

- For immediate release

Historic event for the Métis and francophone people of Saskatchewan Signing of a Solidarity Pact this Saturday, January 28th in Saskatoon

Regina January 25th, 2012 – The media are invited to attend the signing of a Solidarity Pact between the *Métis Nation of Saskatchewan* (MNS) and the Fransaskois community represented by the *Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise* (ACF) this Saturday, January 28th in **Boardroom A at the Park Town Hotel in Saskatoon at 5:30 PM**. The President of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan, Mr. Robert Doucette and the President of the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise, Mr. Paul Heppelle will sign this historic document - the first of its kind between the Métis and Francophone communities in Saskatchewan.

"This event is the result of years of dialogue between our two peoples," said the president of the ACF, Paul Heppelle. "The Franco-Métis Round Tables, led by the Institut français at the University of Regina, have created a forum in which dialogue between the Métis people and the Fransaskois community in Saskatchewan were made possible. The public signing of this Pact on Saturday confirms our mutual intention to continue in this direction."

Ever since 2006, the Fransaskois and the Métis have met regularly to dialogue on past experiences and rebuild historical, cultural and social ties that were common to our peoples in previous generations. Round Tables were held in Batoche, Willow Bunch and North Battleford. These events have enabled a closer relationship to develop by promoting dialogue and mutual understanding between both communities. A fourth round table is being prepared, and will be held in 2012 in the Melfort area.

"To the best of our knowledge the signing of this Solidarity Pact between our two peoples is a first of its kind in Canada," added Mr. Heppelle, "This is another example of how the spirit of innovation emanates from our province and our citizens."

The Solidarity Pact will be signed in Boardroom A of the Park Town Hotel at a reception that will begin at 5 PM on Saturday January 28. Representatives of the Métis Nation of Saskatchewan and the Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise will be attending. A few words will be shared prior to the signing of the document starting at 5:30pm.

The Assemblée communautaire fransaskoise is a provincial organization dedicated to the development of the Fransaskois community as a whole. Like a government, it defends the rights and interests of Saskatchewan Francophones.

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