



## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release – April 18, 2016

### Central Urban Métis Federation and Catholic schools sign agreement

With a five-year memorandum of understanding ending, officials from both the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI) and Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools (GSCS) believe the time is right to strengthen their 10-year partnership in Métis education.

“We have a mutual concern for the well-being of our Métis students,” said GSCS Board of Education Chair Diane Boyko. “The intent of the agreement is to support Métis students in their academic pursuits, as well as recognize and support their unique language and cultural heritage, their identity as Métis people, and the shared histories and relationships with all Canadians.”

The new Educational Alliance agreement was signed at St. Michael Community School on April 18. In 2015, St. Michael began offering a Métis cultural program that focuses on the educational outcomes and well-being of all students. It offers academic and cultural programming such as dance, drama and art, and introduces students to Michif, the indigenous language of the Métis people in Canada.

“When I was growing up, I didn’t have exposure to Michif, the language of my people,” said CUMFI President Shirley Isbister. “Culture and language are so important. I’m so happy with our partnership and the progress of Métis education at St. Michael’s and throughout the whole school division. This new agreement is an important step in recognizing and celebrating the heritage of the Métis people in our communities and our country.”

The agreement establishes a working group and governance committee, information sharing protocols, and parameters for consultation and planning to help establish the necessary supports for learning, retention and success of Métis students.

Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. is a community-based, Métis-operated non-profit charitable organization that is a local and national leader in the area of urban Aboriginal issues and challenges.

With 44 schools and nearly 17,000 students, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools provides Catholic education from pre-kindergarten through Grade 12, rooting students in their faith, helping them grow in knowledge, and encouraging them to reach out and transform the world.

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