



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AMC expresses sincere condolences on the passing of Vince Fontaine**

**Treaty One Territory, Manitoba** – The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) issues this statement on the passing of Vince Fontaine, founder member of the internationally renowned Juno award winning band, Eagle and Hawk.

AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas stated, “It is with great sadness that we offer our condolences to the family, friends, and citizens of the Sagkeeng First Nation on Vince’s unexpected and sudden death. This is such a tragic loss as he was a musical beacon and a cultural ambassador for First Nations throughout North America and throughout the world.”

For more than 30 years, Vince Fontaine has been at the forefront of Indigenous music making in Canada. He was a guitarist, songwriter, music builder/producer, festival curator/organizer/artistic director, film director and entertainment business owner. He was also one of Canada’s most highly celebrated Indigenous composers.

“Not only did he give of his heart in the songs he wrote, but he did it by supporting so many community events and causes. He never said no when it came to helping Indigenous people but he did so quietly.” stated Grand Chief Dumas.

As President and founder of his entertainment company Rising Sun Productions, Inc., Fontaine was dedicated to representing and advancing the careers of future generations of Indigenous talent.

“His passion for the music industry was propelled by his conviction to share the beauty and importance of First Nation culture. Every aspect of his art, his creativity and his community advocacy connected people. When you saw that hat, everyone’s face lit up. I am so sorry he has left this earth. He will be greatly missed. Again, my condolences to all that loved him’ concluded Grand Chief Dumas.

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**For more information, please contact:**

Stacia Franz

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

**Email:** [sfranz@manitobachiefs.com](mailto:sfranz@manitobachiefs.com)

**Phone:** 204- 292-1504

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