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For Immediate Release

National Day of Action: Rally at MP Chuck Strahl's Office

The Sto:lo Tribal Council is holding a May 29th. National Day of Action Rally at Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon MP Chuck Strahl's Constituency Office, #102-7388 Vedder Road, Chilliwack.

“The rally will show our solidarity with the Assembly of First Nations. We want it understood that our concerns for our communities are real and that we demand both the federal and provincial governments to work with us to improve the lives of our children. Only two weeks ago, separate Auditor General's reports issued in both Ottawa and Victoria were highly critical of Indian & Northern Affairs handling of services to children and families. The report says that while only eight per cent of children in BC are aboriginal, they make up 51 per cent of children in government care. By any measure, this is an indictment of the status quo. It's up to us to tell government things need to change and soon”, said Grand Chief Doug Kelly of the Sto:lo Tribal Council.

Tribal Chief Tyrone McNeil says that the rally on May 29th “offers aboriginal people living both on and off-reserve in the Fraser Valley a peaceful yet forceful way to tell both Indian & Northern Affairs Canada and the Ministry of Children & Family Development know exactly how they feel about fighting for their children in the courts and finally losing them to foster homes. The treatment our families get is often shocking and our people are right to demand improvements. The rally we have planned is for everyone, the off-reserve, the Métis and First Nations. We encourage everyone to bring their children to the rally”.