



Media Release

Monday, February 12, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council supports demand for apology from Saskatchewan's Member of Parliament Kevin Waugh (Saskatoon-Grasswood).

On Monday, February 5, 2024, Saskatchewan MP Kevin Waugh claimed, "In my home province of Saskatchewan, I have seen reserves burn down water treatment plants because the Liberal government has done little or nothing."

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is home to the First Nations MP Waugh referenced—the Piapot First Nation and the Carry The Kettle Nakoda Nation. File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is located in southern Saskatchewan in and around Regina and Fort Qu'Appelle.

Piapot water treatment plant burned October 30, 2018. It was built in 1981 and one major upgrade and expansion in 2011. It is the main source of water supply for the First Nation, serving a population of more than 900 residents. The First Nation's immediate short-term needs were met by bottled water and delivery.

Carry The Kettle's water treatment plant burned on February 26, 2019. It provided water to 230 homes and community buildings which was approximately 1100 in population. Both communities have since seen new water treatment plants built—plants that surpass many rural facilities.

FHQTC Tribal Chief Jeremy Fourhorns is disappointed, but not surprised, by the statement. "It's unfortunate that in 2024 we're still seeing very ignorant comments such as this. And, although it is nothing new, it's still disappointing to hear this kind of action come from the mouth of an elected official whose job is to work collaboratively to improve the conditions for people to live in; rather than use misinformation and First Nations people for the sake of partisan politics. It is also disheartening that the MP does not seem to have remorse or even shame for making this statement. If he had, he might have reached out to both of the FHQTC member nations to apologize. To my knowledge, he has not. Nor has he visited either of our nations. Only when he was confronted did he backtrack; and state he is willing to work with First Nations."

Fourhorns also urges the House of Commons to implement a mandatory First Nations history and awareness learning initiative and/or programming. Given that Saskatchewan has 15 federal ministers in our province and one of only two Office of Treaty Commissioner Offices in Canada, these statements should not easily roll out of the mouths of any of our representative MP's. "If Mr. Waugh is serious about working with First Nations, I invite him to visit Piapot and Carry the Kettle to become informed on the

realities that our communities and people living in those communities must deal with every day. It's far too often in this day and age that a person can say whatever they want whether it's fact or not and face no consequences."

"If MP Waugh and any of the 14 other federal MP's visit FHQTC and our two nations of Piapot and Carry The Kettle, they will have opportunity to see the state of art water treatment plants and learn about the high quality operations and maintenance as well as the challenges around adequate funding.

Their visit will also allow them to learn about our All Nations Healing Hospital, Rising Bear Healing Centre (dialysis centre), Leading Thunderbird Lodge (treatment centre for young men), Silver Sage Housing Corporation, our two safe shelters for women and family, Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services (urban services in Regina) and the many other positive and progressive programs our Tribal Council has to offer."

The membership of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council are 11 First Nations within the Treaty 4 territory, and it is a strong, vibrant organization evolving to assist, enhance and promote First Nations entities and its people, based on the spirit and intent of our Treaties.

-30-

Gaylene Anaquod
Executive Director, Governance, Programs & Policy
File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
1 (306) 331-9535