



GRAND CHIEF RON MICHEL

Tansi, I would like to express my gratitude to the Elders, Senators, Leadership, Staff and the twelve member First Nations for all their contributions towards providing the necessary commitment, strength and wisdom required for the improving conditions within our communities for newborn infants, children, youth, adults and seniors in all areas related to the general well-being of all.

The Prince Albert Grand Council has made significant strides towards ensuring the continued growth and sustainability of member First Nations by steadfastly holding onto the wisdom of the Elders, by embracing and protecting our Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights to be a Self-Governing and Sovereign Peoples within our ancestral homelands of Treaties of 5, 6, 8 and 10 within the Central, Eastern and Northern Saskatchewan.

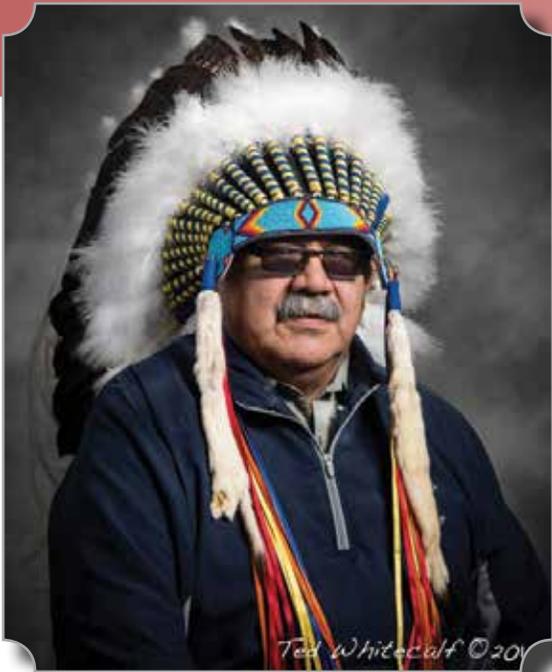
The PAGC is committed to working on the strength of those treaties to ensure ongoing control of the Education Programs for our Youth, who comprise over 65% of our populations within the PAGC boundaries. All the investments that we make in our First Nations Youth now will be an investment that we make towards the long term growth and well-being of our communities.

In contrast Statistics Canada just released the latest set of Canadian Demographics, which show that for the first time ever in the history of Canada, the population of Seniors 65 and over, outnumber the youth age 14 and under. The PAGC will continue to negotiate and lobby, until such time, that there is equity for the education of our children that is on par with that of the children being educated within the Provincial and Separate School Systems.

The PAGC is also committed to ensuring that all of our member First Nations have full access to health care both on and off-reserve both in the short and long terms. This can be achieved by looking at new and innovative ways to build on existing services, looking at the feasibility of creating new speciality services and building effective partnerships to look after the wellbeing and health of all our First Nations People. We believe that this can be achieved by;

- A First Nations Controlled Hospital within an Urban Setting, whereby high end specialist services can be provided, such as more access to Dialysis Machines, MRI's, and CT Scans, etc.





- More Long-Term Care for our Elders,
- Cooperative efforts with Regional Health Authorities to ensure proper input into services that are responsive to First Nations in terms to adequate prevention, acute care and primary health needs,

The PAGC will always work towards the day when each and every family has their own housing needs, related infrastructure and safety. Housing has always been a huge issue for all First Nations within our traditional territories and it is still on the forefront of our agenda to ensure that there is accessibility to on-reserve housing for all members. This has been made tougher over the years, due to lack of housing allocations, increasing number of First Nations populations and ever changing housing policies at the national level. However, that will not abate the efforts of the PAGC to continue to support and advocate on behalf of the communities to both AANDC and CMHC at all costs.

The PAGC has supported our large First Nations Youth by providing a wide range of Sport, Culture and Recreation Programs by participating in both the First Nations Saskatchewan Winter and Summer Games this past year.

There have been ongoing efforts by our staff to collaborate with the communities to ensure that there are adequate programs offered throughout the course of the year at the community level. The PAGC Fine Arts and Cultural Festival has been ongoing for many years and we are seeing higher levels of participation at all age groups. We will continue to encourage and celebrate the achievement of our youth.

As an organization, we the Executive of the PAGC continue to attend and support all community functions, whether they be graduations, cultural events, treaty days, sector gatherings and sadly, funerals of our beloved members.

In closing, the PAGC will continue to work with all levels of government, industry, our partners in business and other stakeholders to work for the betterment of all our PAGC First Nations.

Tiniki,

Grand Chief Ron Michel

