Media Release

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PAGC condemns Prince Albert councillor's racist and dehumanizing remarks, demands accountability

(Pre-Confederation, Treaty 5, 6, 8 & 10) PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. – Prince Albert Grand Council (PAGC) is demanding accountability following racist and dehumanizing remarks made by City of Prince Albert Councillor Daniel Brown about people experiencing homelessness, including Indigenous people disproportionately represented among the city's unhoused population.

During a recent city council discussion, Coun. Brown advocated withholding food and shelter, destroying personal belongings and driving unhoused people out of the community.

“Let's stop housing them. Let's stop feeding them,” Coun. Brown stated. He also suggested throwing people's belongings in the dump and referred to a time when people were run out of town because “your kind isn't welcome here.”

PAGC condemns the remarks as discriminatory, dehumanizing and incompatible with elected public office.

“This is not simply a difference of political opinion. This is an elected official advocating for the deliberate mistreatment, displacement and dehumanization of vulnerable people, many of whom are Indigenous,” said PAGC Grand Chief Brian Hardlotte.

“Denying people food, shelter and their personal belongings is not a solution to homelessness. It is an attack on their dignity and humanity.”

As a gateway to northern Saskatchewan, Prince Albert serves Indigenous people and families from First Nations throughout the region seeking medical care, education, employment, housing and essential services.

Indigenous homelessness reflects longstanding systemic barriers, including inadequate housing, poverty, displacement and the intergenerational impacts of colonial policies.

PAGC, which Relatives Lodge, formerly known as Stepping Stones emergency shelter, recognizes legitimate concerns about crime, public safety and responsible spending. However, those concerns must never justify collective punishment, discrimination or the denial of basic human necessities.

The remarks are particularly troubling given that PAGC, the City of Prince Albert and community partners met just last week for the Prince Albert Homelessness Interagency Meeting to advance practical solutions.

“While our organizations are working together to help people find safety, shelter and stability, we have an elected official suggesting we starve them out and drive them away,” said Grand Chief Hardlotte. “That directly undermines the work being done to support our vulnerable people.”

PAGC is calling for:

- **A formal complaint** filed with the city clerk under Schedule A of Bylaw No. 3 of 2017, seeking an investigation into Coun. Brown's conduct and appropriate sanctions if violations are established.
- **A public apology and full retraction** of statements advocating the denial of food, shelter and personal belongings.
- **A formal response from the mayor and city council** condemning the statements and reaffirming the City's commitment to dignity, equality and non-discrimination.
- **A review of potential legal, criminal and human rights implications**, including whether Coun. Brown's statements warrant examination under the *Criminal Code of Canada* or investigation by the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission.

“An apology alone is not enough. This is a test of leadership for the City of Prince Albert,” said Grand Chief Hardlotte. “Silence or inaction sends a message that this kind of rhetoric is acceptable. Reconciliation demands accountability, especially from those entrusted with public office.”

PAGC maintains that addressing homelessness requires co-operation and investments in housing, mental health, addictions treatment and culturally appropriate support services, not punishment or displacement.

“Racism doesn't always come right out and name a particular race. Sometimes it shows up in how people are stereotyped, looked down on and treated like they don't belong,” said Grand Chief Hardlotte. “When an elected official suggests denying people food and shelter and running them out of town, that's crossing the line. Public office comes with a responsibility to serve everyone, not to pick and choose who deserves basic human dignity. We cannot simply sweep these remarks under the rug and carry on as though nothing happened. There must be consequences.”

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About Prince Albert Grand Council:

The Prince Albert Grand Council is one of the largest tribal councils in Canada with a membership of over 44,000, representing 12 First Nations and the 28 northern communities in the territories of Treaty 5, 6, 8 & 10. To learn more, visit pagc.sk.ca.

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