



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 20, 2019

AMC ALARMED WITH REPORTS OF POTENTIAL STATE-SANCTIONED VIOLENCE AGAINST WET'SUWET'EN ACTIVISTS IN BC

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba - Grand Chief Arlen Dumas of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) expressed alarm and concern on recent media reports that the RCMP was prepared to use lethal force on Wet'suwet'en people who have been defending their ancestral lands from devastating effects of resource extraction.

In an exclusive article published by The Guardian on December 20, 2019, documents on RCMP strategy described a militarized raid at the Wet'suwet'en blockade in northern BC. This included a plan to maintain a "lethal overwatch", to "use as much violence toward the gate as you want" and to "sterilizing the site."

Grand Chief Dumas stated, "All First Nations and Canadians should be concerned of such State-sanctioned planned militarized violence. This form of State violence is happening to Indigenous peoples around the world. It is disheartening to know that even in Canada, this same type of planned violence is still being considered against First Nations."

"AMC stands in solidarity with our Wet'suwet'en brothers and sisters," continued Grand Chief Dumas. "We also stand in solidarity with all First Nations who seek and act to protect and defend their homelands with unjust and unfair resource extraction measures. We call on Prime Minister Trudeau to publicly condemn this planned violence, and to commit that such planned violence will not be supported by Canada. We encourage you to work with the Wet'suwet'en, and any other First Nations, when they seek to protect their homelands and rights."

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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.