



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs  
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 16, 2019**

**AMC GRAND CHIEF ARLEN DUMAS RESPONDS TO MINISTER OF CROWN-INDIGENOUS RELATIONS & MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES MANDATE LETTERS**

**Treaty One Territory, Manitoba** – Following the release of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s mandate letters issued on December 13, 2019, regarding the Federal government’s priorities affecting First Nations citizens, Grand Chief Arlen Dumas stated that he “remains confident that the Assembly is ideally positioned to work collaboratively with the Federal government on First Nations issues.”

In response to the Prime Minister’s statement that, “There remains no more important relationship to me and to Canada than the one with Indigenous Peoples” and the commitment to ensure all mandated objectives are “dealt with in a timely and responsible manner,” Grand Chief Dumas affirmed that he holds, “an appreciation that infrastructure takes time.” Yet, he emphasized that, “at the minimum, we want our First Nations families, children, and Elders to have their basic human rights respected rather than pushed aside. Our people need to be prioritized and action needs to be expedited.”

Although pleased that Jordan’s Principle has been mandated as a priority, Grand Chief was quick to add that, “Jordan’s Principle is a good example of a solution that came out of necessity.”

“The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs is willing to work with the Federal Treaty partners of our region and will continue to hold Ministers accountable. We welcome the Honourable Ministers Carolyn Bennett, Marc Miller, and Dan Vandal to have more than a conversation with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs; and to commit to an immediate and concrete action plan based on the turn-key solutions that the AMC has set forth. We have the mechanisms and the wherewithal, to affect change.”

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Andrew Thunder

Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

**Email:** [athunder@manitobachiefs.com](mailto: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 / Inineu (Cree), Anishinew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.*