



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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## **Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth Supports a Sovereign Indigenous Advocate**

SASKATOON– The Saskatchewan Advocate for Children and Youth, Corey O'Soup, is clarifying that he supports an Indigenous Children and Youth Advocate working for the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN), not a provincially funded Advocate.

“Since the onset of my tenure, my office has worked very hard to build positive relationships and partnerships with our First Nations government, communities and agencies. Working with the FSIN, agencies, and band officials, we are able to carry our mandate, which in fact does give us jurisdiction with respect to child welfare on reserve.” explained O'Soup. O'Soup has publicly stated that he fully supports a sovereign Indigenous Advocate and has spoken with Chief Bobby Cameron on this matter.

Shortly after O'Soup was appointed as Advocate, his office embarked on a new strategic direction that reflects the fundamental goal of being part of solutions that result in positive change in the quality of life for First Nations and Métis children and youth. Further to these goals, a focus on positive relationships with First Nation and Métis partners and an education system that incorporates the unique needs of Indigenous youth were included. The Advocate's strategic plan has been communicated widely, and shared specifically with the FSIN Chief, who has stated publicly the he fully supports the Advocate's Office.

“We see the over representation of our young Indigenous people in the care of government services, whether that be the 70.2% in out of home care, the over 90% admitted into our correctional facilities, or the 56.8% who do not graduate from our education system. I support any and all resources that help our Indigenous young people succeed.” said O'Soup

The Advocate for Children and Youth is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan. He leads a team of professionals who work on behalf of the province's young people. Our vision is that the rights, well-being and voice of children and youth are respected and valued.

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