



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AMC joins Pictou Landing First Nation in celebrating Nova Scotia Premier decision to end the polluting of their traditional fishing and hunting activities

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba – AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas acknowledges Nova Scotia Premier Stephen McNeil on his decision to close down the Northern Pulp mill to avoid continued pollution affecting Pictou Landing First Nation.

Today Premier McNeil announced that the province will honour the Nova Scotia Boat Harbour Act. This Act requires Northern Pulp to stop pumping affluent into Boat Harbour by January 31, 2020.

“The decision made by Premier McNeil was the right one,” said Grand Chief Arlen Dumas. “It sends a statement of respect to First Nations citizens and communicates the Nova Scotia government’s willingness to honour commitments made to address environmental concerns.”

This afternoon’s statement follows three days of public silence as stakeholders anticipated a decision on whether an amendment would be made to the Boat Harbour Act. With hundreds of jobs at stake, the premier faced a difficult decision to either shut down the mill or grant more time for the company to develop plans to operate in an environmentally sound manner. Today’s announcement included a commitment of a \$50-million transition fund to help workers affected by the decision.

Grand Chief Dumas said, “Premier McNeil’s principled and just decision made today affecting Pictou Landing First Nation sets an exemplary standard to meet with his colleague premiers. Indeed, Manitoba Premier Brian Pallister should follow a similar path toward reconciliation as it relates to dealing with the environment and climate change. In Manitoba, action can be taken on effluent polluting waterways that impact First Nations’ rights, including the City of Winnipeg, as a creature of provincial statute, from discharging sewage into Lake Winnipeg.”

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