



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **AMC condemns Andrew Scheer's racist and insensitive comments in recent debate**

**Treaty One Territory, MB.** \_ Grand Chief Arlen Dumas and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) are outraged at Progressive Conservative Andrew Scheer's disrespectful use of the words "hold hostage" when discussing Indigenous peoples and the implementation of United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in a recent debate of federal party leaders. Mr. Scheer noted that the implementation of UNDRIP would block and "hold hostage" natural resource projects that affect the livelihood of Canadians.

"Mr. Scheer's comments are an affront to our First Nations and our citizens who significantly contribute to the Canadian economy," **said AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.** "First Nations have an inherent right to control the lands they have long lived and worked on, and UNDRIP is a key tool to ensure that our rights are upheld and respected by the Canadian government. It is incredibly disappointing that one of the party leaders who wants to represent Canada holds this discriminatory view and outlook of UNDRIP and of First Nations people. Citizens of this country should be very wary of supporting any party candidate who does not respect and understand the sovereign and Treaty rights of First Nations people in Manitoba or Canada."

The federal leader debate was held on Thursday September 12, 2019 in Toronto by Maclean's and CityTV. Bill C-262 - the legislation to enact UNDRIP in Canada, a bill put forward by NDP MP Romeo Saganash, did not pass through the Senate this spring following opposition from Conservatives worried of legal consequences. Mr. Scheer continues to defend his statement.

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### **About the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) represents 62 First Nations in Manitoba including the Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene and Dakota people.

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