

Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



FSIN DISAPPOINTED WITH INAC MINISTER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2005 – FSIN 1st Vice Chief Morley Watson has expressed disappointment with Indian and Northern Affairs Minister Andy Scott for abruptly cancelling a scheduled meeting.

FSIN Executive and Minister Scott were scheduled to meet tomorrow to discuss a number of issues regarding First Nations. However, the meeting has been cancelled at Minister Scott's request.

Vice Chief Watson stated, "I am extremely disappointed with Minister Scott's decision to cancel our meeting. There are number of pressing issues facing our people and cannot be placed on hold. Prime Minister Martin made a commitment to improve the conditions affecting First Nations and it was our hope at the FSIN that Minister Scott is also committed to making positive change. This sudden change does not reflect this commitment on Minister Scott's part."

Some of the issues to be discussed at tomorrow's meeting included housing, education and child and family services.

Vice Chief Watson continued, "My concern is Minister Scott is refusing to meet with First Nations representation but is meeting with provincial minister Maynard Sonntag. First Nations must be involved in all discussions concerning jurisdiction and law making. We continue to press for meaningful discussions and are not comfortable negotiating through the media."

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 the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

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