



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manitoba Teachers’ Society: Another Failing System For Our Children and Families

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba - The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is alarmed to hear that educators responsible for the care and well-being of children in the education system, have been convicted of sexual offenses - and even more upsetting, are being protected in Manitoba.

“As a parent, it is disheartening to hear that teachers, whom we lend the utmost trust with our children, are being protected by the union of the Manitoba Teachers Society,” stated Grand Chief Arlen Dumas. “We expect a level of care and well-being for our children when they are in the school system trying to get their education. The fact that the union and provincial government are protecting criminals from the public shows a double standard in our society. Parents and the general public have a right to know if a person who is providing a service to their children, is criminally charged with an offense.”

During the Residential School era, from 1870 to 1996, children were spirituality, physical, mentally, and sexually abused systematically. Survivors continue to share their personal stories of their experiences during their years at Residential Schools, where they encountered extreme trauma and cultural genocide. At the time, every adult involved and responsible for enforcing these traumas, were always protected and never charged for their actions. Grand Chief Dumas stated, “Yet again, we see another system failing our children. We see social workers, educators, and police officers who partake in criminal activity getting a slap on the wrist and at times, getting away with their actions. But when our First Nations families make a mistake, they are scrutinized.” He concluded, “We have these service providers jumping to conclusions and calling in social services to apprehend First Nations children. You see firsthand in the education system, health system and other institutions, how they have failed First Nations. We need to start calling out such double standards to ensure people are held accountable for their actions.”

Shockingly, Manitoba is one of the only provinces that does not release disciplinary records of teachers to the public; therefore, there is no transparency about such records, and these teachers continue to not be held accountable for their criminal transgressions.

“We need as a society to ensure that all service providers are equally held accountable for their actions, and the government needs to be transparent with the public,” continued Grand Chief Dumas. “At AMC, the Executive Council of Chiefs, and the Chiefs Committee on Education are driven by resolutions to ensure the protection of our children. We ask that the Manitoba Teachers’ Society to do the same and take heed of this dire matter, to take affirmative action on making internal changes in order to protect students across Manitoba.”



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
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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 per cent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho / Ininew (Cree), Anishininew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate