



FSIN Media Release

www.fsin.com

For immediate release: April 11, 2019

FSIN Shocked, Upset and Letdown that House of Commons Abandons Justice for Indigenous Women

(Treaty 6 Territory, Saskatoon SK) – The Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) Executive is shocked that a majority of the Members in the House of Commons voted down *Bill S-215: An Act to amend the Criminal Code (sentencing for violent offences against Aboriginal women)* at second reading without allowing further consideration through committee study.

The Bill would have amended the *Criminal Code* to require a court to consider the fact that when the victim of an assault, sexual assault, or murder is an Aboriginal female, that would constitute an aggravating circumstance for the purpose of sentencing. In doing so, it would have added new sections immediately after sections 239 and 273 of the *Criminal Code* requiring the Courts to take Aboriginal female identity into account during sentencing of the offender.

“We know there are predators targeting Indigenous women because they are Indigenous and because, in Canadian society, the lives of Indigenous women are valued less than other women” says FSIN Vice Chief Heather Bear. “The Members of Parliament who voted against this Bill have just demonstrated that systemic bias and racism is entrenched in Canada’s institutions at the highest level.”

At the FSIN Chiefs Legislative Assembly in May 2016, the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission honoured Senator Lillian Dyck with a star blanket and acknowledged her leadership for sponsoring Bill S-215. The Chiefs-in-Assembly passed a resolution supporting the Bill and the Women's Commission then brought a resolution to the Assembly of First Nations at their Annual General Assembly in July 2016. Chiefs across Canada passed a resolution supporting Bill S-215.

“All the Chiefs in Saskatchewan and Canada stood with Senator Dyck and our sacred life givers in supporting the passage of Bill S-215” says FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron. “First Nations women have the Inherent and Treaty Rights to be protected and safe. Through this vote, Parliamentarians have abandoned justice for our women.”

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

For More Information, please contact:

FSIN Communications

Larissa Burnouf

Cell : 306-291-6864

communications@fsin.com

larissa.burnouf@fsin.com