



Saskatoon Public Schools Inspiring Learning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Saskatoon Tribal Council, Saskatoon Public Schools Sign “Reconciliation in Education” Agreement *Parties to develop joint governance strategy to advance reconciliation in the classroom*

June 27, 2019 – Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) and Saskatoon Public Schools (SPS) today signed a working agreement to develop a joint strategy to deliver “Reconciliation in Education.” The five-year agreement will be effective September 1, 2019-August 31, 2024.

The new agreement expands a 13-year relationship that established a foundation for addressing the culture, language and needs of First Nations students in public school classrooms. Part of the agreement will see a formation of a Joint Leadership Working Group that includes key leadership from STC and SPS to co-governing urban Indigenous education. Focus will be working to develop programs, services and opportunities to revitalize the presence of First Nations culture and language in the classroom.

“There is mounting evidence every single day the significant, crucial impact education has had on Indigenous peoples in Canada,” said STC Tribal Chief Mark Arcand. “We view education as a tool of empowerment. Making space for First Nations voices in education is a necessary step and this agreement will be another tool for reconciliation through education. Transformations of systems happen when there is positive, mutually beneficial relationships that are rooted in respect and recognition.”

The Working Group will initially target the delivery of programs at Mount Royal Collegiate and Confederation Park School, as well as special projects at the University of Saskatchewan and City Centre.

“For more than 13 years, Saskatoon Public Schools and the Saskatoon Tribal Council have been working together with the common goal of improving educational outcomes for Indigenous students. Today’s signing marks the evolution of this partnership as we recognize the important role First Nations’ governments play in education. This partnership will help us build deeper language and cultural learning opportunities for students, as well as enhanced support for families moving between our communities. Public education must be accessible to all and meet the needs of the community. Through our partnership with the Saskatoon Tribal Council, we can realize this goal,” said Ray Morrison, Board Chair for Saskatoon Public Schools.

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For more information, please contact:

Creative Fire
Bonnie Leask
306.202.7572