



2010 Year of the Métis
"Forever Free"

May 25, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

May 25th 2010 (Saskatoon,SK)- 2010 Will be a year of commemoration, a year of celebration, a year of reconciliation and honour for the Métis Nation. Thousands of people are expected to travel to Back to Batoche Celebrations July 18 to 25th 2010. This anniversary defines the history of the Métis Nation not only in Saskatchewan but the rest of Canada and the United States.

This year we are seeking those who are descendants of the fallen during the Battle of Batoche in 1885. We would like the Métis, Canadian Soldiers and First Nations descendants to come forward, identify themselves and participate in a ceremony to honour those who fought and died at Batoche during the North West Resistance.

"Of course we remember the sacrifice of Louis Riel, and Gabriel Dumont, but we cannot forget the others who fought for their homes and land." says Robert Doucette, President of the Métis Nation- Saskatchewan. "It's their blood that was shed here. It's the memories of all who fought that we must remember. So this sort of tragedy never happens again, and our children and grandchildren can work together in peace for generations to follow."

During the Festival, the night of Friday, July 23rd an attempt to break a Guinness World Record will take place as award winning singer/songwriter Donny Parenteau will play the music we click our wooden spoons to. The current record holder for largest spoons ensemble is a group from the United Kingdom. They set the Guinness Record with a total of 345 spoon players. A record we are hoping to smash out of the books this year at Batoche. You can purchase your wooden spoons for the record breaking attempt in advance by going to www.backtobatoche.ca.

A new addition will be the Artisan's Village which includes a Métis Film Festival and Theatre productions such as The Trial of Louis Riel, and the Batoche Musical. Métis produced films and documentaries, arts and crafts and cultural workshops including language classes that will teach Michif, the traditional Métis language will also be included.

New buildings on the site will host Provincial Pavilions of all the Métis National Council Provinces, including BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and an International Tent, where our American Métis cousins will set up displays and call home for the week.

Passes for the week are \$50 for adults and \$35 for youth and include eight (8) days of live entertainment, culture and arts. Go to www.backtobatoche.ca for information on purchasing passes for this historical weeklong celebration. Day passes will be available at the site.

We look forward to seeing you at Batoche!

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