

Posted on Voice of Women website 2013 01 19

Friends: please write to the PM – pm@pm.gc.ca and the Governor General at info@gg.ca and urge them to meet with Chief Spence. There is absolutely no reason why they could not go together to her tepee and let her know they have heard her message. We need to make it politically impossible for them to do anything else. Imagine them letting her die! We can't let it happen. So please read the message below from Christian Peacemaker Teams, and other links, and please act in support.

We share an urgent message regarding Chief Spence: time is running out.

Native News Network posted a report, earlier this evening, naming an unnamed source, Chief Spence is reportedly experiencing low blood sugar, dizziness, a slow heart beat and chest pains:
<http://www.nativenewsnetwork.com/pleas-to-top-canadian-officials-urged-on-chief-spence-behalf.html>

You will note those interviewed urge people to again contact the Prime Minister and Governor; their contact information is contained within the article.

We understand and acknowledge there are an array of opinions and thoughts as to whether she should continue. The Aboriginal Justice Team stands by her decision to continue:
<http://cpt.org/cptnet/2013/01/15/aboriginal-justice-reflection-attawapiskat-audit-not-issue>

Should she decide to end her fast, we will give thanks to Creator God for her, her stand, her courage and steadfastness.

We are saddened and dismayed with the ridicule and judgments thrown at Chief Spence, from multiple places, from so many people, regarding the type of fast/ "methods." The author of the next article we provide is a writer and academic of Mississauga Nishnaabeg ancestry. From the article: "Fish broth. It carries cultural meaning for Anishinaabeg. It symbolizes hardship and sacrifice. It symbolizes the strength of our Ancestors. It means survival. Fish broth sustained us through the hardest of circumstances, with the parallel understanding that it can't sustain one forever. We exist today because of fish broth. It connects us to the water and to the fish who gave up its life so we could sustain ourselves. Chief Spence is eating fish broth because metaphorically, colonialism has kept

Indigenous Peoples on a fish broth diet for generations upon generations. This is utterly lost on mainstream Canada, as media continues to call Ogichidaakwe Spence's fast a "liquid diet" while the right winged media refers to it as much worse." <http://dividednomore.ca/2013/01/16/fish-broth-fasting/>

For those struggling with, or know of people struggling with the team's decision to stand by Chief Spence, we submit this article for consideration and to quote from it: "Listening to people on the margins, and to those with differing perspectives, can be an act of courage. Seek out opportunities to listen in person, as well as to learn through media. Many of us live in communities where relationships can be built through schools, community spaces, and outreach ministries. We can all learn and acknowledge who are the original peoples of the land that we live, work, and worship on." <http://www.cpj.ca/en/content/living-covenant-people-christian-response-idle-no-more>

Finally in Chief Spence's own words, posted January 15th:
<http://www.hashilthsa.com/news/2013-01-15/letter-chief-theresa-spence-jan-15#.UPatru-WHeU.twitter>

We conclude with Isaiah 58:6: "Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?"

Shalom, Chris Sabas on behalf of AJT

[Pleas to Top Canadian Officials Urged on Chief Spence Behalf - NativeNewsNetwork](http://www.nativenewsnetwork.com)
www.nativenewsnetwork.com