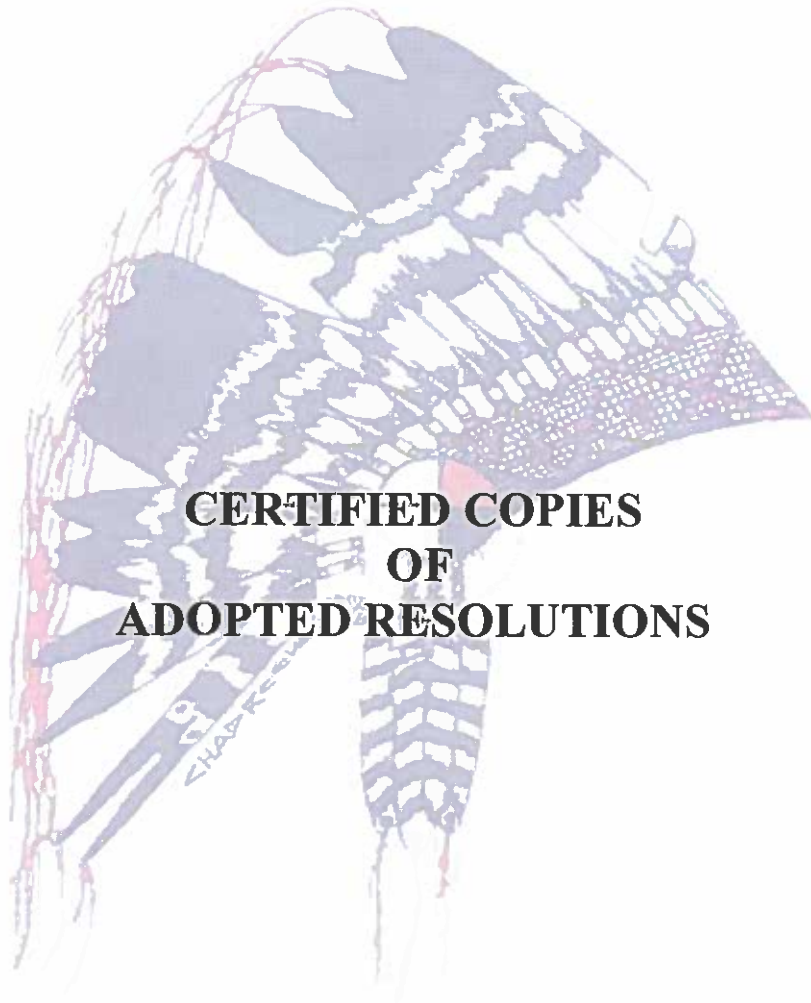


ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS CHIEFS ASSEMBLY



CERTIFIED COPIES OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
General Chiefs Assembly
Canad Inns Destination Centre Club Regent Casino Hotel
1415 Regent Avenue West, Winnipeg, MB
April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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APR-24.01	Amendments to AMC's Constitution regarding the Two-Spirit and LGBTQIA+ Council
APR-24.02	Amendments to AMC's Constitution regarding Notice for Amendments to the AMC Constitution
APR-24.03	Action Plan for Honouring and Implementing Treaties
APR-24.04	First Nations Language Rights: Education K-12 and Post-Secondary
APR-24.05	Establishment of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Ethics Council
APR-24.06	Amendment to Resolution Oct-23.11 – Regional Governance Structure for First Nations Early Learning and Child Care
APR-24.07	Memorandum Of Understanding Between the AMC and Canada on the Regional Implementation of Jordan's Principle
APR-24.08	Support for First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba Turtle Team
APR-24.09	Political Solidarity in Addressing Canada's Approach to Funding First Nations in Manitoba
APR-24.10	Taxation of First Nations and their Citizens
APR-24.11	Support For the Affirmation of Name, Language and Sovereignty: St. Theresa Point Ansinew Nation
APR-24.12	Bill C-223 An Act to Develop a National Framework for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income
APR-24.13	Proposed Amendments to the Provincial Child and Family Services Act Impacting First Nations Jurisdiction

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APR-24.01
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RE: AMENDMENTS TO AMC'S CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE TWO-SPIRIT AND LGBTQQIA+ COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is governed by its Constitution, which was adopted on September 1994, and last amended on October 17-19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, at the Annual General Assembly on October 25-27, 2022, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution OCT-22.01 RE: *Inclusion and Support of Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+* which supported the establishment of a formal Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ Council, and directed the AMC Secretariat and Governance Renewal Committee to develop proposed amendments to the AMC Constitution to establish this new Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly agree to amend the Constitution as follows (removed words are struck through with a line ~~like this~~, and additional words indicated as underlined):

Constitution of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Revise Article 5.2 as follows:

Subsidiary committees of instruments that are necessary or required, may be established by the Manitoba Chiefs-in-Assembly.

