

## Historic Signing of IGR Licensing Agreement

The Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) is pleased to announce that Indigenous Gaming Regulators (IGR) has reached an agreement with the Province to begin licensing and regulating on-reserve charitable gaming in Saskatchewan.

The Licensing Agreement allows IGR to license and regulate on-reserve charitable gaming including bingo, breakopen tickets, raffles, Texas Hold' em poker, Monte Carlo (mock casino) events and table games at SIGA casinos. All licences issued by IGR



FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph and Minister Deb Higgins signing IA

The agreement, effective April 1, was negotiated between IGR and the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA).

FSIN Chief Lawrence Joseph stated "This agreement is a significant first step toward asserting First Nation jurisdiction. We want to continue to move toward full and complete regulatory control over our gaming industry. When there is political will, you can work within existing legislation to achieve your goals."

In February 1995, the Province entered into a Gaming Framework Agreement (GFA) with the FSIN that, among other things, stated that the Province would prescribe a First Nation organization as the exclusive authority to issue on-reserve charitable gaming licences. This commitment was reaffirmed in the 2002 Gaming Framework Agreement.

must be regulated and controlled in accordance with the *Ordonn e Code of Canada* and the Licensing Agreement. Previously, only SLGA could license charitable gaming in Saskatchewan.

We are pleased to be here today to help celebrate this milestone with IGR," said Deb Higgins, Minister Responsible for SLGA. "Government is proud of what we have achieved with our First Nations partners and looks forward to working with the FSIN as we continue to fulfill all requirements of the Gaming Framework Agreement." Groups licensed for charitable gaming through IGR will be eligible to receive a grant equal to 25 per cent of the net proceeds raised through those charitable gaming activities, just like charities licensed through SLGA.