

Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



For Immediate Release: November 3, 2006

FSIN CHIEF LAWRENCE JOSEPH APPEALS FOR BALANCED NEWS COVERAGE

(Saskatoon, SK) Newly-elected FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph met face-to-face with reporters today to convey his concern about the coverage of news stories that affect the lives of First Nations people.

“Responsible journalism requires that media gather all the facts from all sides before they air their stories. Stories can affect the lives of people in a negative way if they are not properly researched,” Chief Joseph said.

“First Nations people have suffered greatly at the hands of the media – especially when it comes to stories like the Oyate Safe House in Regina,” Chief Joseph said, “The information out there is inaccurate. The reports are not verified by the Oyate board and serious inaccuracies are becoming ingrained in the public’s mind.”

Chief Marie Anne DayWalker-Pelletier of the Okanese First Nation is chair of Oyate Safe House board and she joined the media conference to address the media coverage of the Oyate Safe House in Regina which is operated by the Touchwood Agency and the File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council.

Chief Joseph served notice to the media that he will do his best to provide accurate information, and so will the entire FSIN Executive.

“We want to be accessible to the media and we believe it is crucial that we are asked for our side of the story,” Joseph says. “I want to be clear that our new FSIN executive is ready to work closely with the media to ensure they have all of the facts before they publish stories concerning First Nation people and agencies.”

Chief Joseph asked the media to be much more responsible in how they gather facts and in the conclusions they draw when they report only part of the story.

(30)

For more information contact:

Bonny Braden
FSIN Communications
Direct: (306) 956-1026
Cell: (306) 260-4706