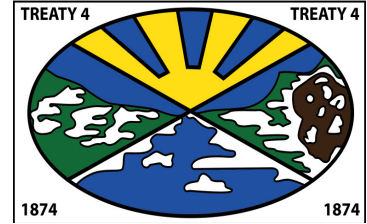


MEDIA RELEASE

NEKANEET FIRST NATION



September 26, 2018

NEKANEET FIRST NATION LEADERSHIP SURPRISED BY INMATE SELECTION FOR THE OKIMAW OHCI HEALING LODGE IN SASKATCHEWAN

Nekaneet First Nation (SK) Nekaneet Chief Alvin Francis recently learnt through the media that the Okimaw Ohci Lodge received a transfer from the Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener. The inmate transfer is Terri-Lynne McClintic. McClintic pleaded guilty to first degree murder in 2010 for the murder of 8-year-old Victoria (Tori) Stafford. In 2009, Stafford was lured away by McClintic from her school in Woodstock, Ontario.

The Nekaneet First Nation is home to Correctional Service Canada's Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge which is a minimum/medium correctional facility which focuses on healing and learning First Nations culture, traditions and protocols from the local Elders.

"We were surprised to learn from the public that Ms. McClintic was transferred to the Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge," says Chief Francis. "At one time, Nekaneet Elders sat on the interview process and had influence on inmate intake, but the funding was cut approximately six years ago, and we no longer have input on who is transferred to the Healing Lodge from other Federal Correctional Institutions"

Chief Francis believes Nekaneet Elders need to be re-instated by Correctional Service Canada in their inmate selection process to prevent issues like this from arising in the future.

"We have no say on inmate selection, but I believe If our elders were still apart of the process maybe Ms. McClintic wouldn't be at the Healing Lodge," says Francis. "It's solely at the discretion of Correctional Service Canada to decide who is allowed to be transferred to the all-women's correctional facility."

The Okimaw Ohci Healing Lodge has been a part of Nekaneet First Nation community for 23 years and employs Nekaneet First Nation band members.

- 30 -

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