



FSIN MEDIA RELEASE

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Family of First Nations patient at Regina General Hospital taking action

(Treaty 4 Territory, Regina SK) – With the support of the leadership of Kawacatoose First Nation and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), a family is filing a complaint to the FSIN Health Ombudsperson Office on behalf of Thomas Favel after concerns of racism and discrimination while he was receiving treatment at the Regina General Hospital.

“We will be paying close attention to the findings of the investigation currently undertaken by the FSIN Health Ombudsperson Office into a series of incidents involving the medical care of one of our members. We have confidence in this new reporting mechanism, which will give our people a much-needed safe space to voice their concerns. If we sincerely want to move toward truth and reconciliation in a meaningful way, then it is important to validate these experiences while also helping our First Nations recover from any trauma experienced,” said Chief Lee-Anne Kehler of Kawacatoose First Nation.

“The past investigations by the Saskatchewan Health Authority have failed to challenge racial discrimination experienced by First Nations in Saskatchewan’s health care system. It is imperative that these current policies, procedures, and protocols are subjected to closer scrutiny. For that reason, the Chiefs-in-Assembly gave us a mandate through Resolution #1656 to establish the FSIN Health Ombudsperson Office. These cases will not only ensure our First Nations their Treaty Right to Health, we expect them to lead to the major reform of the health care system,” said Chief Bobby Cameron of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

“The FSIN Health Ombudsperson Office is investigating this case involving Thomas Favel. Once it is complete, we will provide recommendations highlighting areas of concerns. It may take some time and energy to see the process to the end; however, we encourage all First Nations to come forward with issues of health and human rights they have experienced. By doing so, these stories will help prevent this kind of treatment from happening to other patients and families into the future,” said First Vice Chief David Pratt of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

About FSIN

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous 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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