

# **Justice as Healing**

## A Newsletter on Aboriginal Concepts of Justice

### **Indian Justice: Our Vision**

*Editor's note: The following is from the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations' Strategic Plan for Indian Justice which has been approved by the FSIN Indian Justice Commission, the FSIN Indian Government Commission, and the Chiefs of the FSIN at the May 1 & 2, 1996 Chiefs' Legislative Assembly.*

The FSIN vision of Justice Development is to create a Justice System which restores traditional First Nations values, culture and spirituality and which is trusted and respected by all members of the First Nation Community in Saskatchewan. Our focus is to ensure that the Justice process is community driven.

The FSIN views the responsibility for Justice as residing in the Chiefs and Headmen who's role are listed in the Numbered Treaties and confirmed in the Spirit and Intent of the Treaties. The Chiefs and Headmen are charged with the responsibility of maintaining peace and good order amongst our peoples, and in the relations between First Nations people and non-native people. The Treaty duty, to maintain peace and good order as is expressed in each of the five numbered Treaties that affect Saskatchewan, is the basis upon which all development has occurred in this Province.

Our vision of the future of our Justice system is that it will promote the healing of First Nations individuals, families and communities and provide the flexibility to accommodate the cultural, geographic and linguistic diversity of our people both on and off reserves and in the Urban setting. The strengthening of our families, the protection of First Nations people from injury and the restoration of the traditional core values which once guided our people in regards to Justice is the ultimate purpose of our Justice initiatives.