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Spokesman for the Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Grand Chief Randy Ermineskin stated, “It is with mixed emotions that I issue this statement. It is always a deep loss when a community member’s life is taken at a young age; to find that the life was taken due to violence is devastating.”

Speaking out on the recent shooting that claimed the life of 22 year-old Colton Boushie of the Red Pheasant First Nation in Saskatchewan, Grand Chief Ermineskin has offered his condolences to the family, friends and the Red Pheasant First Nation for their tragic loss.

“The media has been reporting almost daily on the racist tension flaring to the south in the United States, which is disturbing; but we are also experiencing similar events right in our own Indigenous ancestral lands.” commented Chief Ermineskin. “I along with the Chiefs were shocked in the initial reporting of the event and we support our national organization to investigate further the manner in which the RCMP responded publicly to the shooting.” First reports made it appear the shooting was justified and that the First Nation people in the vehicle were in the process of committing a crime.

The current national inquiry called by the Prime Minister of Canada on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls was established to determine the root cause of the violence towards Indigenous peoples, including the racism that so many experience. Many complaints were against the police investigating each crime.

“We watched as Commissioner Paulson of the RCMP signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Chief at the recent Annual General Assembly in Niagara Falls” stated Chief Ermineskin, “we hope that the MOU is a sincere agreement into addressing a system that has been failing our peoples for generations.”

In closing the Grand Chief had a final statement, “It is upsetting for all involved for the type of comments being made on social media, I will ask our Elders to continue offering prayers to help heal the hearts and minds of those who lost their relative and friend. Remember we are all human beings; the color of our skin should not make us less than our fellow human.”

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