



**SASKATOON
PUBLIC
LIBRARY**

MEDIA RELEASE

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Saskatoon Public Library Honours Métis in Naming New Stonebridge Branch

SASKATOON, SK – On Louis Riel Day, Saskatoon Public Library (SPL) announced a name honouring Métis people for its newest location in the community of Stonebridge. Each year on Nov. 16 the Métis Nation comes together to honour Louis Riel who was executed on this day in 1885 for defending the rights of his people.

SPL consulted Indigenous Elders representing many Indigenous and Métis peoples, languages and cultures in Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homeland of the Métis. The gatherings were hosted by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner and included discussions on names brought forward by each representative. One name resonated: Round Prairie.

“We knew that we wanted to honour Indigenous people with the naming of this new facility, and we’re pleased to open the doors to the Round Prairie Branch in December,” says Carol Cooley, Director of Libraries and CEO for SPL. “As an active member of Reconciliation Saskatoon, SPL has firmly committed to answer many of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action. The naming of this branch is one step in our journey, and we are proud to honour the legacy of the Round Prairie Métis,” she added.

La Prairie Ronde (or Round Prairie) Métis were a community of buffalo hunters who established a wintering site near Dakota Whitecap in the late 1800’s. In the 1920’s and ‘30’s, many in the community were forced to migrate to Saskatoon in search of work. By the ‘40’s they had established a permanent and close-knit community close to the site of the new SPL branch before they were forced by the Crown to relocate in the 1950’s.

Shirley Isbister, President of the Central Urban Métis Federation Inc. (CUMFI), says it’s heartening to see organizations like SPL pay homage to the legacy of Métis people in Saskatchewan. “As a proud descendant of the Round Prairie (La Prairie Ronde) Métis community I am very honored that The Saskatoon Public Library is recognizing the many contributions and history of the Round Prairie Métis,” said Isbister. “Despite social exclusion, poverty and systemic racism, the Round Prairie Métis took civic responsibility seriously and have been strong contributors to the Saskatoon community.”

Photos of the Round Prairie branch are located at saskatoonlibrary.ca/branch/roundprairie.

Saskatoon Public Library is an essential, accessible and innovative community service for people of all ages and backgrounds, enhancing our quality of life and affirming our sense of community and our spirit of optimism and discovery. The Saskatoon Public Library system consists of a downtown central library and eight branches. It is home to more than one million items including books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, magazines and newspapers. Library card holders have access to digital media including eBooks, databases, free music downloads, and much more. SPL also offers a wide range of free educational and entertaining programs for all ages, free Wi-Fi, and Internet access.

For Further Information Please Contact

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