



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

For immediate release

November 13, 2019

AMC honours the memory of Helen Betty Osborne

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba - Grand Chief Arlen Dumas and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs join the Osborne family and friends in honouring the memory of Helen Betty Osborne. Forty-eight years ago today, Helen was murdered at only 19 years of age. Helen left her First Nation of Norway House Cree Nation to continue her education and pursue her dream of becoming a teacher. It took sixteen years for justice to be served for the family. The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry determined the death of Helen was a brutal expression of violence, racism, and sexism. Forty-eight years later, violence against First Nation women and girls is still happening.

“We acknowledge this day as significant,” said **Grand Chief Arlen Dumas**. “We join with the family of Helen Betty Osborne as we commemorate the day she was taken from us. It is her memory and the memory of other First Nations women who faced the same acts of violence that has allowed this issue to come to the forefront of discussions across our country. Sadly, there has been little action, as we’ve seen in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.”

“Today First Nations continue to be victims of acts of horrific violence directed at our children, women and girls,” said AMC Women’s Council Chairperson **Chief Francine Meeches** of Swan Lake First Nation. “The AMC Women’s Council will continue to advocate for MMIWG and call on all levels of government to immediately implement the Calls for Justice outlined in the final report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. Manitoba First Nations will continue to lead the way in reclaiming our traditional jurisdictions and protecting First Nations women and girls.”

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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.