The Council of Elders
Grandmothers Council
Women's Council
Two-Spirit and LGBTQQIA+ Council

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**RE: AMENDMENTS TO AMC'S CONSTITUTION REGARDING THE TWO-SPIRIT
AND LGBTQQIA+ COUNCIL (Cont'd)**

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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Seconded by: Chief David Monias
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

CARRIED

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APR-24.02
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RE: AMENDMENTS TO AMC'S CONSTITUTION REGARDING NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE AMC CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is governed by its Constitution, which was adopted on September 1994, and last amended on October 17-19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Article 22.2 of the AMC Constitution requires that notice of any amendments to the AMC Constitution must be in writing and given to Chiefs of the member First Nations of the AMC at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to an Annual Assembly or any General Assembly. Notice of amendments to AMC's Constitutions must include specific information on the proposed amendments; and

WHEREAS, the thirty (30) calendar day notice period is dated, unnecessary, and cumbersome with the advancement of communication technology.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly agree to amend the Constitution as follows (removed words are struck through with a line like this, and additional words indicated as underlined):

Constitution of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

Revise Article 22.2 as follows:

Notice of amendments must be in writing and given to Chiefs of the member First Nations of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs at least ~~thirty (30)~~ fourteen (14) calendar days prior to an Annual Assembly or any General Assembly. Such notice must include specific information on the proposed amendments.

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of a resolution adopted
on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB



Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Cornell McLean
Lake Manitoba First Nation

Seconded by: Chief David Monias
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

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RE: ACTION PLAN FOR HONOURING AND IMPLEMENTING TREATIES

WHEREAS, Article 3 of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Constitution identifies the mandate of the AMC is through the Chiefs-in-Assembly, to among other things, to promote, preserve, and protect Aboriginal and Treaty rights for First Nations in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, the AMC stands committed to protecting the Treaty rights and interests of First Nations, and to creating solutions that actively advance reconciliation, First Nations sovereignty and nationhood, as evidenced by the numerous resolutions passed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly that have mandated a number of areas that continue to fail to honour treaties and to implement them, including: an implementation committee, a Treaty Commission process; a Treaty implementation strategy, and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, the honouring of treaties holds profound spiritual significance for First Nations, representing not only legal agreements but sacred covenants made with the Creator. These treaties are seen as binding agreements between Nations that reflect a spiritual bond and mutual respect for the land, its resources, and all living beings. Upholding treaties is a fundamental aspect of maintaining harmony and balance within the natural world, ensuring the spiritual well-being of present and future generations. It is a commitment to walking the path of righteousness, guided by traditional teachings and ancestral wisdom, and honouring the interconnectedness of all life forms; and

WHEREAS, according to Article 26 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP), First Nations have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired; and the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired; and States shall give legal recognition and protection to these lands, territories and resources, conducted with due respect to the customs, traditions and land tenure systems of the First Nations concerned; and

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RE: ACTION PLAN FOR HONOURING AND IMPLEMENTING TREATIES (cont'd)

WHEREAS, Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) states the implementation of UNDRIP as a key step in renewing the Government of Canada's relationship with First Nations as indigenous peoples, yet Canada's UNDA Action Plan only has one measure related to pre-1975 treaties with Action Plan Measure 2.2 that identifies the co-development of approaches for the renewal and honourable implementation of those treaties and relationships. This is despite the fact the Action Plan has a complete chapter dedicated to "Indigenous Modern Treaty partner priorities" and that Canada has negotiated a treaty with the Manitoba Metis Federation and other Metis organizations; and

