



## OFFICE of the PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT

July 11, 2023

President Margaret Froh  
Métis Nation of Ontario  
66 Slater St, Suite 1100  
Ottawa, ON  
K1P 5H1

Dear President Froh,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan to reiterate and emphasize our core values as a government, as Métis people, and as a Governing Member of the Métis National Council.

The MN-S believes strongly in the ongoing efforts undertaken by the Métis Nation to protect, promote, and seek the full recognition of our inherent rights. This work is animated by our commitment to the collective vision of our Nation as self-governing that has been fought for by those before us for more than 140 years.

However, it is our belief the recognition of our rights should not occur at the expense of, or in conflict with, our First Nations brothers and sisters. This demands collaboration and dialogue which we have always been, and will always be, committed to as part of building a strong, democratic, and effective Métis government for our citizens.

June 21st was a historic day for our Nation with the long-awaited introduction of our self-government legislation in the House of Commons. While we are proud of the progress we have achieved so far, the events leading up to the tabling of Bill C-53, *An Act respecting the recognition of certain Métis governments in Alberta, Ontario and Saskatchewan, to give effect to treaties with those governments and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, made it clear there are significant challenges that must be addressed.

The protests and commentary that emerged from Ontario First Nations leadership with respect to the bill, outlined serious concerns with the legislation as it relates to inherent rights. These concerns cannot be ignored. The Métis Nation-Saskatchewan believes the response from First Nations leadership is evidence that your government has not done its due diligence to form relationships and build trust with your First Nations counterparts. Nor have you worked to satisfy the resolution moved by the Métis Nation – Saskatchewan and passed democratically by the Métis Nation General Assembly to deal with concerns regarding the MNO Registry and the six additional communities in Ontario deemed by MNO to be historic communities. Until this issue is rectified through an independent expert panel (as prescribed by the resolution), the MN-S cannot in good faith advocate for the inclusion of those communities in any negotiations



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with the federal government. The leadership of the Métis Nation–Saskatchewan is requesting the Métis Nation of Ontario allow this work to take place and actively contribute to the process in an open, fair, and honest way.

For years, the Métis Nation has called on MNO to address these concerns. In Saskatchewan, we have been unwavering in our commitment to the national definition of Métis and will continue to ensure the pursuit of our rights is understood and supported by our First Nations partners. We have repeatedly provided opportunities for MNO to do the same and now time is running out.

Ensuring we build strong and healthy relationships with First Nations is crucial, not only for our current legislation, but for the Métis Nation collectively as we move toward true self-government. Attacking those who bring forward concerns and accusing them of lateral violence is not conducive to building trust. We must work to ease tensions, not contribute to them.

Therefore, the MN-S is strongly requesting that MNO immediately undertake meaningful consultations with First Nations to address concerns raised regarding Bill C-53, and work in good faith to satisfy the resolution passed at the Métis Nation General Assembly.

I trust you understand the urgency underscoring our requests. There is important work ahead of us as a Nation and a people and we cannot sacrifice what we've worked so hard to gain. We have long known that our path forward involves willing collaboration and transparent dialogue and I urge you to work with us and our partners to walk it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glen McCallum". The signature is written in a cursive style.

President Glen McCallum  
Métis Nation-Saskatchewan