



# SASKATOON TRIBAL COUNCIL

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*Office of the Tribal Chief & Vice Chief*

June 15

## **Re: Tribal Chief Felix Thomas' Statement from STC Media Conference on Child and Family Services**

To respond to concerns expressed by the Child's Advocate that suggest that two children under the care of STC's Child & Family Services died within the past year.

First, let me say we are devastated by the deaths of these two children in our communities. We have worked with the Children's Advocate on both of them. While it is true that these children were living in the community, at no time were these children ever in the care of STCs Child and Family Services agency. These were tragic events, and we are not at liberty to discuss the cases any further in a public forum.

There was a question about how STC intended to fund continued services if the federal government ends its funding.

The funding agreement between STC and the federal government is an annual contribution agreement that ends March 31 each year. Since 2007, signing dates for renewal have varied. To date, STC has not received notification from INAC that the agreement has been terminated, so any action in regards to this would be premature.

This question has asked for a response to the provincial Social Services ministry claim that it has attempted for several years to update STC reporting processes.

Please understand, the Ministry has not exercised the required process to update or amend our bilateral accord. This is the document that differentiates the STC Child and Family Services – and our reporting requirements – from the other provincial agreements with First Nations. We have never refused to negotiate, but we do need to be working with the agreements that are in place.

In fact, STC has worked with the Ministry of Social Services to develop protocols to address data sharing processes. An agreement was reached between our offices, I signed on our end, but when the agreement was sent to the Minister (on two different occasions), it was not signed.

Inquires can be directed to Pricilla Wolf (306) 380-3935 or Dawn Deguire (306) 241-1642.