



Press Release

CAP calls on Saskatchewan Corrections and Policing Minister Christine Tell to Resign Over Wasteful Expansion of Saskatoon Remand Center

June 19, 2020 (Ottawa, ON) – Despite Saskatchewan running a \$2.4 billion deficit, Premier Scott Moe has approved plans by Corrections Minister Christine Tell to expand the Saskatoon remand centre, at a planned cost of \$120 million. This amount equals over \$500,000 per cell, to warehouse people who have not yet been brought to trial or convicted of any crime.

"The Saskatchewan government is completely out of touch and has not even begun to address the over-representation of Indigenous people in our jails" said Kim Beaudin, National Vice-Chief of the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP). "This is Scott Moe's 'Jail of Dreams' - 'build it and they will come'".

Remand centers hold those who have been charged with an offense but have not been sentenced or convicted. According to most recent statistics, three quarters of those held in remand in Saskatchewan are Indigenous.

According to the Office of the Correctional Investigator Annual Report 2018-2019 by Dr. Ivan Zinger, the Canadian corrections system is already the most highly staffed in the world, despite declining crime rates. Adding an estimated 130 positions in Saskatchewan adds enormous ongoing costs that will do nothing to address the relationship with Indigenous people in Saskatchewan.

Since the 2004 Saskatchewan Justice report on the death of Neil Stonechild, and Commission on First Nations and Métis Peoples and Justice Reform, official recommendations have called for a renewed focus on community policing, oversight and Indigenous inclusion in the justice system. However, since the Saskatchewan Party came into government in 2007, the rate of Indigenous people who are presently incarcerated has increased threefold.

"Everyone is looking towards the future – but the Saskatchewan government continues to operate like it's stuck in the 1970s" said Kim Beaudin. "Have they read the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls report at all? The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation report? Or are they simply choosing to bury their heads in the sand? This money could be used towards treatment centres and educational opportunities to keep people out of jail, and to help those already imprisoned."

With the renewed focus on systemic racism in Canada, and surveys showing two thirds of Canadians believe that systemic racism is embedded in our institutions, all levels of government are looking at action to address discriminatory policy issues. It is unacceptable for a minister of Scott Moe's Government to push forward projects that undermine reconciliation and waste funds needed during a pandemic.

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Under the 2016 Supreme Court CAP-Daniels Decision, Indigenous people were recognized as an area of Federal responsibility under Section 91-24 of the Constitution of Canada. Government must act to ensure their inherent rights as Indigenous people are respected. If the provincial government will not take steps to respect the rights of Indigenous people in Saskatchewan, the Federal government must intervene.

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For media interviews please contact:

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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national voice representing the interests of Métis, Status and non-Status Indians, and Southern Inuit Indigenous People living off-reserve. Today, over 80 per cent of Indigenous people live off-reserve.



Communiqué de presse

TITRE : Calibri 13

Texte Cambria 11 : Date (Ottawa, ON) – Idéalement, un communiqué de presse devrait être concis et précis. Il devrait inclure toutes les informations pertinentes dont un journaliste ou un éditeur aurait besoin. Un bon communiqué de presse évitera des courriels de suivi des médias et / ou suscitera des questions plus pertinentes susceptibles d'accroître l'intérêt pour l'événement ou le sujet en question. Éviter d'évoquer le fait que le CPA se retrouve marginalisé.

Un bon communiqué de presse aidera à contrôler le récit derrière l'événement / le sujet discuté et à toucher un large public. Par conséquent, il doit être clair et simple (non technique), inclusif et attrayant pour un large public, publié à un moment opportun et facilement accessible.

SECTION 1: Le premier paragraphe du communiqué de presse doit répondre aux questions suivantes: "qui", "quoi", "quand", "où" et "pourquoi" et être accrocheur. Les paragraphes suivants pourraient renseigner sur le contexte de l'événement et son impact sur l'organisation.

SECTION 2: Partagez les étapes passées ou les faits marquants, des statistiques ou des recherches pour informer sur le contexte dont un journaliste aurait besoin. Il est possible de structurer cela en plusieurs paragraphes ou sous forme d'idées en tirets. Il est aussi souhaitable d'incorporer des citations (du chef national ou d'autres parties prenantes / sujets pertinents / experts impliqués dans l'événement couvert)

SECTION 3: Soulignez une fois de plus ce qui rend cette histoire importante pour le public. Terminez avec plus d'informations sur l'événement, la « vue d'ensemble », ainsi que des liens de pages externes pour plus d'informations.

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Pour les demandes d'entrevues, veuillez contacter:

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Le Congrès des peuples autochtones est la voix nationale représentant les droits, les intérêts et les besoins des Métis, des Indiens statués et non statués, et des peuples Inuits du Sud vivant hors réserve. Aujourd'hui, plus de 70% des autochtones vivent hors réserve au Canada.