WHEREAS, First Nations in Manitoba have occupied and exercised their rights in their traditional territories since time immemorial and have entered into Treaty relationships with the Crown, yet the Crown has failed to implement its Treaty promises which has resulted in many First Nations in Manitoba failing to receive their entitlement to reserve lands and other benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Canada has failed to hold the Crown accountable for breaches of Treaty, as evidenced by the recent decision in *Shot Both Sides v. Canada*, where the Court upheld a provincial limitation period barring the Kainai Nation from accessing just remedies for Canada's failure to provide the reserve land promised under the terms of Treaty. Instead, the Court issued declaratory relief – a declaration of judgment, with no consequential remedy; and

WHEREAS, the Crown's reliance on provincial legislation is inconsistent with the Nation-to-Nation relationship between First Nations and the Crown, is contrary to UNDRIP, perpetuates breaches of Treaty, and is contrary to the Attorney General of Canada's Directive on Civil Litigation Involving Indigenous Peoples; and

WHEREAS, the AMC has participated as an intervener at the Supreme Court of Canada in numerous important cases affecting the Treaty rights of AMC member First Nations, advocating the recognition of Treaty rights and First Nations laws, but the Supreme Court of Canada has never made a ruling that is aligned with AMC's positions.

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RE: ACTION PLAN FOR HONOURING AND IMPLEMENTING TREATIES (cont'd)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly recognizes that there is a need for AMC member First Nations move away from the current federal government's emphasis on program delivery and policy, focusing instead on fortifying alliances, unifying, and having a renewed understanding of the sacredness of the treaties with an emphasis on ceremony and invoking of their spiritual meaning. To support this approach, the AMC will organize and host an honouring treaties gathering in August 2024.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly designate the AMC as the regional coordinating First Nation organization responsible for the implementation of the UNDA Action Plan Measure 2.2, and the AMC will work with AMC member First Nations and their treaty groups, as well as all regional First Nations organizations, to co-develop and co-draft with Canada a government-wide approach for honouring treaties that is not done on an individual basis by each federal department.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the establishment of a director dedicated to advancing the Treaty rights of First Nations in Manitoba, that includes the following:

1. Based on the foundation that as Treaty partners, First Nations and the Crown have an existing Nation-to-Nation relationship; and
2. Recognition that First Nations laws and perspectives are advanced alongside, and not subordinate to Canadian laws and perspectives; and
3. Recognition and rectification of the Crown's post-Treaty unilateral shift to authoritarian, which has disadvantaged First Nations and forced them into a position of dependency; and
4. Acknowledgement that colonial institutions such as courts, tribunals and other decision-making bodies are established by the Crown, and developed for its own benefit; and
5. Recognition of the sovereignty of First Nations in Manitoba while ensuring strength through collective action.

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RE: ACTION PLAN FOR HONOURING AND IMPLEMENTING TREATIES (cont'd)

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief's Office and Secretariat to support this Treaty rights body through the following activities:

1. Fundraise through methods such as donations, grants, fundraising events, and online fundraising campaigns; and
2. Strategic legal advocacy and litigation on behalf of AMC member First Nations citizens, groups or Nations; and
3. Research and assess the impact of test cases through collaboration with legal experts, scholars, and Chiefs to develop legal strategies; and
4. Strategic advice for First Nations seeking Treaty implementation outside of Canadian institutions; and
5. Secure and facilitate a cabinet directive for Treaty implementation tables for AMC member First Nations including through UNDA Action Plan Measure 2.2; and
6. Advocacy efforts to shape policies and legislation that impact First Nations, by lobbying Parliament and government agencies.

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of a resolution adopted
on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Derek Nepinak
Pine Creek First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

CARRIED

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

APR-24.04
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RE: FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE RIGHTS: EDUCATION K-12 AND POST-SECONDARY

WHEREAS, First Nations have entered Treaties with representatives of the Crown, during which representatives of the Crown made promises regarding the right to education for First Nations citizens, and in 1971, the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (MIB), drew attention to the systemic failings of education for First Nations education caused by Canada's assimilation policies in *Wahbung: Our Tomorrows*. This foundational policy included ensuring the continuation of our languages for Seven Generations into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), through the Chiefs-in-Assembly, is mandated to protect First Nations' inherent rights to language and education to promote, preserve, and protect Aboriginal and Treaty rights for First Nations in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly has passed numerous resolutions over the years concerning languages, including *Manitoba First Nations Languages* (Language Strategy) (AMC Resolution MAY-00.02), *AMC to take a lead Role in Revitalizing First Nations Languages in Manitoba* (OCT-11.13), and *Manitoba First Nations Language Revitalization Strategy* (OCT-18.03); and

