



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Federal and Provincial Government Fail to Fulfill Budget Promises**

**March 19, 2018 (Listuguj, Quebec)** - Upon the Federal Government's funding announcement in terms of First Nations Policing over the next five years, our Government was cautiously optimistic that they would receive the necessary funding to properly sustain their services for 2018-2019 and going forward.

"...We are presented with an offer that does not even begin to address the current situation and the need of our community, let alone scratch the surface of improving officer safety, training and equipment. This offer comes up about 93% short of where we should be starting as a minimum." said Chief Darcy Gray

"Forcing our First Nation Governments to sign under duress is not a true Government to Government negotiation process. It is the process Canada and Quebec imposes on us, under the guise of reconciliation with our people. Waiting until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour to announce lower than standard funding is not only negligent and discriminatory but puts the safety and security of our communities in jeopardy. If funding for Federal, Provincial or Municipal police services were about to expire and the Governments did not respond to the agencies and the Canadian population, there would be chaos and they would never allow that to happen. This process clearly communicates that First Nations are not worth the same as the rest of the Canadian population.

First Nations Policing is still recognized as a program, not an essential service as they claim. If it was, we would not be in this same situation year after year. To start, we need legislative funding." said Councillor Lloyd Alcon

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## Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government in Negotiations to Renew Tripartite Agreement

March 21, 2018 / in Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, News-PSA, Public Security /



### PUBLIC NOTICE

Currently, the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government is in negotiations with the Federal Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of Quebec to renew the Tripartite Agreement that funds the Listuguj Police Department. Under the Tripartite Agreement, Canada supplies 52% of the funding while Quebec supplies the remaining 48%.

At the moment, the negotiations for increased funding to meet the needs of our police department and to ensure a healthy and successful work environment are not being met. On average the Listuguj Police Department runs a \$200,000 deficit each year due to budget constraints.

The Listuguj Police Department is unique in the fact that they hold no prejudice and do not only patrol the community of Listuguj. The nearest SQ detachment is located 20 minutes away in Matapedia, Quebec. Often, our officers are first on the scene in neighboring communities providing first responder aid and assistance.

71% of all cases brought forward to the Court House in New Carlisle are submitted by the

Listuguj Police Department. Despite all the good work they do, the Listuguj Police officers are not treated equally in pay compared to their provincial and federal counterparts. An officer from the SQ or RCMP makes nearly double what an officer from the LPD is paid despite having the same amount of training, sometimes more. As a result of this wage gap, there is a high turnover rate of police officers in the LPD because other locations simply pay more.

The need for increased funding is to correct the pay gap, hire more employees as our LPD office is under-staffed, fund new recruits, and to replace old equipment. Some of the equipment currently in use is outdated and poses additional risk to our officers in terms of safety and functionality.

It appears that the two respective governments are intentionally underfunding our police force in order for us to hire individuals from outside the community, mostly fresh out of the academy, for the purpose of gaining experience working in a First Nations community police setting. To what extent is unknown but the sentiment felt is that the purpose of underfunding our police force is to create complications and agitation in the work place to a point where we can no longer sustain our police detachment and have the province step in and police our community.

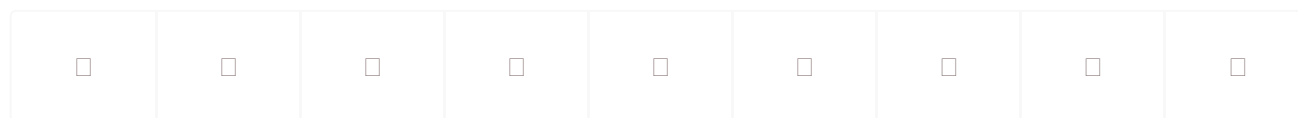
This was the case in Obedjiwan, Québec where they asked for a funding increase of \$600,000 but were denied. The Quebec government had to step in and have the Sûreté du Québec police the community, costing the province \$100,000 per week because the community could no longer fund their police department.

This Thursday (March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018) Councillor Lloyd Alcon will be testifying at the Viens Commission in Montreal to the importance of having our own Police Force and the negligent disregard of the combined governments for not considering native police as an essential service and merely that of a program.

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## One-Year Extension of Existing Tripartite Agreement

April 3, 2018 / in Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government, News-PSA /

The Listuguj, Quebec and Canadian governments have agreed to a one-year extension of the existing agreement on the provision of policing services while keeping with the recommendations from the Viens commission.

The one-year extension will allow for a true tri-partite negotiations table starting as early as April 2018 which will meet our current and future needs for a long-term agreement.

The Listuguj Mi'gmaq Government was able to secure funding for the Listuguj Police Department's operations during the extension, cover the costs incurred from own source revenue along with obtaining additional monies.

Despite the increase, Chief Gray made it clear to both Governments that the discriminatory clause in our agreement forcing us to sign under duress can no longer be a future requirement. "We need a system and legislation that establishes our police department as being on par, as it should be, with others that operate in our traditional territory. The increased funding and commitment to negotiations for the long term lets us move forward without interruption and we can focus on continuing to build our police force."

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