



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2021

(amiskwacîwâskahikan, Wocodaki) The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations Chiefs are appalled with the outpour of racist and discriminatory comments made towards Ethan Bear of the Edmonton Oilers.

The Chiefs condemn this act of violence toward Ethan, and are concerned with the lack of response by the Edmonton Oilers organization for not responding to this critical issue. Far too often our athletes and people are subject to acts of racial slurs and inappropriate derogatory language referencing the race of our people in sports. We remind those involved, that this is not acceptable.

“Our First Nations people are avid fans of hockey and the Edmonton Oilers, and we are most proud of the athletic achievements of our people. Ethan has been a gracious ambassador to our youth, and he is very much a part of our communities” says Grand Chief Vernon Watchmaker. “We all have a responsibility to speak out against racism in any circumstance, and to ask those involved to STOP”. We are mindful that racism is hurtful, and this has gone on for far too long.

The Chiefs want to remind Albertans and Canadians that we entered into Peace and Friendship Treaty with the Crown, and to co-exist in peace as the Treaty intended. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Calls to Action # 90 states, “that national sports policies, programs, and initiatives are inclusive of Aboriginal peoples, including, but not limited to, establishing... anti-racism awareness and training programs.” We call upon the National Hockey League to immediately take action to address this conduct of racism and hate towards First Nations people, especially at this time toward Ethan.

The Chiefs extend their appreciation to those who have been supportive of Ethan and for calling an end to this violence.

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For more information or media inquiries, contact:

Lisa Mills
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations
lmills@treatysix.org