

Media Release

FSIN Communications Unit



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SASKATCHEWAN'S TREATY INDIANS ARE WELL REPRESENTED.

(Regina, SK) Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Chief Lawrence Joseph says the Federation provides leadership on issues relating to Treaty implementation for Treaty Indians living on and off reserve in the province. The Federal Government recognizes five Aboriginal organizations, The Assembly of First Nations, The Metis National Council, The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, The Native Women's Association of Canada, The National Association of Friendship Centers. The FSIN recognizes the AFN and the MNC. The FSIN Legislative Assembly passed three motions that dismiss the other three organizations.

"We do not recognize organizations that have invisible membership lists. Who are these people that belong to these organizations? How do they elect their leadership?" asks FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph. "The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is nothing more than an extension of a Colonial system with the sole purpose of assimilating Indians."

Last month the Federal Government apologized to Indian Residential School survivors but at the same time continue to fund studies that pick apart First Nation people. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples released a report that studied First Nation Governance, a study paid for by Indian Affairs.

"This falls in the face of the Residential School apology," says Chief Joseph. "When you make amends, you are saying you will discontinue with hurtful behavior. This study does nothing but cause damage to First Nation people. Shame on the Congress of Aboriginal People. And shame on Indian Affairs."

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. The Federation is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Treaty, as well as the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises that were made more than a century ago.

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For More Information Please Contact:

Mervin Brass, Executive Director of Communications

Direct: 306.956-1026

Cellular: 306.220-7187

Facsimile: 306.665.0115