WHEREAS, Articles 13 to 15 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) address First Nations' language rights, including the right to revitalize, use, develop, and transmit their languages, establish and control their own educational systems and institutions providing education in their own languages, and states, including Canada, should take effective measures to ensure First Nations of all ages have access to education in their own culture and provided in their own language; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the parliament of Canada passed the *Indigenous Languages Act*, purportedly recognizing that section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* includes "rights related to Indigenous languages." However, this Act fails to identify any specific First Nations language rights or provide mechanisms for their enforcement. The language rights of Canada's official language minorities (English in Quebec, and French outside of Quebec), on the other hand, are clearly defined and enforceable since they were adopted in the *Constitution Act, 1982*; and

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RE: FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE RIGHTS: EDUCATION K-12 AND POST-SECONDARY (cont'd)

WHEREAS, Canada's *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (UNDA) states that the implementation of UNDRIP is a key step in renewing the Government of Canada's relationship with First Nations as Indigenous peoples, and the Government of Canada's Action Plan Measures 1.91 and 1.92 states it will work with First Nations to review and consider proposed amendments to strengthen the *Indigenous Languages Act* pursuant to the independent review process, and continue establishing measures to facilitate the provision of adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of Indigenous languages through ongoing implementation of the *Indigenous Languages Act*.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC as the regional First Nation organization to lead the implementation of the UNDA Action Plan Measures 1.91 and 1.92, and for the AMC to co-develop with Canada a regional approach by working with AMC member First Nations and all regional First Nation organizations to amend and strengthen the *Indigenous Languages Act*.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Secretariat to review and revise the strategy mandated by AMC Resolution OCT-18.03 *Manitoba First Nations Language Revitalization Strategy* and provide an update back the Chiefs-in-Assembly in the fall of 2024.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC's approach to the amendments to the *Indigenous Languages Act* include:

1. established measures to facilitate the provision of adequate, sustainable and long-term funding for the reclamation, revitalization, maintenance and strengthening of the languages of AMC member First Nations; and
2. enforceable language rights and a duty to fund First Nations language programs; and

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RE: FIRST NATIONS LANGUAGE RIGHTS: IMMERSION EDUCATION K-12 AND POST-SECONDARY (cont'd)

3. the co-development and co-drafting of a comprehensive First Nations language policy for AMC member First Nations that focuses on First Nations language instruction on reserve and off-reserve.

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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief EJ Fontaine
Sagkeeng First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Vera Mitchell
Poplar River First Nation

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RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS ETHICS COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), through the Chiefs-in-Assembly, is mandated to promote, preserve, and protect Aboriginal and Treaty rights for First Nations in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs passed a motion on April 11, 2024, requesting that emergency amendments be made to the AMC's Constitution regarding ethics to be proposed and addressed at the next scheduled Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Appendix E to the AMC Constitution contains the *Policies and Procedures for Elected and Appointed Officials*. This policy outlines a code of conduct for AMC representatives, which includes the AMC Regional Chief, the Chiefs-in-Assembly, anyone elected or appointed to an AMC Committee or Council, AMC board or entity, or any other board or entity representing the AMC. It also outlines disciplinary action that may be taken against AMC Representatives; however, there is no mechanism in this policy to restrict a Chief's attendance at an AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Article 5(2) of the AMC Constitution identifies that subsidiary committees or instruments can be established by the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly as necessary or required.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly supports the establishment of an Ethics Council and directs the AMC Secretariat to develop proposed amendments to the AMC Constitution to establish this new Council and provide notice to the Chiefs-in-Assembly so that it can be considered at the next Chiefs-in-Assembly.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ethics Council shall consist of representatives of AMC member Chiefs, appointed by the Executive Council of Chiefs. The Ethics Council shall be separate from the existing AMC Councils but shall regularly meet with the Elders Council for advice and guidance. The Ethics Council shall not hear complaints from AMC staff, First Nations citizens, or the general public. The mandate of the Ethics Council shall be solely to address concerns of AMC member Chiefs.

