



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMC opposes the Trudeau government's decision to seek judicial review in the decision to compensate First Nations children

Treaty One Territory, MB. _ The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is dismayed by the breaking news of the federal government's decision to challenge the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) order to compensate First Nations children who were harmed by the child welfare system.

Today, the Attorney General of Canada filed an appeal of the compensation order and asks that the order be canceled.

On September 6, 2019, the CHRT ordered the federal government to pay the maximum amount allowable under the Canadian Human Rights Act to compensate First Nations children, youth and families harmed by the child welfare system due to Canada's discriminatory implementation of Jordan's Principle. The CHRT ordered the federal government to pay \$40,000 to each child apprehended from homes and communities under the on-reserve child welfare system, and also compensate some of the parents and grandparents of children who were apprehended.

Today the Trudeau government made the decision to appeal the CHRT order. The federal Conservative Party already indicated that, if elected, they would judicially review the decision. Only the federal NDP and Green Party indicated they would honour the compensation amount.

"AMC is outraged by the actions of the Trudeau government today," **said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.** "The decision today speaks to the lack of concern the federal government has for the children and families who have been harmed by a broken child welfare system that's been imposed on them."

"Whatever the motive for this appeal, no government should turn a blind eye to the damage they have inflicted on children or withhold the compensation that is rightfully theirs," **said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas.** "This decision during the election campaign period should inform voters on the real position the federal Liberal Party takes with First Nations children. It should also inform voters in the various ridings of the candidate who made this decision to appeal the CHRT order, including Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Indigenous Services Canada Minister Seamus O'Regan and Minister of Justice and Attorney General David Lametti."

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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 / Ininew (Cree), Anishinew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.

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