



Resolution Duly Approved by the  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan  
Provincial Métis Council on November 18, 2025  
**#251118-04**

### **Protection of the Saskatchewan River Delta**

**WHEREAS** the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan (MN-S) recognizes the distinctiveness of Métis identity, culture, values and language - inclusive of Knowledge Keepers, Kihitêyak, Lii Vyeu Moond (“the Old Ones” or Elders), Youth, Women and distinctive resources – which are incorporated into proposals and decisions of the Provincial Métis Council (PMC);

**WHEREAS** the community of Cumberland House is the oldest permanent settlement in Saskatchewan, established through the Hudson’s Bay Company’s first inland trading post and fort and predates the formation of the province of Saskatchewan;

**WHEREAS** the Saskatchewan River Delta is one of the largest inland freshwater deltas in North America, and has been home to generations of Métis families who depend on the Delta for hunting, fishing, trapping, harvesting, spiritual practices, and a way of life tied to the land and waters;

**WHEREAS** Cumberland House is a historic Métis community, whose citizens continue to assert their inherent rights and uphold traditional practices rooted in the Saskatchewan River Delta territory;

**WHEREAS** the E.B. Campbell Dam, constructed without meaningful consultation or consent of the Métis communities downstream, along with subsequent industrial and agricultural development, including major irrigation projects, has drastically altered the hydrology of the Delta, resulting in environmental degradation and significant harms to the traditional lands and ways of life of Métis citizens;

**WHEREAS** current and proposed upstream developments, including the Saskatchewan Government’s \$4 billion irrigation expansion project at Diefenbaker and Buffalo Pound, present a clear and ongoing threat to the health of the Saskatchewan River Delta ecosystem and the constitutional rights of downstream Métis communities;

**WHEREAS** historically, the community of Cumberland House accessed clean, potable water from the Saskatchewan River; however, cumulative upstream damage and altered flow patterns have rendered this source no longer viable, resulting in a boil-water advisory, and efforts by the Saskatchewan Water Agency to drill ground wells have not resolved the issue, resulting in a persistent humanitarian and ecological crisis;

**WHEREAS** the MN-S is the recognized government of the Métis Nation within Saskatchewan, and is responsible for upholding Métis rights and safeguarding Métis ways of life, which includes protecting the lands and resources used by Métis peoples for generations;

**WHEREAS**, in response to the province of Saskatchewan’s refusal to engage with the MN-S on matters associated with the Crown’s duty to consult, and its failure to engage with the MN-S on a government-to-government basis, the PMC directed the MN-S to pursue litigation challenging the validity of the province’s 2010 “First Nations and Métis Consultation Policy Framework” (as per Resolution #200608-07), and the MN-S initiated an Action in 2020 with respect to the province’s consultation policy; and

**WHEREAS** in 2023, the MN-S commenced a further Action (the “2023 Action”) seeking a determination that the province of Saskatchewan’s refusal to consult with Aboriginal people, including the MN-S, was unconstitutional as it was inconsistent with section 35 rights, and a decision on the 2023 Action is pending;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC declares the MN-S is committed to the protection, stewardship and assertion of Métis rights for the historic Métis community of Cumberland House, and other Métis communities whose livelihoods are connected with the Saskatchewan River Delta;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the PMC directs the MN-S President, and any other individuals designated by the President, to meet with First Nations, provincial and federal governments, and other relevant parties, including, but not limited to, Cumberland House Cree Nation, Saskatchewan Water Agency, SaskPower, and the United Nations, to explore actionable solutions to remedy the ongoing issues affecting the Delta; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT**-the PMC directs that MN-S Legal report back to the PMC, after the decision is rendered for the 2023 Action, with an update on the possibility for future legal action with respect to the issues outlined in this resolution.

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**Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> of November, 2025**

**Moved by:** Ryan Carrierre, Eastern Region 1

**Seconded by:** Brent Digness, Eastern Region 2

