



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***Clément Chartier announces candidacy in upcoming Métis Nation–Saskatchewan election***

March 15, 2021 – Saskatoon, SK – Member of the MN–S Métis Local of Buffalo Narrows and Métis National Council President Clément Chartier QC announces he will be running for President of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan in the upcoming May election.

Clément Chartier is from the Métis village of Buffalo Narrows and attended the Île-à-la-Crosse Métis residential school for ten years. He is well known for his work on Métis rights and has served as an elected leader in provincial and national Métis organizations, as well as International Indigenous organizations. He was involved in the formation of the Métis National Council (MNC) in 1983 and has served as president since October 2003. Mr. Chartier is rights-based and all-encompassing to include and benefit all of our Métis citizens.

“For the people, I ask you to join me and the Metis Nationalist Movement Saskatchewan as we move forwards towards running in this election. To bring back to you, the people and for the people, our government. I ask you, to walk with us, to assist us, to fight with us to defend not only the integrity of the Métis Nation as a whole, but also, the Constitution of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan which has grounded us for so long as to who we are,” stated Mr. Chartier. “And let’s not throw away our inherent rights. Let’s move forward. Let’s defend our people. Let us do it. For the people.”

Chartier is campaigning on a vision of “for the people.” He believes that the Métis Nation has the right of self-determination which will let the Métis Nation survive and flourish as a people based in its homeland in western Canada.

### **About Clément Chartier:**

From the early 1970s until this very day, Clément has been a staunch supporter of and has never wavered from protecting and promoting the rights of the Métis Nation. He served Saskatchewan Métis as an executive member of the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan and the MN-S at various times throughout the past forty (40) years. He also served as a staff member and in management roles for Saskatchewan Métis. Clem was a part of the formation of the Métis National Council (MNC) in March 1983 and sat at the table for the Constitutional talks in 1983 and 1984, and was a key negotiator at the 1985, 1987 and 1992 constitutional talks. In this role, he represented Métis interests, promoted the Métis rights agenda and in 1981 was part of the negotiation team which saw section 35 and the Métis re-included into the draft Canadian Constitution which became law in 1982.

In 1987-1988 Clément was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Métis-only, Métis Society of Saskatchewan. This was a huge decision for Saskatchewan Métis that was not entered into lightly after the passing of Bill C-31 made it possible for Non-Status Indians to be recognized as First Nations people. He has served as President of the MNC since October 2003.

In this role, he pursued a nation-to-nation, government-to-government distinctions-based agenda for the Métis Nation that resulted in a relationship with the federal government that culminated in the agreements

we see today for the provincial affiliates, such as the MN-S which has seen millions of dollars in programs and services, of the over 2 billion dollars negotiated in federal budgets 2018 and 2019, transferred to the MNS.

One cannot think of Mr. Chartier without thinking of him as a lawyer and the extensive list of pro bono litigation for Métis rights that he has participated in, often as lead counsel. Such cases include *Morin and Daigneault*, *Laviolette*, *Grumbo*, *Bellehumeur*, *Myette*, *Boyer and Poitras*, the latter two currently on appeal in the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal. This was most often done at his own expense and/or without pay. Mr. Chartier is currently defending the right to democracy of Saskatchewan Métis as per the latest Queen's Bench action filed against the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan on March 11, 2021.

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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).