



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 13, 2019

AMC supports the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council's Declaration of a State of Emergency following devastating winter storm

Treaty One Territory, MB. _ Grand Chief Arlen Dumas and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) are supporting the Interlake Reserves Tribal Council's (IRTC) declaration of a State of Emergency following the disastrous winter storm this weekend. The six First Nations of IRTC - Dauphin River First Nation, Kinonjeoshtegon (Jackhead) First Nation, Lake Manitoba First Nation, Little Saskatchewan First Nation, Peguis First Nation, and Pinaymootang First Nation - have been without Hydro power for days, leaving citizens stranded with no heat or access to clean water, food, and fuel.

AMC is working together with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Province of Manitoba, and the Canadian Red Cross in coordinating efforts to evacuate residents of the IRTC Nations, beginning with the Elders, children, and people with life-threatening health conditions. Grand Chief Arlen Dumas has also made the federal ministers aware of the immediate need for response from all departments.

The Province of Manitoba has declared a State of Emergency for Manitoba Hydro efforts only – a step that allows extra resources to be allocated to restoring power in Manitoba, including bringing extra help from Hydro One in Ontario. Hydro crews are working round-the-clock to bring service back to all of Manitoba, but it may be days before full service is restored in all areas.

“The policies of ISC and the province to evacuate our people from our Nations after the 72-hour mark is unacceptable”, **says AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas**. “This policy may work in an urban setting where alternative resources are available, but it does not work in our remote communities. People have been without heat and water for days, including babies and children. We need to get them help immediately. All available resources need to be coordinated quickly and without delays from ISC and the province – these are peoples’ lives we’re talking about.”

The Red Cross has begun evacuations of vulnerable people and is in the process of setting up a temporary warming shelter at the RBC Convention Centre, and a registration/distribution centre at the Holiday Inn Express Winnipeg on Ellice Avenue. The Red Cross will also be opening up a call centre for evacuees and families to access resources and information in the coming days.

AMC will continue to provide regular updates and information for our citizens on our social media platforms.

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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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