



Grand Council Treaty #3

Office of the Ogichidaa

P.O. BOX 1720
Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X7
Ph: (807) 788-1406
Fax: (807) 548-4776
Email: ogichidaa.kavanaugh@treaty3.ca

MEDIA RELEASE

May 6, 2020

Grand Council Treaty #3 Disappointed By Lack of Action by Dryden City Council on Beyak Censure

It is with extreme disappointment that Grand Council Treaty #3 hears of the failure of a resolution to call for the censure Senator Lynn Beyak that was presented to Dryden City Council.

We believe it is the duty of all Canadians to stand against racism and bigotry in the defence the human dignity. The hurtful comments that ignore our shared colonial legacy should not be brushed aside due to jurisdictional or semantic arguments.

Dryden is within the territory of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty 3 and the actions of its leadership is observed by all of its residents, including survivors and intergenerational survivors of the residential school system.

All Anishinaabe citizens of Treaty 3 are on their own path of healing as they come to terms with the colonial legacy of Canada. The words of Senator Beyak are not merely those of opinion or debate. They are words from an authority figure that Anishinaabe children hear as they try to come to terms with their own identity and the effects of colonialism on their communities. These words seek to diminish the trauma inflicted upon their families and communities.

The leadership, elders, youth – all citizens of the Anishinaabe Nation of Treaty 3 will always seek to share our histories and heal alongside our non-indigenous friends, but any attempt at erasure of our history can never be accepted. We will continue to share why this colonial legacy is not merely a thing of the past, and why it can never be swept away and hidden from history as Senator Beyak seems so eager to see happen.

When it comes to crimes of the past, silence is support and indifference is insulting. Reconciliation can only truly be said to be underway when Senator Beyak's words are seen as insulting, hurtful and in need of condemnation by all Canadians, and not only when it is expedient or convenient to do so.

Grand Council Treaty #3 has been honoured to receive support on this issue from across the country, including the longstanding support of Nishnawbe Aski Nation. It is heartwarming to be able to stand alongside the leadership of Nishnawbe Aski Nation in the call for all Canadians to continue the conversation about Canada's colonial legacy on our shared path to healing. It is time that all Canadians take a stand alongside us.

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For more information:

Dan Morriveau
Political Advisor
Grand Council Treaty #3
PO Box 1720, Kenora, ON P9N 3X7
Phone: (807) 464-2647
Website: www.gct3.ca