



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMC Grand Chief calls for a stop to acts of vandalism and online racism

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba - The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief Arlen Dumas is calling for a stop to the acts of vandalism taking place around the City of Winnipeg, as well as the offensive and racist comments and remarks directed at people participating in solidarity actions in support of First Nations rights.

The AMC was informed this morning by the RCMP that a number of buildings were vandalized, including the constituency office of Minister Dan Vandal, the RCMP D Division Headquarters, and the Canadian Human Rights Museum. As well, the AMC was informed of various racist comments and threats being posted on media outlet websites and various social media sites after another rally was announced for Winnipeg today.

AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas says, “we strongly urge the people supporting the Hereditary Chiefs of the Wet’suwet’en Nation to protest peacefully and, if they are responsible, refrain from vandalizing public property. I understand the range of increased tensions from confrontations and arrests, to hostilities and racist empowerment and abuse directed to First Nations in mainstream media and over social media networks that may lead to people acting out in this way. But the onus is on us as First Nations people to continue to demonstrate in the ways of our ancestors and leaders before us. To push against the system in a way that is honourable and respectful. Desecrating the RCMP memorial that was erected in memory of Constable Dennis Strongquill, an Indigenous man who dedicated his life to protecting the people of Manitoba and making our communities safer is unacceptable. It is uncalled for to disgrace his memory and others in this fashion.”

“Vandalizing government offices and buildings will serve only to further divide citizens and further perpetuate the racism that we are encountering today. We call upon our allies to help inform people of the issues surrounding the protests of the Hereditary Chiefs opposition to the proposed Coastal GasLink project. It is only through peaceful demonstrations and accurate information that we are able to garner public support for the issue before us. As for the individuals calling for violence against these peaceful demonstrators, there is no room in this world for that kind of hatred or ignorance. We urge you to become learned about what these solidarity actions are about. Finally, I urge mainstream media outlets to turn off or shut down their comments sections for the stories they publish on First Nations, to not encourage further threats of harm to First Nations citizens,” concluded Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.

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About the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

The AMC was formed in 1988 by the Chiefs in Manitoba to advocate on issues that commonly affect First Nations in Manitoba. AMC is an authorized representative of 62 of the 63 First Nations in Manitoba with a total of more than 151,000 First Nation citizens in the province, accounting for approximately 12 percent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho / Ininew (Cree), Anishininew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.