



Brad Trost, MP

Saskatoon – Humboldt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: APRIL 15, 2010

Government of Canada Invests in the Back to Batoche 125th Anniversary Celebrations

SASKATOON, April 15, 2010 - On behalf of the Honourable James Moore, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages, Brad Trost, Member of Parliament (Saskatoon-Humboldt), today announced funding for the 1885-2010 Anniversary Celebrations Committee.

This funding will allow the Committee to organize a number of activities to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Rebellion and showcase Métis culture. Festivities will take place at the Back to Batoche festival site, north of Saskatoon, from July 18 to 25, 2010. Events will include demonstrations of traditional Métis art and activities, local history presentations, and performances by local and national Métis entertainers.

"Our Government is pleased to support events commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Rebellion and provide Canadians of Métis heritage and of all origins with an opportunity to celebrate Métis culture and traditions," said Minister Moore. "Events like this contribute to the development of local tourism and the economy."

"It is important to highlight the milestones of our history and celebrate our collective heritage," said Mr. Trost. "Congratulations to everyone who devoted their time and energy to organizing these celebrations, which will bring together the people of our beautiful region."

"We are expecting thousands from across the country to join us as we begin a new historic chapter in the lives of Métis citizens, Canadians, and people of the great province of Saskatchewan," said Robert Doucette, President of Métis Nation-Saskatchewan. "The contribution made by the Government of Canada is very much appreciated and will ensure the celebrations related to the 125th anniversary of the Battles of 1885 will be remembered and leave a lasting legacy that we as Canadians can all take pride in. Upon reflection, 2010 offers us another opportunity to reconcile and recognize the contributions the Métis have made to this great country."

The year 2010 marks the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Rebellion, the conflict between Métis settlers at Batoche and the Government of Canada. Batoche was the last battlefield in the rebellion.

The Government of Canada has provided funding of up to \$114,800 through the Building Communities Through Arts and Heritage program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. This program provides Canadians with more opportunities to take part in activities that present local arts and culture and celebrate local history and heritage.