



FSIN MEDIA RELEASE

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Youth Organization Under Scrutiny Following Teen Suicide as Families Demand Accountability and Answers

(Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatoon SK) The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) share concerns surrounding whistleblower testimony surrounding a community-based organization operating out of Regina Saskatchewan called the Street Culture Project (SCP). Our organization has been approached by “recently terminated employees” who express concerns over systemic dysfunction that has attributed to harm and loss of life for high-risk youth that are within the programs of the Regina SCP.

On December 18th, 2023, Serenity Severight, a 17-year-old First Nations girl died by suicide while in the care of the SCP while she was housed at the Tuhk Sih Nowin Youth Shelter (a shelter operated by the SCP). Her parents, Martha and David Severight, continue to seek answers and have concerns that their daughter’s death was attributed to systemic dysfunction.

It is reported that Serenity made staff of the SCP aware of her suicidal thoughts days prior and requested assistance through counseling and a psychiatric unit, both available to the youth within the facility. Serenity’s calls for help went unanswered and she tragically took her own life. It is also tragic that the family continues to receive no support or clear communication that could answer their questions; the entire system has failed the family.

"This tragedy highlights the persistent systemic failure of placing our First Nation children in care with organizations lacking essential cultural knowledge and training," said Chief Bobby Cameron. "When our children are separated from their communities and cultural supports, they face devastating consequences. This isn't a new problem—it's a continuation of the same harmful practices we've been fighting against for generations.

1st Vice Chief David Pratt added, "The ongoing systemic failures in youth care services represent a critical breakdown in the responsibility to protect and support our most vulnerable young people. When organizations entrusted with the care of our youth fail to provide culturally sensitive, compassionate, and

responsive support, they are not just failing individual children, but betraying entire communities. We cannot continue to allow systems that prioritize bureaucracy over the lives and well-being of our children."

Now many whistleblowers have come forward; these individuals were front line employee's or part of mid-level management who were terminated or silenced when bringing forward concerns surrounding systemic dysfunction that put youth and staff at risk. These former employees are raising major concerns surrounding systemic dysfunction, unfair labor practices, OHS violations, discrimination and more. Any program that is designated as a safe place for at risk youth must be accountable to the public and the families of our youth.

The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations represents 74 First Nations in Saskatchewan. FSIN is committed to honouring and upholding the spirit and intent of the Treaties and advocating for the promotion, protection and implementation of the Treaty promises made more than a century ago.

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For more information or to coordinate interviews, please contact **FSIN Communications** at communications@fsin.com