



Resolution Duly Approved by the  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
Provincial Métis Council on September 19, 2024  
**#240919-03**

## Métis Nation-Saskatchewan's Withdrawal from the Métis National Council

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation shares a history that includes the exercise of the right to self-determination and the inherent right to self-government over generations, including:

- a. the 1815 rallying of Métis forces from along the Saskatchewan River Corridor culminating in the first military display of the red infinity flag at Fort John;
- b. on June 1, 1816, the seizure of Brandon House by Métis forces under the blue infinity flag;
- c. on July 18, 1816, the Battle of Seven Oaks (also known to the Métis as the Victory of the Frog Plain or *la Victoire de la Grenouillère*);
- d. the Métis buffalo hunt brigades governed by the Métis Laws of the Hunt that spanned the historic North-West;
- e. the Red River Resistance leading to the establishment of a first Provisional Government and the negotiation of the *Manitoba Act, 1870* to address Métis interests within the postage stamp province of Manitoba;
- f. the petitioning by Métis collectives in response to the imposition of colonial laws and settlements on Métis land; and
- g. in 1885, the North-West Resistance, including the establishment of a second Provisional Government, the Battle of Duck Lake, the Battle of Fish Creek, and the Battle of Batoche, in what would become Saskatchewan, which Resistance led to the execution of Louis Riel by Canada and the implementation of the Métis scrip system to attempt to address Métis claims to land;

**WHEREAS** specifically, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan has a history that includes the exercise of its right to self-determination and inherent right to self-government over generations, including the following events:

- a. the first military display of the red infinity flag at Fort John (on the Qu'Appelle River in present day Saskatchewan) following the 1815 rallying of Métis forces along the Saskatchewan River Corridor;
- b. political action and assertions by Métis collectives throughout Saskatchewan in response to the imposition of colonial laws and settlement on Métis lands;
- c. in the early 1930s, the Métis Nation in southern Saskatchewan organized to address issues pertaining to the Métis scrip system and Métis claims to land, and they formed the "Half-Breeds of Saskatchewan" to represent Métis interests in southern Saskatchewan;
- d. at the same time, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan founded the Saskatchewan Métis Society to address issues pertaining to Métis poverty, lack of education, lack of employment, land displacement, and hunting issues in southern and central Saskatchewan, and by 1939, there were over 20 community-based representative structures, known as Locals, in rural and urban centres throughout Saskatchewan;
- e. in 1964, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan formed the Métis Society of Saskatchewan ("MSS") to represent the Métis in southern and central Saskatchewan, and the Métis Association of Saskatchewan ("MAS") to represent the Métis in northern Saskatchewan and non-status Indians;

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- f. in 1967, the MSS and the MAS merged, retaining the name of the MSS;
- g. in 1975, the MSS was restructured as the Association of Métis and Non-Status Indians of Saskatchewan (“AMNSIS”);
- h. in 1988, the AMNSIS held a referendum to limit its membership to citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan only, which referendum passed and the organization returned to the name of the MSS;
- i. in 1993, the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan passed the Constitution of the MN-S (the Constitution), which defines the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan as a people, set out the MN-S’s core values and laws, and details the mechanisms of the MN-S as the democratic government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan; and
- j. since 1993, the MN-S has amended its Constitution and enacted legislation, such as the MN-S Citizenship Act, 1999, to supplement its Constitution, in furtherance of its role as the democratic government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;

**WHEREAS** as a continuation of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan’s exercise of its right to self-determination and inherent right to self-government, the collective has, without limitation:

- a. created, developed, and evolved the MN-S as a Métis Government;
- b. established democratic governance structures and institutions at the local, regional, and provincial levels through the MN-S to represent the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;
- c. established fair, transparent, and objectively verifiable systems to identify and register citizens of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan (MN–S) is recognized as the Métis Government exclusively mandated to represent the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan;

**WHEREAS** on May 25, 2024 the MN-S Métis Nation Legislative Assembly passed the “Coming Home” Resolution to Support Out of Province Citizenship, to ensure Métis people residing both within and outside of Saskatchewan can stay connected to the Heartland wherever they reside;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation has been dispersed throughout the Homeland and beyond due to the historical and ongoing colonial agenda, including but not limited to dispersion due to the *Manitoba Act, 1870* Métis land scrip, road allowance, 60s scoop, residential school system and the millennial scoop;

**WHEREAS** effective immediately the MN-S is the National Government representing the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan and represents its citizens provincially, nationally, and internationally to advocate for the recognition of our rights and to advance the wellbeing and aspirations of our citizens, families, and communities;

**WHEREAS** the MN-S is on the path of self-government through the *Kishchi Mashinaayikun Ooshchi Michif – the Sacred Document from the Michif*. This self-government agreement is a modern treaty being negotiated with Canada and will constitutionally protect the right of self-government of the Métis in Saskatchewan, recognizing our jurisdiction over core governance matters. Completion of our Treaty is our leading priority – it is the only path on which we can achieve meaningful self-government for MN-S;

**WHEREAS** our Nation has been fighting for Kishchi Mashinaayikun Ooshchi Michif for 150 years. Today, we are closer than ever;

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**WHEREAS** MN-S is a founding member of the Métis National Council (MNC), which was created in March 1983 to serve as the Métis-specific national representative body of the Métis Nation and to advocate on behalf of its members for the advancement of the Métis right to self-determination, and self-government;

**WHEREAS** the MNC has increasingly been used for advocacy purposes that are inconsistent with its original mandate and vision, diverting from the foundational role of representing Métis rights and self-determination;

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) has accepted and continues to represent significant numbers of people who are not Métis, and the MNC has failed to ensure the integrity of MNO's citizenship registry and rectify this ongoing problem, despite our frequent calls to do so;

**WHEREAS** the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has already withdrawn from the MNC due to concerns over the integrity of MNO's citizenship registry; and

**WHEREAS** the MN-S' continued association with MNO as a fellow Governing Member of the MNC no longer benefits the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan or the Métis Nation as a whole;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan provide notice immediately to the Métis National Council that it is withdrawing from the Métis National Council;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan communicate this decision to Métis National Council leadership, other provincial counterparts, and relevant stakeholders immediately; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that upon providing the Métis National Council with a notice to withdraw, the President of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is authorized to conclude such matters as may be required to bring about the full and complete withdrawal from the MNC, including the collection of our share of finances and assets, currently managed by the Métis National Council.

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**Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024**

**Moved by:** Michelle LeClair, Vice President

**Seconded by:** Lisa McCallum, Secretary

