



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AMC DISAPPOINTED BY THE CITY OF WINNIPEG'S TREATMENT OF HOMELESS COMMUNITY

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 15, 2019 - The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has learned about the City of Winnipeg's plans to remove homeless camps and needles.

It is a disappointing state of affairs to see Winnipeg ravaged by the drug epidemic. AMC is deeply concerned that if the city removes these homeless camps, Winnipeg could potentially make it harder for the homeless population to receive help for addictions or mental health. Actions like these may further marginalize them.

"Societies are judged by how the less fortunate are treated. To hear that this is the living conditions of Winnipeg most vulnerable citizens is quite unfortunate," said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas. "At the very least both the city and the province should consider adopting safe-injection sites, or increase the amount of homeless shelters in the city.

It is important to stress that in a 2018 Winnipeg Street Census Poll, approximately 65.9% of Winnipeg's homelessness were Indigenous, with at least 2/3 of the Indigenous homeless being First Nations.

Grand Chief Dumas said. "The Bear Clan has done an excellent job protecting Winnipeg's most vulnerable. I hope the city and the province listen to them in their apprehensions about removing these homeless camps. We hope that the AMC's Eagle Urban Transition Centre are asked to assist in solving this homeless crisis, particularly given we just wrapped up a draft First Nation Homelessness Strategy with End Homelessness Winnipeg."

With First Nations are at risk of homelessness, it is extremely important that they receive the help that they deserve, rather than punish them by attempting to remove makeshift homes.

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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 (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene and Dakota people and traditions.