



FSIN MEDIA RELEASE

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FSIN Commends Excellent Work of Management and Staff

(Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatoon SK) – The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) is compelled to address false allegations made publicly as these allegations are malicious and defamatory towards FSIN’s management and staff.

On March 23rd, 2026, former FSIN Vice Chief Bob Merasty’s statement that FSIN’s actions constitute “organized crime” is an irresponsible, defamatory and untrue remark against FSIN’s management team and staff that have demonstrated exceptional professionalism and go above and beyond for First Nations in Saskatchewan. The FSIN Executive do not approve expenditures – FSIN management, Treasury Board and Financial Audit Committee approve expenditures in accordance with contribution agreements and FSIN’s extensive policies and legislation.

Furthermore, Tribal Chief Mark Arcand’s statements made on March 27, 2026 that there is no accountability, no transparency and mismanagement are categorically false.

At a time when the world was in lockdown, our management and staff made the choice to risk their health and the health of their families to ensure that all First Nations in Saskatchewan received PPE. They worked day, night and weekends putting the lives of First Nations ahead of their own.

“I was in my community when PPE was received from the FSIN,” said Vice Chief Fabian Head. “I remember how appreciative we all were of the support from FSIN. FSIN delivered the PPE to each community then it was up to the First Nation to distribute the PPE to community members and to our staff. All of our staff, especially our health center, relied on the PPE deliveries from FSIN.”

Both Merasty and Tribal Chief Arcand should be familiar with the governance structures and financial controls in place within the organization. FSIN operates under established financial management policies whereby spending authority is exercised by Executive Directors responsible for ensuring expenditures align with approved agreements, program deliverables, and reporting requirements. Oversight mechanisms, including Treasury Board review processes and financial controls, are in place to ensure accountability and transparency across all secretariats.

Yet, two days before the October 31, 2024 election, Tribal Chief Arcand appeared to have difficulty understanding FSIN's 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements as he publicly stated that the FSIN was in a \$6 million deficit. It was previously clarified to him in front of the FSIN Chiefs-in-Assembly that the \$6 million line item was a mortgage for the new building approved by the Chiefs-in-Assembly and that the FSIN was in fact in a surplus – not a deficit. He also stated in that press release that he was not speaking out because of the election, but then stated his support for a candidate in the same release.

Merasty's company, R & A Merasty Business Associates, is referenced within the audit documentation. His characterization of FSIN broadly as engaging in criminal conduct, while simultaneously asserting that certain work is legitimate, contributes to confusion and inconsistent public understanding of the audit process.

This situation has the potential to impact relationships with partners, funders, and stakeholders who rely on accurate information when working with First Nations organizations. It is essential that public dialogue be based on complete information and reflect the full context of the audit process.

“These malicious, politically-motivated statements against our management and staff must stop,” said Chief Cameron. “They deserve commendation and praise for their hard work – not lies, defamation and attacks.

The misinformation propagated by a handful of individuals has been fueling attacks on our leadership, management and staff on social media. For example, Rob Louis of the Band Members Alliance and Advocacy Association of Canada, has made numerous false and defamatory remarks about staff and First Nations leadership across Saskatchewan. His lack of credibility and history on the wrong side of the law makes his expertise questionable and we look forward to the hearing from actual experts.

“We all know truth always prevails and will come out in the end,” said Chief Cameron. “We have begun posting evidence and documentation supporting every expenditure on our website and will begin sharing it through social media. Our management and staff are kind-hearted, hard-working professionals and are always quick to support our Nations when they need help or in times of crisis. They work hard every day to ensure the protection and promotion of Treaty and deserve our gratitude. I thank each and every one of them.”

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan and is committed to honouring the spirit and intent of the Treaties, as well as promoting, protecting, and implementing Treaty promises made more than a century ago—promises that remain legally and morally binding today.