

# Media Release

FSIN Communication Unit



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## **FSIN Responds To New Saskatchewan Government**

**(Regina)** FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph is ready to immediately begin a respectful, constructive dialogue to move First Nations issues to the forefront with the new provincial government led by Premier Brad Wall.

“We want to work with the new government based on mutual respect and understanding. First Nations must have a permanent voice at the table so we can find better ways for our people to thrive socially and economically. Our time is now,” Chief Joseph said.

When all three leaders of the provincial political parties visited the FSIN’s fall Legislative Assembly, Brad Wall promised to set up a round table to explore First Nations issues within six months of taking office. Chief Joseph and the FSIN Executive want to set a date now for that meeting in April.

“Premier Brad Wall told our Chiefs at the Legislative Assembly that Saskatchewan must be a place where the dreams of all people can come true. We need to start work now to put meat on the bones of these promises,” Chief Joseph added.

Premier Wall also promised to create a permanent place for First Nations on the Enterprise Saskatchewan board in order to continue building the economy with First Nations input and participation. With education and training support, Wall is right that First Nations can be the answer to the labor shortage in Saskatchewan.

Chief Joseph will drive forward an agenda based on securing a share of natural resource revenues for First Nations. Shared prosperity is integral to the spirit and intent of Treaty.

Another key item Premier Wall said he would honor is the Supreme Court decision on Duty to Consult and Accommodate. Chief Joseph stressed this decision is crucial to First Nations who have a Treaty right to benefit from the prosperity generated by the land that was shared with the newcomers. Wall said he would honor the Bi-Lateral Protocol that already exists between the Province and the FSIN. This protocol ensures continual dialogue between the two parties and is a way to avoid confrontational situations.

“Premier Wall said he felt our expectations of government were reasonable – we want to begin that real partnership that we’ve been seeking for 140 years,” Chief Joseph said.

**For more information, please contact FSIN Communications Director Bonny Braden at (306) 291-5086**