



PREMIER OF SASKATCHEWAN

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING  
REGINA, CANADA S4S 0B3

**PREMIER BRAD WALL  
YEAR OF THE MÉTIS PROCLAMATION SPEECH  
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

*Check Against Delivery*

Thank you Bill (Hutchinson).

Senator Nora Cummings, thank-you for that prayer.

President Robert Doucette, members of the Métis Nation Saskatchewan, to the musicians and dancers joining us this morning---a warm welcome to your Saskatchewan Legislature.

Long before we were a province, there were Métis here.

As far back as the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, your people formed a significant, vibrant and distinct culture across western Canada.

Your songs were your own.

Your dances were your own.

Your stories were your own.

Your language—Mitchif---was your own.

In 1869, there were over 9,000 Métis in the Red River area---only 1600 people of European ancestry.

Métis roots run deep in Saskatchewan.

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And for generations, you have contributed enormously to our social, cultural and economic development, in a variety of different roles---

---As veterans, as entrepreneurs, as performers.

Sadly, these contributions have often gone unheralded.

Our government is here today to extend a hand of friendship, and begin a process of change.

Today, it is my great pleasure to present the official proclamation announcing 2010 as The Year of the Métis.

I hope the people here today, and Métis across our province, accept this proclamation in the spirit it is presented.....

....A spirit of friendship, a spirit of appreciation and a spirit of respect.

During the coming year, it is my sincere hope that we can raise awareness of the pivotal role Métis have played in shaping this province, and the pivotal role they will play in the future.

I now invite Minister Hutchinson and President Doucette to come forward so I can officially present today's proclamation.

Thank you.