

Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly pass resolution declaring 2005 Year of the First Nations Woman

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2004 – The FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly, being held yesterday and today in Swift Current, have passed a resolution declaring 2005 Year of the First Nations Woman.

The resolution was forwarded from the Prince Albert Grand Council Women's Commission. The PAGC Women's Commission launched this call at the PAGC annual assembly held on Monday and Tuesday in Prince Albert.

The resolution is in direct response to the recently released report from Amnesty International entitled "Stolen Sisters". The report was released as part of a global campaign to stop violence against Indigenous women. The role of discrimination in acts of violence against Indigenous women includes social and economic marginalization and inadequate standards of protection from police.

Okanese First Nation Chief and Chair of the FSIN Women's Commission Marie Ann Daywalker-Pelletier endorsed the resolution, "I am pleased that First Nations leadership has supported this resolution. Violence against First Nations women is not new and prioritizing it at this level and the national level will produce positive results. I expect that by declaring 2005 Year of the First Nations Woman the recognition that is needed on women's issues will be addressed."

The resolution will also be forwarded to the Assembly of First Nations confederacy meeting in December for the same recognition at the national level.

Chief Bird stated, "I firmly believe that breaking this cycle of violence must come from home. We as First Nations leadership have to prioritize this at our community, Tribal Council, Federation and national level. I am confident that as a result of this resolution more public awareness will evolve surrounding First Nations women's issues."

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 more than a century ago.

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