and affordable housing for all.”



– The Honourable Dan Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs and Minister responsible for PrairiesCan and CanNor

“This project is an essential shelter for those fleeing violent situations, providing a safe place to stay, appropriate support and cultural resources. Supporting initiatives that provide safe and responsive environments for Indigenous women, children, and members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is a crucial part of building strong communities. Through this project, we are creating more spaces where Indigenous women and their families can live and rebuild their lives safely and with dignity.”

– The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Indigenous Services and Minister responsible of FedNor

MN–S commits \$1 million through the Métis Housing Accord and one-time funding of \$432,000 is provided by the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation in the form of a forgivable loan through the Saskatchewan Co-investment Program.

The Honourable Gene Makowsky, Minister of Social Services and Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Housing Corporation said, “The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring affordable housing is accessible to residents facing the greatest housing challenges. We are honoured to collaborate with Métis Nation–Saskatchewan to provide safe and stable housing for vulnerable individuals and families, including those affected by interpersonal violence.”

MN–S is strategic in its location of the new transitional housing units. Sod will be turned on the property adjacent to the new Ma Faamii Centre of Excellence in Saskatoon which contains culturally-sensitive day care. Working closely with the MN–S Ministry of Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC), space will also be provided in the Transitional Housing building for children’s activities and programming. Construction of the 16-suite, self-contained housing unit will begin shortly with the first families being welcomed in the Spring of 2026.

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