



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

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AMC stands in solidarity with the Mauna Kea land protectors

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba _ The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) offers its support to the Indigenous people of Hawaii who are opposing the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea. As a way of showing support, the AMC is joining with First Nations demonstrators who have gathered at the Manitoba Legislature to draw attention to the crisis.

A consortium led by Caltech and the University of California plans to build the Thirty Meter Telescope, towering 18 stories high on Mauna Kea, Hawaii's tallest mountain. The plans for construction have not addressed the concerns of the Indigenous people of Hawaii, who see this mountain as sacred. Thousands of land protectors have been gathering at the base of the mountain where a human blockade has been formed to cease construction.

"The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs offers its support to the Elders and land protectors in Mauna Kea," said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas. "The traditional and ancestral lands of each Nation must be respected. No person, organization or government entity has the right to develop on the sacred mountain of Mauna Kea without the free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous people who have lived on these lands for thousands of years. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs honours the resilience of the land protectors and sends them strength as they continue to exert their sovereignty and protect Mother Earth."

In Winnipeg, First Nations supporters have been gathering at the Manitoba Legislature for a four-day event which includes a sacred fire, prayers and a pipe ceremony that will draw attention to the crisis at Mauna Kea and the larger struggle of Indigenous rights and the legacy of colonialism.

"We commend the organizers of this four-day event at the Manitoba Legislature," says Grand Chief Arlen Dumas. "We need to continue to support our brothers and sisters at Mauna Kea as they continue their fight against the impacts of colonialism that is affecting their freedom to protect their environment and cultural way of life."

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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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