

# Media Release

FSIN Communications Unit



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## **SOUTHEND SHOOTING REINFORCES NEED FOR FIRST NATION PEACEKEEPERS**

**(Saskatoon, SK)** The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations is once again calling for First Nation peacekeepers in the wake of the RCMP shooting at Southend Saskatchewan on Saturday July 5, 2008, that left a man seriously injured. The FSIN's Special Investigation Unit is monitoring the incident.

"This is the second time in less than a month where the RCMP used lethal force to deal with an incident on a reserve," says FSIN Vice-Chief in charge of Justice Glen Pratt. "This latest shooting brings into question the amount of training police receive when it comes to dealing with First Nations people. The RCMP train their cadets for one year. How much of that is devoted to teaching them about life on a reserve?"

Last month RCMP shot and killed a man on the White Bear First Nation. In response to that incident the FSIN called for a federally funded Peacekeepers Program to work along side police. "The need for local peacekeepers has not gone away. The Southend shooting supports that," says FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph. "Peacekeepers would do preventative work developing relationships with the community and local police forces."

Last month, Chief Joseph and Vice-Chief Pratt met with Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day to discuss the Peacekeepers Program. The two leaders continue to wait for a decision regarding a federally funded program.

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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