

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport 10-0

COMMEMORATING THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1885 NORTHWEST RESISTANCE

Premier Brad Wall, FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson, Robert Doucette, President of Métis Nation - Saskatchewan and Senator Dave Tkachuk officially launched the 125th anniversary of the 1885 Northwest Resistance in Saskatoon today.

The events of 1885 were an important part of Canadian history. They helped define Canada, and were instrumental in the creation of the Province of Saskatchewan.

"Events in the spring of 1885 are an important part of Canadian history and were instrumental in the creation of our province," Wall said. "By commemorating this 125th anniversary, we are illustrating how our history affects our lives today, and how it will continue to shape Saskatchewan's future."

Trails of 1885 was established in 2008 to recognize this historic period. The project is coordinated by Saskatchewan West Central Tourism Region with support from Tourism Saskatchewan, Western Economic Diversification and the Province of Saskatchewan, as well as Tourism Saskatoon. By pulling together the sites, locations, festivals and events, Trails of 1885 helps tell our story to the world.

"On behalf of our government, I'm proud to celebrate the 125th commemoration of this historic event," said Tkachuk.

Throughout 2010, historically-themed and culturally-vibrant activities will take place at many of the important sites across Saskatchewan.

"As a proud partner in the Trails of 1885 coalition, Tourism Saskatchewan looks forward to opportunities to mark the 125th anniversary of a defining moment in our nation's history," Tourism Saskatchewan President/CEO Dr. Lynda Haverstock said. "The Trails of 1885 effort encourages a broader understanding of our rich past and familiarity with legendary figures, colourful stories and monumental events. It is a solid foundation on which to plan for on-going appreciation and understanding of a fascinating point in time."

The events planned for the summer include a commemoration of the Battle of Duck Lake, an enhanced Back to Batoche Days, a re-enactment of the Battle of Poundmaker Hill and events at Batoche National Historic Site, Steele Narrows, Fort Pitt and Fort Carlton provincial parks.

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Information about the Trails of 1885 is available at www.trailsof1885.com.

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