

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Shuswap Nation Tribal Council

Canadian Taxpayers Federation: Fast and Loose with the Facts

“Recently, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation made headlines by claiming that 18 BC First Nations Chiefs earn more than the Prime Minister,” said Chief Wayne Christian (Tribal Spokesperson, Shuswap Nation Tribal Council). “However they used information from the federal Department of Indian Affairs that was wrong; data that doubled what BC Chiefs are actually paid,” he added.

“How can we rely on people who can’t even read a financial statement?” Chief Christian asked.

“Today, if you search the small print on their website, you’ll find that they’ve reduced their claim to one,” he added.

“I’m also concerned with how they continue to slant the statistics to compare the income of BC Chiefs with those of Members of Parliament and Cabinet Ministers,” said Chief Christian. “For example, they include travel expenses as salary for BC Chiefs but not for M.P.s who receive an expense budget, a housing allowance and free plane flights,” he added.

“Who is the Canadian Taxpayers Federation accountable to when they’re so fast and loose with the facts and people’s reputations?” asked Chief Christian.

“BC First Nations prepare financial statements that follow Canadian generally accepted accounting principles,” said Chief Christian. “For the record, my salary as Chief of Splots’in First Nation is \$35,000 and my expenses are \$5,000. This is in our annual band audit for all of our band members to see,” he added

“Being unfairly targeted with biased statistics isn’t constructive,” said Chief Christian. “The issues of accountability and transparency are of paramount importance to our Chiefs and communities and I will continue to advocate for their primacy in First Nations governance and business,” he added.

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