



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

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AMC stands with the families on the release of the Final Report into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls

Unceded Territory of the Algonquin Nation, June 3, 2019: The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief Arlen Dumas, together with AMC's Women Council, stand with the families of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls to receive the Final Report of the National Inquiry. AMC acknowledges that this day is the result of many decades of advocacy by the families seeking justice for their loved ones.

The National Inquiry released its two-volume final report today, which contains more than 230 recommendations calling on all governments to take comprehensive and coordinated action to address the crisis. The National Inquiry concluded that the crisis amounts to race-based genocide, which specifically targets Indigenous women and girls. Grand Chief Dumas said: "This genocide has been empowered by colonial structures, evidenced notably by the Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, residential schools, and breaches of human and Inuit, Métis and First Nations rights, leading directly to the current increased rates of violence, death, and suicide in Indigenous populations."

Grand Chief Arlen Dumas stated: "It is important to acknowledge the many First Nation family members and survivors from Manitoba who had the courage, strength and determination to share their painful truths with the National Inquiry. It was their long journey to seek justice for their loved ones that Canadians will now know the dark truth about Canada's targeted genocide against Indigenous women and girls and the steps needed to address the crisis."

"Colonization goes beyond historic land dispossession, stolen resources and the failure to live up to Treaty obligations, but includes the denial of inherent, Aboriginal and treaty rights today. A fundamental shift in the relationship between First Nations and Canada is required to end the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Federal, provincial and municipal governments must take full responsibility for their roles in the laws, policies and practices that have denied Indigenous women and girls their basic human rights, which served to both create this crisis and allowed it to continue," said Pine Creek First Nation Chief Karen Batson, a member of the AMC Women's Council.

"The AMC will review the report in more detail in the coming weeks. The AMC fully supports the recommendation for the immediate implementation and full compliance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, including recognition, protection, and support of Indigenous self-governance and self-determination. This includes what the report recommended to amend the Constitution to bring it into conformity with UNDRIP to ensure full implementation of inherent, Aboriginal and treaty rights and title. First Nations women's voices must be centered in the decolonization of the nation to nation relationship and lead the national action plan to address the crisis. AMC will work side by side with the families and First Nations women leaders to work on a more just relationship with the federal, provincial and municipal governments moving forward," concluded Grand Chief Dumas.

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.

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