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RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS ETHICS COUNCIL (cont'd)

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ethics Council shall have the following responsibilities:

1. **Policies and Procedures:** develop comprehensive ethical guidelines tailored to the specific needs of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, including any proposed amendments to the Policies and Procedures for Elected and Appointed Officials included as Appendix E to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Constitution.
2. **Provide Ethical Guidance:** serve as a resource for AMC member Chiefs seeking guidance on ethical matters, dilemmas, conflicts of interest, or assistance in resolving conflicts.
3. **Address Ethical Concerns:** establishing procedures for receiving and addressing ethical concerns raised by AMC member Chiefs. AMC member Chiefs can submit concerns related to unethical behaviour, violations of ethical guidelines, or other ethical issues to the Council for investigation and resolution.
4. **Recommendations and Recourse:** the Ethics Council will make recommendations for resolving issues including, mediation, disciplinary measures, referral to external authorities, and recommendations to Chiefs-in-Assembly. This Council will ensure fairness, transparency and due process in handling ethical matters.

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of a resolution adopted
on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Seconded by: Chief Heidi Cook
Misipawistik Cree Nation

CARRIED

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APR-24.06
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**RE: AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION OCT-23.11 – REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE FOR FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE**

WHEREAS, at the General Chiefs Assembly on October 17-19, 2023, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed Resolution OCT-23.11.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly amends this resolution as follows (removed words are struck through with a line ~~like this~~, and additional words indicated as underlined):

WHEREAS, Canada has identified priority funding for First Nations education and the transfer of control to First Nations, and includes Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC). The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs has always been consistent: that AMC First Nations must be in control of funding for their citizens. Indigenous Services Canada has a strategic priority to transfer control of First Nations services to First Nations; and

WHEREAS, AMC Resolution JUL-19.09 *Manitoba First Nations Early Child Care Framework Strategy* recognized the ongoing work of the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) to assist in the development of a Regional Coordinating Structure for ELCC and for the AMC Secretariat to flow ELCC funding allocations to AMC member First Nations; and

WHEREAS, in August 2019, leadership appointed nine members, representing the five language groups, from the First Nations ELCC community to form an Advisory Committee for First Nations Early Learning and Child Care (FNELCC). The FNELCC Advisory Committee initiated ELCC planning through a two-year community consultation process with hundreds of representatives of the FNELCC community, including representation from leadership, education and health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly agree to create a Regional Management Organization for the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc. that will disperse funding to First Nations, and provide guidance, accountability, and resource/program support, coordination, training, capacity building, and regional strategic planning.

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**RE: AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION OCT-23.11 – REGIONAL GOVERNANCE
STRUCTURE FOR FIRST NATIONS EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE
(cont'd)**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly approve the recommended establishment of a the First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc. Regional Management Organization, and appoint the FNELCC Advisory Committee as the interim Board of Directors an advisory committee of the newly established Regional Management Organization, First Nations Early Learning and Child Care Secretariat and that the Board advisory committee report to the newly established Chiefs Committee on Early Learning and Child Care.

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of a resolution adopted
on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Vera Mitchell
Poplar River First Nation

Seconded by: Chief David Monias
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

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**RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AMC AND CANADA
ON THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE**

WHEREAS, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UN Declaration) states:

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity (Article 2).

Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group Article 7(2)).

Particular attention shall be paid to the rights and special needs of indigenous elders, women, youth, children and persons with disabilities in the implementation of this Declaration (Article 22 (1)).

States shall take measures, in conjunction with Indigenous peoples, to ensure that indigenous women and children enjoy the full protection and guarantees against all forms of violence and discrimination (Article 22 (2)).

