



## **Press Statement**

### **CAP calls on Regional Director Derek Langan of the Metis Nation of Saskatchewan to step down**

August 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 (Ottawa, ON) –

Robert Bertrand, National Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP) and Kim Beaudin, National Vice Chief are calling on Metis Nation of Saskatchewan Regional Director Derek Langan to step down from his position immediately, following bigoted comments made at the Crescent Lake Métis Gathering hosted from July 31 to Aug. 2.

“There is no place in the leadership of any Indigenous organization for the kind of bigoted, intolerant language that was used concerning fellow Metis across this country” said Robert Bertrand.

According to the Environics “Race Relations in Canada” survey for 2019, a majority (53%) of Indigenous people reported directly experiencing racism in their lives<sup>1</sup>. Within communities, the most marginalized face multiple barriers. The Supreme Court “Daniels” decision of 2016 highlighted the fact that metis and non-status Indians living without Federal recognition lived in a “jurisdictional wasteland with significant and obvious disadvantaging consequences” even among other Indigenous groups.

“I am a direct descendant the Red River Metis, with relations living all over this country. This is not what we stand for in Canada as Indigenous people.” said Kim Beaudin. “These comments - ‘monkey’ and mongrel’ - were directed at me while I was growing up and can cause a lot of hurt. I believe that once you're in a leadership position it can reveal a lot about you. As Indigenous leaders for our people, we are held to a higher standard.

Regarding Metis communities in Eastern Canada, Father of Confederation and leader of the Metis Lois Riel stated in 1885, “As for the Eastern Canadian provinces, there are many Metis who live there despised while under the Indian label. Their villages are Indigenous villages. Their Indian title is just as valid as the Indian title of Metis in Mantioba.”<sup>2</sup> recognizing that Metis people existed in all parts of Canada.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.environicsinstitute.org/projects/project-details/race-relations-in-canada-2019>

<sup>2</sup> Records relating to Louis Riel and the North West Uprising, Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada, [http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac\\_reel\\_c1229](http://heritage.canadiana.ca/view/oocihm.lac_reel_c1229)

There has been no public comment on the language used, by either the Metis National Council (MNC), or MNC president Clément Chartier. Questions linger regarding whether MNC leadership was in attendance at the event, and why there has been no statement so far.

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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the interests of Métis, status and non-status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 70% of Indigenous people live off-reserve.