



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

Head Office

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Nelson House, Manitoba
R0B 1A0
www.mkonation.com

Thompson Sub-Office

206-55 Selkirk Avenue
Thompson, Manitoba
R8N 0M5

Winnipeg Sub-Office

Suite 1601-275 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3B 3B

MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee Responds to Justice Committee Testimony of the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Clyde Flett
Phone: 204- 390-2702
Email: clyde.flett@mkonorth.com

For Immediate Release
February 28, 2019
2:30 p.m. CST

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, MB. Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) Grand Chief Garrison Settee issues the following remarks today in relation to the testimony of the Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould before the House Justice Committee.

"I, like most of the country, watched intently yesterday as the former Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada, Jody Wilson-Raybould, provided lengthy and unprecedented testimony before the Justice Committee. It was a riveting display of strength, courage, and integrity. Ms Wilson-Raybould, as a hereditary Kwakwaka'wakw leader, put forth for the whole country to see a set of First Nations values and principles that are the foundation of the west coast Big House system of government and which are, at times, incongruent with the inner workings of government," said Grand Chief Settee.

"At the MKO, we have observed with great admiration her steely resolve and depth of character many times over the years while she was the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Regional Chief for British Columbia. Now the whole country, and more importantly our youth and young MKO women and girls, now know of that resolve and strength of character. On behalf of the northern Manitoba leadership and the MKO communities, we commend Ms Wilson-Raybould for her principled stance in the face of pressure from the top elected and non-elected government officials that Canada can muster," stated the Grand Chief.

Grand Chief continued, "This was a pivotal moment for the MKO First Nations and all First Nations across this country as we advance our inherent, Treaty and title rights within Canada. The ground breaking, truth-telling, testimony of the former Attorney General will be heralded far and wide for many years to come, as the moment that all Canadians learned of the inner workings of government, and how it can have the potential to threaten true reconciliation between Canada and First Nations. I am optimistic, however, that Canadian institutions of justice and policy are intact in spite of this latest fiasco, and that the path to reconciliations also remains intact despite this bump in the road," concluded Grand Chief Settee.