STATEMENT ON THE CHARGE OF CLAYTON KENNEDY

On March 26, 2014, the Council of the Attawapiskat First Nation was informed by the Nishnawbe-Aski Police Service that the First Nation’s former co-manager, Clayton Kennedy, had been charged with one count each of fraud over $5,000 and theft over $5,000.

This is a very serious matter, as the First Nation entrusted Mr. Kennedy to handle funds on behalf of the Members of the Attawapiskat First Nation for the delivery of specific services for community members.

The Council of the Attawapiskat First Nation has committed to cooperate in any and all ways possible as this matter proceeds through the courts.

It was the Attawapiskat First Nation that referred the matter to police for investigation, after an internal investigation was conducted.

This is obviously a challenging time for the family and community members of Attawapiskat’s Chief Theresa Spence, as Mr. Kennedy is her common-law spouse. Chief Spence, has recused herself from any involvement or discussion of this issue whatsoever, as she has done since Mr. Kennedy’s employment was first considered in 2010.

Council’s obligations are clear: it is committed to the effective and transparent management of all funds entrusted to it for the use and benefit of Attawapiskat’s members and community.

Council will continue to cooperate fully with the legal process.

As this matter is now before the courts, Council will have no further public comment.

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