WHEREAS, Jordan River Anderson, a Norway House Cree Nation citizen, was born on October 22, 1999, with complex medical needs. After living the first two years in the hospital, his doctors determined he could live with his family. However, the federal and provincial governments did not agree on who would pay for the medical services. Tragically Jordan River Anderson died in a hospital, never having lived at home with his family. In honour of the memory of Jordan River Anderson and with respect to his family and First Nation, the Assembly of Manitoba (AMC) supported the call for a “child first principle” to resolve detrimental jurisdictional disputes, and to be termed “Jordan’s Principle”; and

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**RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AMC AND CANADA
ON THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE (cont'd)**

WHEREAS, Jordan's Principle was initially conceived as a child-first principle designed to ensure that First Nations children do not experience denials, delays, or disruptions of needed services due to jurisdictional disputes between governments or government departments. These disputes arose because of the complex, colonial structure of services for First Nations people. Over time, and as a result of numerous Canadian Human Rights Tribunal rulings, Jordan's Principle was expanded to address gaps in services for First Nations children and to meet their needs without compounding historical disadvantages; and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2017, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs reviewed and approved the Keewawin Engagement Manitoba First Nations Child and Family Services (CFS) Reform and Jordan's Principle Implementation Reports, including their recommendations. These recommendations included a work plan to advance the reform of the FNCFS Program and the implementation of Jordan's Principle, both of which will be overseen by the Women's Council; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the AMC and Canada have co-drafted a *Memorandum Of Understanding ("MOU") between Assembly Of Manitoba Chiefs as represented by its Grand Chief ("AMC") and His Majesty The King In Right Of Canada as represented by the Minister Of Indigenous Services Canada ("Canada")*. The MOU represents an effort between the AMC and Canada to work together to ensure First Nations children in Manitoba receive the support they need, in alignment with Jordan's Principle. It demonstrates a commitment to addressing systemic issues and working toward a more equitable approach to service delivery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chiefs-in-Assembly agreed to enter into the *"Memorandum of Understanding between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs as represented by its Grand Chief "AMC" and the Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs ("Canada") and Minister of Indigenous Services ("Canada")* and authorize the AMC Grand Chief to sign it on behalf of the AMC with the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada.

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**RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE AMC AND CANADA
ON THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE (cont'd)**

CERTIFIED COPY
of a resolution adopted
on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Betsy Kennedy
War Lake First Nation

Seconded by: Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

CARRIED

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APR-24.08
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**RE: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECRETARIAT OF
MANITOBA TURTLE TEAM**

WHEREAS, a First Nations-led approach to emergency management and preparedness is necessary to ensure effective emergency support services for First Nations, to mitigate the harms that evacuees experience and to improve their wholistic health and social outcomes (inclusive of language, spirit, mind, body, and emotion); and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has long-standing mandates and directives across various areas from the Chiefs-in-Assembly to implement First Nations-led approaches and mechanisms to support emergency preparedness and emergency management; and

WHEREAS, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the provincial government implemented the Emergency Measures Act (EMA) in March 2020 which identified five priorities including administration, emergency preparedness, emergency response, disaster assistance, and general provision. The Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) was established within the administration function of the EMA; and

WHEREAS, the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs (ECC) passed several motions on March 13, 2020, calling for a state of emergency for each First Nation in Manitoba, the creation of a Pandemic Response and Coordination Team (PRCT) consisting of First Nation health professionals and First Nation organization representatives to work with federal and provincial partners in responding to and monitoring First Nations needs throughout the pandemic to inform First Nation leadership and others. Furthermore, for the PRCT to be housed at the AMC Secretariat and directing all other AMC-mandated entities to assist with the Response Centre; and

WHEREAS, the AMC led a collective of First Nations organizations including the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO), Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO), Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoyawin Inc. (KIM), First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba (FNHSSM), and the Red Cross to establish the PCRT to coordinate First Nations-led, culturally appropriate emergency pandemic response planning and support; and

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**RE: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECRETARIAT OF
MANITOBA TURTLE TEAM (cont'd)**

WHEREAS, the AMC ECC passed a resolution on January 28, 2024, directing the Grand Chief to meet with Indigenous Services Canada and the Canadian Red Cross immediately to discuss the transition of Emergency Management to enhance capacity in First Nations in the area of emergency management supports and emergency management planning; and

WHEREAS, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution MAY-23.09 *Establishment of a First Nations Emergency Management Model* that directs that the First Nations model for emergency management encompasses all aspects of emergency management services such as firefighting, overland flooding, and other natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the FNHSSM is a First Nations entity mandated by the AMC responsible for providing regular updates to the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs (ECC), and its membership consists of AMC member First Nations; and

WHEREAS, the FNHSSM established the Turtle Team to provide care and support to First Nations in COVID-19 Alternative Isolation Accommodations and emergency support services to First Nations flood and fire evacuees, and due to piecemeal funding has been operating as a temporary initiative; and

