



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

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Over half of First Nations children live in poverty in Manitoba

Treaty One Territory, MB. – The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is demanding action from the federal and provincial governments following a study that confirms over half of First Nations children live in poverty.

“It’s unacceptable that over half of First Nations children in this province are living in socioeconomic conditions that are not comparable to the rest of the population. This should be considered a crisis,” said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.

According to a new study by the Assembly of First Nations and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 47 per cent of First Nations children who live both on and off reserve live in poverty. The poverty rate for children living on reserve is roughly three times the national rate reported in 2016. In Manitoba, the study found that 62 per cent of First Nations children were living below the poverty line, compared with 15 per cent among non-Indigenous children in Manitoba.

“The poverty we see today is a result of chronic underfunding and the intergenerational effects of being denied our lands, our culture and our traditional ways of life. First Nations children are suffering as a result of a colonial system that was imposed on us generations ago and it’s time we respond in a meaningful way. If Canada is truly in an era of reconciliation, it needs to take its responsibility seriously of making right the wrongs of the past. If we make the proper investment in our children today it will pay dividends for generations to come,” said Grand Chief Dumas.

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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 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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