



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***Métis Nationalist Movement Saskatchewan launch an action against the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan leadership***

March 11, 2021 – Saskatoon, SK – Métis Nationalist Movement Saskatchewan (MNMS) is stepping up to ensure that eligible Métis who want to vote in the upcoming election can do so. Currently, at least 65,000 unregistered Métis will be left out as less than 15,000 of the 80,000 Saskatchewan Métis are registered.

Local Presidents from Prince Albert and Ile a la Crosse, along with Métis National Council President Clément Chartier QC in his individual capacity as a member of the MN–S Métis Local of Buffalo Narrows, announced an action against the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) leadership for violating the MN–S Constitution, which provides that all or any Métis meeting the election voter eligibility criteria has the right to vote.

“I stand firmly in the corner of the Constitution which was adopted in December 1993 by over 900 delegates gathered in Saskatoon based on our inherent right of self-government. This was a solemn declaration of our rights as a people, and I cannot sit back and watch the current MN–S leadership run roughshod over such a solemn and sacred document to the Métis in Saskatchewan” stated Mr. Chartier. “We are hoping that the court will set aside the MNLA amendment to the Election Act 2007 as it violates the MN–S Constitution.”

The MN–S declaration/right of vote, has been exercised since the first election of the newly re-established Métis Society of Saskatchewan (now the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan) held in February 1989. Such practice was used for all further elections, including the May 2017 election where the current MN–S Executive and Regional Directors were elected.

The MN–S Métis Nation Legislative Assembly adopted the resolution to do away with the declaration/right of vote in November 2019 and the *Election Act 2007* was amended to reflect this on February 20, 2021. As it stands, in order to vote in the upcoming MN–S election on May 29, 2021, a Métis citizen in Saskatchewan of the age of 16 or over, must be a registered member of the MN–S or have applied for membership by March 30, 2021. To make matters worse, the Central and Regional Offices of the Registry Department of the MN–S have been closed since March 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic and remain closed to this day.

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#### **For more information or to coordinate interviews, please contact:**

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#### **About Métis Nationalist Movement Saskatchewan**

We will defend the principle of Métis Nationalism for the benefit of the Métis Nation and its citizens. Learn more at [metisnationalists.ca](http://metisnationalists.ca).