WHEREAS, the FNHSSM Turtle Team is an existing First Nations-led model and provision of wraparound services that are culturally safe, and inclusive of First Nations-led endeavors. The success of the Turtle Team is in line with First Nations-led efforts to transition to a First Nations emergency management model, and has the potential to become a permanent program that provides emergency assessment, response planning, and implementation support of Emergency Social Services to First Nations experiencing an emergency and/or evacuation; and

WHEREAS, the FNHSSM is seeking support for the FNHSSM Board of Directors and FNHSSM Turtle Team, *Business Plan: Turtle Team 5-Year Program Proposal* to secure permanent funding and continue its work to support First Nations in emergency support and intermediary services.

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**RE: SUPPORT FOR FIRST NATIONS HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECRETARIAT OF
MANITOBA TURTLE TEAM (cont'd)**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the FNHSSM efforts to secure permanent long-term funding for the Turtle Team to continue providing emergency assessment, response planning, and implementation support of emergency services to First Nations in Manitoba who are experiencing an emergency and/or evacuation.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the FNHSSM Turtle Team be an integral part of the First Nations emergency management service model identified in the AMC resolution MAY-23.09 and work with the AMC Secretariat and regularly report back to the Chiefs-in-Assembly on its progress.

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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Sheldon Kent
Black River First Nation

Seconded by: Chief David Monias
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

CARRIED

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RE: POLITICAL SOLIDARITY IN ADDRESSING CANADA'S APPROACH TO FUNDING FIRST NATIONS IN MANITOBA

WHEREAS, Canada's budgetary process is a critical tool in shaping the nation's future and each year Canada announces plans to spend resources for the coming months and years; and

WHEREAS, this process is marred by a glaring omission: the exclusion of First Nations treaty partners. As the backbone of Canada's history and identity, these partnerships and nation-to-nation agreements demand inclusion and respect in budget discussions, budget preparations, Treasury Board submissions, and decisions; and

WHEREAS, in March 2023, Canada unilaterally announced the Indigenous Health Equity Fund (IHEF), a 2 billion dollar over 10-year announcement which for Manitoba amounts to a 25 million dollar a year allotment for First Nations. These resources are intended to address health disparities and further improve access to culturally safe healthcare services for First Nations people in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, for the past year, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) through their regional First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) was to work with their various First Nation partners to develop regional plans for this funding that was to be announced in Budget 2024, and despite numerous resolutions passed by the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly to work on health transformation, health services integration and anti-racism initiatives, the AMC Secretariat and the AMC Grand Chief Office were excluded from participating in said discussions by the ISC-FNIHB regional office as part of this regional coordinated approach; and

WHEREAS, the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch intentionally failing to engage and consult in a true and meaningful way demonstrates FNIHB's non-compliance with the principles outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, particularly to undertake meaningful consultations, foster respectful partnerships, and secure the free, prior, and informed consent of First Nations before moving forward on any initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the AMC, comprised of 62 member First Nations, will continue to demonstrate its commitment to political unity and collaborative decision-making processes by establishing meaningful partnerships through resolutions such as the "Feb-12.06 "Political Unity Accord on Health" and "Feb-24.03 "Strategic Plan on Unity," emphasizing the importance of collective approaches; and

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RE: POLITICAL SOLIDARITY IN ADDRESSING CANADA'S APPROACH TO FUNDING FIRST NATIONS IN MANITOBA (cont'd)

WHEREAS, it is no longer acceptable for Canada to develop budgets and processes that lack transparency and collaboration, allow federal bureaucrats to create their own vision for said funding with their selective and arbitrary methods, and allow said bureaucrats both regionally and nationally to continue to intentionally roadblock political unity amongst First Nations in the Manitoba region when it comes to new funding announcements; and

WHEREAS, the AMC has already begun the necessary communication with Canada and the province to initiate a tripartite agreement based on mandates given by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief to advocate to both levels of Government, in all its capacities, on behalf of First Nations in Manitoba to:

