



## Montana First Nation

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### In Response to Recent Events of Racism in Our Community

Montana First Nation unites with our fellow Maskwacis Nations in addressing the recent racist behaviour directed to the people of Maskwacis Cree. We are saddened and disturbed by the display of such racist comments and behaviour and absolutely condemn such acts of discrimination.

We have lived amongst our neighbouring communities for many years and would have hoped that we would have forged stronger relationships by now. Many of our daily activities, we do in the town of Ponoka, many of our community members live in Ponoka, and many of our children attend the Ponoka schools and it is our belief that we are all welcome to coexist amongst each other. We hope the youth involved in these acts, along with their families reflect very deeply about their behaviour and the damaging effects that it has on them and society as a whole.

Montana First Nation will not allow these harmful behaviours to weaken our resolve to continue to work with our neighboring communities and municipalities in building stronger relationships. We will uphold our inherent Cree Way of Life and our Cree values of kinship, love, respect, compassion and honour. We will continue to be resilient and endure what we must to enhance our lives and the lives of our members. We will remain determined to do our best to contribute to reconciliation, uphold human dignity and respect for all. While we condemn these racist acts, we urge all of our members and supporters to persevere through these challenging incidents and exercise restraint and resilience in dealing with this.

We encourage all to continue to work together in reconciliation so that we build a better, united society, not only for us, but for the benefit of all future generations.

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