

Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



JANUARY 27, 2004

HEALTH CONSENT FORM ISSUE ONGOING

FSIN Vice Chief Morley Watson responded to an article that appeared in Saskatoon Star Phoenix and Regina Leader Post newspapers on January 26, 2004 with regard to the issue of the Health consent.

The proposed health care consent form has been an issue for First Nations since its proposal in 2001.

Vice Chief Watson stated, "We would like to assure First Nations people across Saskatchewan that we are vigorously working to ensure services after the March 1 deadline continue in a similar manner. First Nations leadership are scheduled to meet with Health Minister Pierre Pettigrew this week to reach a mutually acceptable solution on this issue.

Our key concern on health consent is the issue of privacy. First Nations people are being asked to make available confidential information for purposes that are still unclear. I would like to take this opportunity to remind First Nations people that we are not obligated to sign the health consent form in order to access benefits. Furthermore, we also remind the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association that there is no requirement for a consent form at this time."

Vice Chief Watson added, "While it is encouraging that the media has given this issue attention, however, it is unfortunate that the media did not consult First Nations leadership for our comments. We have been dealing with this issue for close to three years and are aware of the concerns and have been straightforward with First Nations people about the developments and will continue to do so."

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Federation is committed to honouring the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of Treaties that were made with the First Nations more than a century ago.

For More Information Please Contact

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