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Métis Nation-Saskatchewan victory has positive implications

February 28, 2025 – Today is a landmark day for Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) citizens. The Supreme Court of Canada has affirmed MN–S' assertion – MN–S has the right to challenge Saskatchewan's refusal to consult Métis on impacts to Aboriginal title and commercial harvesting rights.

"This is an important day for all of us as Indigenous people in this country. In Saskatchewan, today's ruling is an affirmation of our MN–S government's work to protect Métis rights," stated MN–S Vice President and Minister of Justice Michelle LeClair.

In its ruling, the high court concluded:

"Court procedures should facilitate, not impede, the just resolution of Aboriginal claims. As this Court stated in Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada (Minister of Canadian Heritage), 2005 SCC 69, [2005] 3 S.C.R. 388, "[t]he fundamental objective of the modern law of [A]boriginal and treaty rights is the reconciliation of [A]boriginal peoples and non-[A]boriginal peoples and their respective claims, interests and ambitions" (para. 1)."

"If history has taught us nothing else, Métis people have always invited others to join us at the table. Our MN–S government over time has shown it prefers negotiation over litigation. Our ancestors also taught us to stand up for the inherent rights of our Saskatchewan Métis people. We did that and received confirmation today for them and for generations to come," said MN–S President Glen McCallum, who also acknowledged intervenors in this case.

"We couldn't have done this alone and we had a number of First Nations partners who supported us in this process, we thank them and hope this decision also benefits other section 35 rights holders."

The MN–S government is satisfied that today's landmark decision will promote a better understanding of who Métis people are and result in properous and successful outcomes for all.



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

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