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BEV MATTILIA / FEB 16 / 18 - FACEBOOK POST.

Received this in an email today!

Chief Bobby Cameron, former Chief Wuttunee and current Chief Wuttunee, I am disappointed at the example you are setting for our people.

Not once have I heard either one of you acknowledge the trouble and situation that these young people got themselves into, that day. I do not agree that it's right to take someone's life - regardless of their skin colour. I also think it is very dishonourable that neither one of you has called a spade a spade but instead, pulled the racism card. They had a gun and this was a kill or be killed situation... no other way to spin it really. They had attempted to rob another farm yard earlier that day. Half the witnesses were not thinking straight at the time, add into that copious amounts of alcohol and you can't say they wouldn't have killed Gerald or his family in a split second.

It's a sad, sad day for Canadians when our elected leaders, instead of remaining un-bias, take sides. Not once has anyone acknowledged that Gerald Stanley and his family did not ask to be put in the middle of this witch hunt yet their lives are changed forever. No one has apologized to Gerald Stanley and his family for the situation that they found themselves in the middle of that day. Both Colten and Gerald are the victims here. To have Trudeau Tweet his love and sympathy to the Boushie family, after the verdict, completely undermines our democratic society and leaves me with even less respect for our Prime Minister. We already know you have little use for our farmers but this was a low blow Mr. Trudeau.

What you've asked Saskatchewan and the rest of Canada to do, is turn a blind eye to the facts and the pattern that has developed over decades here in Saskatchewan. To hear that a dozen officers went to inform Ms. Baptiste of her son's passing, does not surprise me - RCMP members don't go onto a reserve, on their own. No one does and if you say otherwise, I invite any one of you to. Farmer's have had to arm their property for years against theft... this is not something that we can ignore yet it continually gets swept under the rug and is something we're not supposed to talk about because it's politically incorrect.

Was Gerald Stanley racist? Did he have prior incidents? Was he known to go looking for trouble? My guess is "no", because if he was, the media would have been all over it. If Stanley's character was brought up in court, the media didn't report on it. Unfortunately, patterns play a role in our day to day lives. Patterns play a role and opinions are formed.

I really wish it was different as I have taught my children not to see the colour of skin but rather, how you treat people. You make it very hard to mend hurt feelings Chief Cameron when instead of empowering people, you continue to keep them in the victim mentality and dependent on you.

In a Globe and Mail article, Ms. Baptiste (Colten's Mom), describes a field of raw sewage beneath her trailer because their sewer system hadn't been hooked up for years and they had no running water. Because of broken windows in the trailer, during harsh winter weather they have to huddle together in the living room with the oven door open. I ask you this Chiefs Cameron and Wuttunee, since that article was written in October 2016, have you helped this grieving mother? Have you made her life a little easier? Is her sewage and water hooked up or her windows fixed? Or do you just talk the talk and wait until you're in the media spotlight to make your pleas for justice and equality? No one should have to live like this, add on top of that, lose a child.

I would feel like a victim too if the people that were elected to take care of me and my family, haven't. But this anger that everyone is feeling, should be equally shared amongst our people. No amount of money or justice is going to fix this issue if you are not willing to be part of the equation. When you point a finger, there are three fingers pointing back at you.

Not once have I heard one of the Chiefs say, "we have our work cut out for us, when it comes to working with our young people and in teaching them right from wrong while also becoming productive members of the community." This is very disheartening to me because I used to work with Bobby. He had such a passion for his work and the people he worked with, as a facilitator for the Ready to Work program, teaching those on assistance the skills to obtain employment in the tourism industry. Tell me, how have our Reserves benefitted from having you as the FSIN Leader?

In a news conference in North Battleford, after the verdict, Chief Bobby Cameron asked, "What would you do if it was your child? Someone needs to pay the consequences for their actions." Those are pretty harsh words Bobby, considering the other side of this coin was not innocent. Then he goes on to talk about karma and how Gerald Stanley's children and grandchildren will pay for this... "you're gonna pay". So he turns a blind eye on the facts and then threatens the Stanley family? You Chief Cameron, are part of the problem and the divide. And need I remind you that karma swings both ways? While everyone else is trying to be politically correct, because that would be racist or hate based speech, you can say whatever you want without being called out? If Premier Moe had said something like this, there would have been an outright rebellion.

Should a leader not have a level head and not get caught up in his emotions? Especially when he is the head of something as important as our FSIN. And what would I do if this was my son... I would grieve. But long before an outcome like this, I would have done EVERYTHING IN MY POWER, to help my son and put him on the right path. Can you say the same thing? Chiefs, what have you done to prevent this from happening again? Has anyone manned up and acknowledged responsibility for what happened that day?

Everyone is up in arms because they think Gerald Stanley lied about the gun going off accidentally and that he didn't pull the trigger. However, we can't ignore the evidence of the cartridge found in the SUV that had a bulge in it, that no one could explain. Why is no one up in arms over the fact that the 4 witnesses stories don't match or that the stories changed from the time it happened to the time on the stand... add to that, one of them didn't show up. Chief Cameron has made a big deal about how the focus was on how much they had drank or events of that day. No, they weren't the ones on trial however, their actions alone, is what caused this fatal outcome. There's no denying that their sequence of events that day is what set this roller coaster in motion. This is important and relevant information.

Gerald Stanley was a mechanic and who's to say that if they had gone to his farm yard and asked for help, he wouldn't have willingly helped them? Instead, these adults made a conscious decision to jump on the Stanley's quad and in a truck that Gerald had fixed, and then tried to run over him and his son. And if they were too drunk to make a conscious decision, well Chief Wuttunee, we have a bigger problem here and ultimately, that responsibility falls on you as you were elected to take care of the people from Red Pheasant First Nation and make it a better place.

