



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 24, 2020

**The AMC urges Provincial and Federal Governments to do more for renters**

**Treaty One Territory, Manitoba** – The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief, Arlen Dumas, urges the Manitoba and federal governments to offer more help for First Nations and other renters. He is calling for an immediate moratorium on rent payments and utilities such as hydro, for three months (until at least June 2020) for those on social assistance, who are laid off, and for those who are living below the poverty line.

Earlier this week, Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister announced a freeze on rent increases and non-urgent evictions in response to the effects of COVID-19. Dumas says that does not go far enough.

“In this unprecedented time of a pandemic, developing responsible and effective public policy requires balancing the interest of everyone. First Nations people and others who rent in Winnipeg, and throughout Manitoba, are severely affected by COVID-19. I am hopeful the Premier makes a further announcement to provide some real relief for renters. If Manitoba refuses to act, the AMC also calls on the Trudeau government to take leadership and invoke the Emergencies Act to properly and responsibly deal with the pressing needs of First Nations people and communities.”

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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), Anishinew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.