



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2019

AMC APPLAUDS BC FIRST NATIONS GAMING REVENUE SHARING WITH THE PROVINCE OF BC

Treaty 1 Territory, Manitoba – AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas acknowledged the work of the BC First Nations leadership in reaching a recent gaming revenue sharing agreement, and the BC NDP minority government’s support of provincial legislation that provides BC First Nations with a 7 percent share of net gaming revenue.

Grand Chief Arlen Dumas said, “We respect the advocacy work of the British Columbia First Nations in holding their provincial government to account on the promises that have been made. We also commend the commitment to reconciliation that the BC Legislature has shown by passing provincial legislation in support of the revenue sharing arrangement.”

Projected revenues going to BC First Nations have been reported to be \$100 million a year or \$3 billion over 25 years. The gaming revenue sharing will allow First Nations in B.C. to invest in services and infrastructure such as child care, housing, road upgrades and economic development to improve the overall health of their citizens. Similar revenue sharing agreements have been made in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Currently, there is no such agreement in place for First Nations in Manitoba.

Grand Chief Dumas added, “The Manitoba government continues to operate in the past, neglecting prior commitments made to First Nations citizens. We call on the Manitoba government to engage with First Nations on this important file for the well-being of First Nations and all Manitobans.”

The AMC has long called for the province to honour its promises on gaming with First Nations. The 2018/19 gaming revenues in Manitoba amount to \$335 million. First Nations leadership in Manitoba have consistently called on the Province that First Nations be a consideration in the distribution of the proceeds. Despite those efforts, First Nations continue to be excluded from conducting gaming activities in sustainable markets, and have so far been excluded from the recently announced gaming review by the province.

Grand Chief Dumas concluded, “First Nations in Manitoba endure harsh socioeconomic conditions as a direct result of the oppressing policies enforced by the provincial government. At the recent AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly on Gaming last month, the Chiefs were clear: First Nations must be treated fairly in the area of gaming. While the AMC had to initiate a lawsuit as a direct result of Manitoba’s refusal to work collaboratively and honour what has been promised, we continue to call on Manitoba to engage in meaningful discussions with First Nations in the area of gaming.”

For more information, please contact:

Andrew Thunder

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Email: athunder@manitobachiefs.com

Phone: (204) 987-4139

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.