



Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Government of Canada and the Province of BC Must Work with Indigenous Nations to Implement Special Advisor Recommendations on Aboriginal Child Welfare

(Secwepemc Territory – November 21, 2016) Tribal Chief Wayne Christian was present today in Musqueam territory for the eagerly anticipated release of Grand Chief Edward John's, Special Advisor on Aboriginal Child Welfare, report titled "Indigenous Resilience, Connectedness and Reunification – from Root Causes to Root Solutions: A Report on Indigenous Child Welfare in British Columbia".

The Secwepemc Nation is committed to improving the lives of all our children and families receiving or requiring prevention and/protection services – regardless of their residency. "With the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal findings, we have seen a great deal of declared political commitment from the Federal government on this issue. Now we need to see them step up and put their money where their mouth is," exclaimed Kukpi7 Christian. "We need to act on these recommendations. We cannot afford to waste any more time talking and meeting; our children can't afford us to wait any longer."

The Special Advisor's report on Aboriginal Child Welfare makes some significant recommendations to improve child welfare services for Aboriginal children in care in BC. We need to hold the federal and provincial governments accountable for their previously made commitments to improve the current child welfare system in this country. A full implementation of the recommendations made by Grand Chief Edward John will help us get to where we need to be.

"Within the Secwepemc Nation, we specifically look forward to working with the Province and Canada in implementing the 7 recommendations under "Area 8: Indigenous Peoples and Jurisdiction Over Child Welfare", Kukpi7 Christian expressed. "Our nation has been preparing for a full jurisdictional transfer over child welfare for years and we look forward to gaining the needed support for us to better meet the needs of our children and families through the upholding of our Indigenous laws through a nation-based & community-driven process. The solutions lie within our people and our communities. Our laws - our children - our families."

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For Further information:

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