



MEDIA RELEASE

Soda Creek First Nation Deeply Impacted by Recent Tragedy

April 21st, 2017 (Williams Lake, British Columbia)

The Soda Creek First Nation (*Xatśūll*) community has suffered another huge loss in the tragic events which transpired this past Tuesday evening at a North Mackenzie Avenue residence.

Chief and Council of Soda Creek First Nation send out condolences to, and grieve with, the families of Jonathan Sellars and Devon Stewart. This great loss impacts many people from many communities. Jonathan Sellars, a member of Soda Creek First Nation, had many relatives from all over the Secwepemc, Carrier and Chilcotin territories.

Chief Donna Dixon statement on behalf of Soda Creek Council:

Once again, our community is in mourning with the senseless loss of Jonathan Sellars, a young man who was still searching for his life's path. We have received, and are extremely grateful for, the tremendous amount of support from all of our surrounding communities. Jonathan travelled around the province, purposely staying away from Williams Lake to better his life, visiting family and always keeping in touch with his parents, cousins, aunties and uncles. Family was very important to him and he adored his nieces and nephews. It seems to be the assumption that because Jonathan is a First Nations man, that he must have been doing something wrong. We ask for this insensitivity to stop. Now is the time for our youth and young adults to challenge themselves to become leaders in our community. The Soda Creek First Nation will be reaching out to our surrounding neighbors, so that together we may build stronger, healthier communities.

For Media Inquiries please contact:

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** Soda Creek First Nation (Xatśūll) is one of the four member Nations of the Northern Secwepemc te Qelmucw (NStQ)*