



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 18, 2025 – Treaty 6 Territory and Heartland of the Métis, Batoche, SK –

It's officially underway! Back to Batoche Days is the largest outdoor Indigenous gathering in the country and 2025 promises to deliver cultural celebrations in traditional Métis style.


During opening remarks, Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) President Glen McCallum said, “Batoche is a sacred place—a place where our ancestors stood together in times of hardship and fought so we could gather here in peace. Here, we remember who we are as Métis people and how far we’ve come. This government has made a tremendous impact on our citizens’ lives and continues to make its mark across the province, the country, and our Nation. Let’s never lose sight of that shared purpose.”

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Parks Canada that will see the addition of 50 head of bison on the Batoche land before the end of the year. In 2022, Parks Canada transferred 690 hectares of Batoche west land being transferred to MN–S. Later that same year, a bison relocation agreement was signed. In 2023, a further agreement between the two partners resulted in the successful return of 25 young bison to the grounds at Batoche.

The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Identity and Culture and Minister responsible for Official Languages said, “Batoche National Historic Site is a powerful symbol of Métis heritage, and we’re honoured to celebrate it each year at the Back to Batoche Festival, where we can come together and recognize what makes us strong. This festival is a special moment to deepen our partnership and reaffirm the Government of Canada’s commitment to Indigenous stewardship and reconciliation — honouring the past and empowering the future of the Métis Nation.”

In witnessing today’s deal, the Minister Darcy Lepowick acknowledged the strength partnerships such as this bring to the Nation. “In the last eight years alone, we have made incredible inroads with Saskatchewan, Canada, industry, and institutions. We have done that through our ability to demonstrate trust, transparency, and tolerance. With our partners at Parks, we repatriated our Batoche land, re-populated it with young bison, and continue to grow the herd, some of them will eventually reclaim their home at Lebret.”

ERII Regional Director Marg Friesen said, “When our 3-year bison farm project at Lebret is complete, it will not only bring bison back to Métis land, but eventually



provide food sovereignty for the Region, stimulate farmland stewardship, and create employment opportunities for citizens in the area. This Lebreton Bison Farm is a true example of the MN–S reaching back to its Métis identity, culture, and values that will draw be of value to our citizens and draw tourism activity in and around Lebreton.”

2025 also marks a new election year for the Provincial Métis Youth Council (PMYC). marks the fourth year of youth recognition at the government table. The 2025 PMYC Election officially begins Saturday, July 19. The PMYC is being expanded to now include President and two representative from each of the 12 MN–S Regions making up the Youth Council. The nomination period runs July 19 – 24. Candidate packages can be found at <https://mnselection.ca/>.

President Autumn Laing-LaRose had some words of encouragement for those considering participating, “We are making history in our province with the first ever full Provincial Métis Youth Council election and I want young people to know they have what it takes to be a leader on our Council and in our Nation. Involving youth in every step our government will ensure the sustainability of our Nation for generations to come and helps give us a sense of pride in who we are as Métis people.”

PMYC voting is online beginning August 5 at 2 pm and ends at 8 pm, Saturday, August 9. All PMYC election details can be found at <https://mnselection.ca/>.


Another new addition at Batoche is 106.1 Resistance Radio! Broadcasting live on the festival grounds every day, programming will feature everything from previews of the day’s activities and Elders’ stories, to in-depth conversation with some colourful Métis characters. Tune in daily from 8 am to 6 pm from July 17 to 20.

The four-days of celebration at Batoche have only just begun. Over the course of the weekend, there will be races at the Vermette track, jigging and fiddling competitions and some new headlines taking the indoor stage. Check out all the goings-on at this year’s Back to Batoche Days festival at <https://metisgathering.ca/back-to-batoche/>.

–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 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](#)

For media inquiries:

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

For general inquiries call 1-877-MétisSK (877-638-4775)



Maarsii, thank you.

Full Name,
Your Title