



## **News Release**

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## Memorandum of Agreement Signed with Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre

Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) today with the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre (SIMFC).

"Saskatoon Public Schools and the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre have worked collaboratively for years," said SPS Board Chair Colleen MacPherson. "This agreement formalizes our already special partnership and acknowledges all the initiatives we want to work on, and all the outcomes we wish to achieve together."

The agreement will be in place until August 31, 2027 and establishes a framework for how both organizations will work together to develop educational opportunities and a mutually beneficial relationship that supports the First Nation and Métis peoples of Saskatoon. This work includes strategies and initiatives focused on Indigenous students within SPS.

"The Saskatoon Indian & Métis Friendship Centre Board is pleased to formalize our relationship by signing this Memorandum of Agreement with Saskatoon Public Schools," said SIMFC Board Chair Dakota McLeod. "This will provide a solid foundation and framework for continued collaboration on specific cultural education projects and ways to work in partnership to advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's education calls to action".

The MOA outlines some of the future work both organizations will collaborate on such as:

- A youth leadership council
- Land-based learning
- After school recreation and wellness programming
- Language programming
- Elders in the Classroom program

"This MOA formalizes what we know will be a long and productive working relationship between our two organizations," said MacPherson.

The Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre is a non-political, autonomous and a non-profit organization that was incorporated in 1968. It is a part of the Friendship Centre Movement of 120 Friendship Centre's from across Canada. The SIMFC is a registered charity and non-profit organization governed by SIMFC, Board of Directors. The SIMFC supports First Nations, Métis and Inuit cultural distinctiveness by providing community development services that holistically support all ages.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province. It operates 47 elementary schools, 10 collegiates, one associate school, and one alliance school. It serves approximately 27,000 students and employs more than 2,600 professional and support staff. Learn more at <a href="https://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca">www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca</a>

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