September 11, 2003

To:     Saskatchewan First Nations  
        First Nation Organizations  
        First Nation Schools

Re:     Call To Ottawa

Dear Sir/Madam;

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nation is seeking your support to raise greater awareness to the First Nation housing crisis.

On October 10th, 2003 Mr. Robert Desjarlais and I will begin the “Call to Ottawa” with a community walk on the Kawacatoose First Nation.

We are requesting that First Nation Offices/Organizations/Schools have their members, staff and students sign the attached petition and fax back to my office at (306) 477-4554 prior to October 10th, 2003.

All Saskatchewan First Nations have a Treaty Right to appropriate shelter!

Your assistance is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Greg Carter, Housing Director at (306) 956-6917.

Sincerely,

Guy Donechand  
Second Vice Chief  
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations  
Indian Governments of Saskatchewan
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

BULLETIN:

CALL TO OTTAWA!

The single most critical issue currently facing the FSIN and Saskatchewan First Nation leadership is housing. It's been one hundred and thirty years since the Federal Government of Canada representing the Crown acknowledged Shelter as a Treaty Right in the treaty areas of Saskatchewan.

Vice Chief Guy Lonechild, Second Vice Chief, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Mr. Robert Desjarlais, Kawacatoose First Nation will lead the “Call to Ottawa” – for Treaty Rights to Shelter.

This mission will bring awareness to the socio-economic conditions facing First Nation in Canada and governments’ failure to respect the Treaty Rights of First Nations. Closing this socio-economic gap between First Nations and other Canadians requires an integrated approach that addresses their unique social, cultural and economic circumstances and creates opportunities for First Nations to participate more fully in the economy.

Please sign and send this petition to the attention of:
Vice Chief Guy Lonechild,
Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7N 4K4
Fax: (306) 477-4554

The message to Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the House of Commons:

“Strategic investments in the areas of housing and infrastructure improves the overall health and quality of life in the First Nation communities, while promoting economic development opportunities, job creation and improved governance.”

Name (Please Print)        First Nation or Town/City        Signature

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS RIGHTS TO SHELTER
PETITION
"CALL TO OTTAWA" - HOUSING CRISIS

The message to Prime Minister Jean Chretien and the House of Commons:

"Strategic investments in the areas of housing and infrastructure improves the overall health and quality of life in the First Nation communities, while promoting economic development opportunities, job creation and improved governance."

Name (Please Print)  First Nation or Town/City  Signature
ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS

HOUSING CRISIS:

The single most critical issue currently facing the FSIN and Saskatchewan First Nation leadership is on-reserve housing. While more than 53% of the current housing stock do not meet normal adequacy standards and an average occupational density of 4.8 people/house in Saskatchewan reserve communities represents the most serious overcrowding conditions in Canada. Critical shortages of on-reserve housing are also evidenced by the fact that only 49% of the registered Indian population are currently residents on Saskatchewan reserves. Factors that have contributed to this problem include general demographics of the Saskatchewan First Nation population, and the historic under utilizing of CMHC programming to support housing construction. In addition, the commonly held Treaty position of Saskatchewan First Nations has essentially precluded private investment, first nation revenue streams and ownership in on-reserve housing, resulting in rapid deterioration of community owned housing stock and associated premature re-capitalization. This discussion document represents a timely and optimal partnership opportunity with the First Nation leadership, FSIN and potential stakeholders to address the housing crisis, and is expected to create a forum where meaningful and cooperative strategic planning can take place to address issues associated with development of private ownership and repair/renovation of existing on-reserve housing stock.

STATISTICAL BACKGROUND ON HOUSING CONDITIONS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Units</th>
<th>Cost per unit</th>
<th>Total cost per activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minor renovations</td>
<td>4262</td>
<td>$ 7,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major renovations</td>
<td>1673</td>
<td>$ 20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overcrowding</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>$ 95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Replacements</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>$ 95,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total capital required to resolve the crisis</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$ 206,595,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(New Family Formation of 450 new units is estimated at $42,750,000 annually.)

Statistics show that the First Nation population on reserve are young and growing, with new family formation for the next five years expected to average 450 per year.

Total expenditures required to bring all housing stock to an acceptable standard and reduce overcrowding is estimated at $ 206,595,000. To accomplish this enormous feat over a five year period would require $ 41,319,000.

Housing capital available under the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in the Saskatchewan region totals $19,300,000.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation assists First Nation communities construct on average 200 units per year under the Section 95 NHA On-reserve housing program and renovation funding under the residential repair assistance program (RRAP) for approximately 185 units on reserve.
Challenges include:
Fiscal restraint, increasing demand, economic development linkages to housing activity, access to private capital and first nation revenue streams to support private sector funding.

"Improved housing promotes economic development, job creation, and improves the overall health and quality of life in First Nation communities"

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS:

1) Transfer of Technology
   i) Capacity to deliver and administer community based housing programs is a pre-requisite to improving housing conditions in first nation communities.
   ii) Technical expertise, property management and research.

2) Home Ownership opportunities
   i) Access to (New) Federal funding
   ii) Access to Private Capital
   iii) Alternative Delivery mechanism to allow for individual ownership
   iv) Revenue streams to support debt financing

3) Increased capital for the construction of new housing units to reduce overcrowding and pressures of new family formation
   i) Related infrastructure
   ii) Social housing (shelter allowances) and private units (ownership)

4) Renovation capital (both Federal and Private) to improve existing sub standard stock.
   i) Health and Safety – Mold, Water quality and Wastewater management.