

# Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



## **FSIN responds to announcement made by RCMP regarding Melanie Geddes**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2006** – Chief Alphonse Bird, on behalf of the FSIN Executive, Member First Nations, Senate and staff extend their sincerest condolences to the families of Melanie Geddes. RCMP announced today the remains found on December 20, 2005 in the Southey area were identified as those of Melanie Dawn Geddes.

Chief Bird states "First and foremost our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Melanie Geddes. All First Nations mourn with the family."

The Saskatchewan First Nations' Women's Commission on behalf of the FSIN have worked with the families of Melanie Geddes and the communities of the George Gordon and Kinistin Saulteaux First Nations in their efforts to bring Melanie Geddes home since her disappearance on August 13, 2005.

Chief Marie- Anne DayWalker-Pelletier, Chair of the Saskatchewan First Nations' Women's Commission is adamant that "there is a victimization that is happening to our First Nations women that is plaguing both our urban and on reserve communities. Finding the remains of Melanie Geddes is only one step in solving this particular tragedy. We expect the police services to continue to fully investigate all circumstances that lead up to and including the disappearance of our women. Until that time we still urge caution to all people to practice safety in their everyday activities."

Chief Bird further adds "we will continue to support and work cooperatively with all government agencies and police departments to ensure that justice is served. Our message is that violence against First Nations women will not be tolerated. We expect and want the assurance that the justice system will also enforce this message."

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.

- 30 -

For More Information Please Contact

**FSIN Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission**  
**Erica Beaudin**  
**Executive Director**

Cellular: 306.533.5955