

## HISTORY

In 2000, the administration of justice in Saskatchewan was put in the spotlight after two frozen bodies of First Nations men were found on the outskirts of Saskatoon. Also, a First Nation man publicly disclosed that he had been dropped off by police in the same area in freezing temperatures.

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations called for a public inquiry into the justice system in February 2000.

In March 2000, the FSIN opened a Toll-Free Help Line to receive calls regarding abuse by law enforcement personnel.

In April 2000, the Special Investigations Unit was established as a complainant-friendly alternative to the mainstream offices of public complaints. The Chiefs-in-Assembly provided the financial contribution to begin operations

Two investigators were hired to follow-up on the complaints received through the Help Line.

## AUTHORITY

The Special Investigations Unit is under the legislative authority of the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

## OBJECTIVE

To provide First Nation citizens with an independent oversight service and a complaint friendly process that:

- Ensures public complaints are investigated thoroughly by communicating and monitoring the work of external complaints offices
- Provides complainants with support as they move through the complaints process.

## REMEMBER

- The Complaints process is rarely cut and dry. Each complaint is unique and is viewed as an individual experience of the person.
- The complaints process does not operate independently of the complainant. Rather, the process is determined by the complainant in cooperation with the investigator.



*Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations*

**April 2009**

## SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

*"Each First Nation citizen has the right to be heard and to be treated with respect"*

**Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations**

**Special Investigations Unit**  
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# SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## HOW TO LODGE A COMPLAINT

### STEP 1

- Contact the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) Office at our toll free number, 1-877-353-3746 or 1-306-665-2240 for those who live in Saskatoon

### STEP 2

- When you call, an intake will be completed
- If you must leave a message, the SIU will return your call within 48 hours
- SIU will set a date, time and location to meet with you, so you can comfortably discuss your complaint with the investigator
- The investigator may call you to discuss your complaint

### STEP 3

- When you meet with the investigator, you will be interviewed
- An audio recorded statement may be taken from you
- Pictures of injuries and the scene may be taken as part of the interview process
- Audio interviews with witnesses directly involved may also be taken
- Where appropriate, the investigator may ask you to accompany him to the scene of your experience

### STEP 4

- At the conclusion of the interview the investigator will discuss and provide written material related to the following investigative bodies:

- ♦ Saskatchewan Public Complaints Process
- ♦ The Commission for Public Complaints against the RCMP
- ♦ Other agencies
- Once the process is understood you must determine how you wish to proceed with your complaint

### STEP 5

- If you decide that your complaint should be formalized, SIU will proceed with the process
- Your involvement is critical to the successful resolution of your complaint

### STEP 6

- SIU must ensure that all complaints are properly and thoroughly investigated