"This is the racism that exists within the justice system," Chief Cameron said. To make such a bold statement, you'd better be educated in the Justice system of our province when it comes to all aspects. It's an old boys club through and through. You don't have to go far to find a single mother in this province who has had to fight this system, for years. My point is, it's not just about you... and it's certainly not a racism issue. Our Justice system is broken. How many Aboriginal Judges do we have in the province? In trials by jury, what is the ratio of nationalities that match that of the accused? The point I'm trying make is that if we care about these issues, then we have to care about them LONG BEFORE it will benefit us.

I'm not saying that "not guilty" was the right decision in this case but I am tired of the racism comments when it is in fact you, Chief Cameron, who continually flips the coin to white and causes the divide. Empower the

people you were elected to speak for instead of keeping them in this mindset. Encourage them to become Lawyers and Judges so that they can make a difference, when it matters, in situations like this.

And then to hear former Chief of Red Pheasant, Sheldon Wuttunee, at the press conference say that there has been a lot of animosity and racism for years in the area. What have you done former Chief Wuttunee or current Chief Wuttunee, to make the relations better and foster peace? And then to have former Chief Wuttunee say, "I drive those back roads too... and I can tell you since the shooting happened, I don't want to break down now." This wasn't some random, unprovoked ghetto shooting targeting people with dark skin so please, stop the ignorance. But thank you for the fear mongering and your work in uniting this province.

Former Chief Wuttunee also made reference to the 8 First Nations men, from Battleford, who were hung in 1885, "for trying to protect and feed their families" and how Chief Poundmaker is being exonerated because NOW, "they" understand that "he was trying to feed and protect his family." "Not criminals but it's the non-First Nations narrative that wins, and that's gotta change..." Correct me if I'm wrong but was Gerald Stanley not trying to protect his family... and he was found not guilty, but you're calling for his head? The word hypocrite comes to mind. Does this make you any better than Judge Rouleau who sentenced those 8 men to hang in 1885? Or is Gerald Stanley's skin the wrong colour for it to be the "right" verdict? In this case, Gerald Stanley was an innocent bystander, not looking for any type of trouble that day... he did not make the decision to hang those 8 men, he was not responsible for the 60's scoop or residential schools, he did not take away Treaty Land or sign one of the 6 treaties in Saskatchewan. So why are we trying to make an example of him and make him pay for all the wrong doings that our people, all people have suffered? In hearing everyone speak, I think this has little to do with Gerald Stanley and is more about making him pay for all the past hurts, regardless of the facts and events. There was no winner or loser in this case as all of Saskatchewan has lost.

"THE WHITE MAN TOOK OUR LAND AWAY"

Preface: This poem does not refer to the Native Indian who remains proud of his heritage, yet accepts life as 1979 dictates; as we all must. For each racial reference I infer, my humblest and most sincere apologies.

For forty years, with heart in hand  
Trying hard to understand;  
In Indian eyes I've been a blight  
Guilty ... cause my skin is white!

I didn't take your land away  
As I hear Native people say.  
Someone did and that's a crime  
But that was long before my time.

Just who of you can cry despair  
When not a one of you were there.  
We all are victims of our race  
With no control of what took place.

What I say now may well be crude  
But I resent your attitude.  
Life's not fair, I will agree  
But see your own hypocrisy!

You tell of living off the land  
How everything was made by hand,  
You say "that life" was best by far,  
Then brag about your latest car!

You claim the old ways were the best  
(Or so you must have heard, I guess.)  
You sit and tell it all to me  
While watching football on T.V.

There's few of us and lets not kid  
Who'd live as our ancestors did.  
In modern clothes, you've made your mark  
Could you go back to wearing bark?

Is this not pure hypocrisy?  
To live and dress the same as me;  
To cry, "Get out, it's not your home."  
Then buy our Tupperware and chrome?

I'm fed up trying to be sincere  
To justify my being here.  
Your sanctimonious act I doubt,  
I dare you now to hear me out!

In my bewildered, guilty awe  
I've had you call me, "Damn white squaw,"  
And then proceed in honey tone,  
"Bettie, can I use your phone?"

As for pollution; we're to blame  
(At least that's what I hear you claim,)  
And yet I saw, as there I strode,  
Your garbage dumped beside the road!

This land will never be the same  
We're mostly; but not all to blame.  
If white man's presence is so grim  
Why try so hard to be like him?

There's those of you who bitch and frown  
With every word, you run us down,  
You want the goods we represent  
Yet blame us for your discontent.

You say you want the same as me  
"Equal opportunity!"  
If you believe in what you say  
Then let's think 'equal' all the way!

Let's settle first, the quest at hand 8.  
The ardent issue of this land.  
Like you ... this country I revere  
Like you, I, too, was born here.

Next, so you'll be par with whites  
Let's drop 'special' fishing rights,  
All part of equality  
One for you and one for me!

The 'Baby Bonus' comes to you,  
You get the Old Age Pension too,  
And so the bigots can't compare  
You'll want no more of free health care.

Your parity you will enhance  
The Feds can keep their Native grants.  
Equality is now at hand  
(I wonder if you understand?)

Licenses to hunt and trap  
(Really not a handicap)  
You'll have to pay ... just like the whites  
If you insist on 'equal rights.'

Cameras, T.V., fast cars too  
Are white man's toys (to name a few)  
You want them all and that's a fact,  
So why don't you pay taxes, mack!

IT'S FOR THE SOULS LONG DEAD AND GONE  
THE ONES WHO REALLY LOST THEIR HOME,  
THE ONES SO HURT WHEN WHITE MAN CAME  
FOR THEM ... I HUMBLY BEAR THE SHAME!

I've said it all; I rest my case  
I now can meet you face to face.  
Recall this poem, when next you say,  
"The white man took our land away."

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