- (1) henceforth respect and uphold the authority of the Chiefs-in-Assembly, recognizing them as the primary decision-making bodies within their respective First Nations, and shall refrain from engaging in any actions that undermine their authority or disregard established protocols; and
- (2) acknowledge and renew the AMC's mandate from Resolution NOV-17.01 *Canada – First Nations Fiscal Relations* to facilitate the development of a regional fiscal relations table to develop a new fiscal relationship between Canada and AMC member First Nations and complete the work previously initiated.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct Canada, to address their oversight by failing to include the AMC in the distribution of the Manitoba specific IHEF funding, to provide adequate funding to the AMC through national IHEF funding for addressing systemic inequities on behalf of all First Nations in Manitoba; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Grand Chiefs of AMC, MKO, SCO and AO to work together to ensure equitable funding distribution of the regional IHEF funding; and

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**RE: POLITICAL SOLIDARITY IN ADDRESSING CANADA'S APPROACH TO
FUNDING FIRST NATIONS IN MANITOBA (cont'd)**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support the Grand Chiefs office to work with their respective First Nation partners to initiate a co-development process that will develop options to ensure that the responsibility of funding distribution is transferred to the First Nations within Manitoba, essentially eliminating the need for the regional ISC-FNIHB office.

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Winnipeg, MB



Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Angela Levasseur
Nisichawayisihk Cree Nation

Seconded by: Chief Sheldon Kent
Black River First Nation

CARRIED

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RE: TAXATION OF FIRST NATIONS AND THEIR CITIZENS

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) asserts that it is inappropriate for Canada or Manitoba to impose taxes on First Nations, their businesses, and their citizens, in recognition of the sovereignty of AMC member First Nations; and

WHEREAS, this position has been consistently upheld by the Chiefs-in-Assembly through various resolutions including: JAN-07.12, *Taxation of First Nation Corporations Situated on Reserve Lands*, where the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to engage with the province of Manitoba to ensure that First Nations' entities be considered exempt from provincial taxation statutes; and JAN-07.13, *GST & PST Exemption*, where the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief to negotiate the exclusion of all First Nation people from the imposition of PST and GST in Manitoba, and AUG-04.02, *Re-Claiming Federal and Provincial Taxes Imposed on First Nations*, where the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to launch an official protest against the imposition and collection of taxes on First Nations and demand the return of all illegally collected taxes to First Nations, their citizens, and First Nation property, lands, and businesses, among others; and

WHEREAS, the government of Manitoba has issued a "fuel tax holiday" between January 1, 2024 to September 30, 2024. The result of this fuel tax holiday has been a substantial loss of revenue for First Nations on-reserve gas stations, as all sellers of gasoline and diesel can apply for a fuel tax refund that is usually only provided to sellers of on-reserve retail fuel sold to "Status Indians" and "Bands" under the *Indian Act*; and

WHEREAS, in Ontario, status cards can be used on or off reserve to save the provincial portion of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST) at the point-of-sale, or First Nations with status cards can apply for an HST rebate through the province. However, in Manitoba, a province with one of the highest populations of First Nations citizens, point-of-sale exemptions to the Retail Sales Tax (RST) off-reserve do not exist, despite the fact that the entirety of what is now the province of Manitoba is First Nations territory; and

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RE: TAXATION OF FIRST NATIONS AND THEIR CITIZENS (cont'd)

WHEREAS, Premier Wab Kinew has appointed himself as the minister responsible for reconciliation with First Nations. The provincial NDP party promised to accelerate economic reconciliation, to examine how the provincial government could implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and to respect the nation-to-nation relationship, yet no changes to *The Retail Sale Tax Act* or engagement with First Nations on the effects of the fuel tax holiday on First Nations have a priority for the provincial government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Grand Chief to advocate for fair and equitable tax policies that uphold First Nations rights and sovereignty engage the federal and provincial governments to:

1. emphasize the importance of respecting the sovereignty of AMC member First Nations and to demand immediate action towards exempting First Nations, their businesses, and their citizens from taxation unlawfully imposed by Canada or Manitoba; and
2. co-develop and co-draft policies and legislation and their effect on First Nations directly or indirectly, including Manitoba's fuel tax holiday; and
3. address the lack of consultation with First Nations on the imposition of Manitoba's fuel tax holiday and that there be discussions on compensation for the loss of income to First Nations.

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of a resolution adopted
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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Maureen Brown
Opaskwayak Cree Nation

Seconded by: Chief Betsy Kennedy
War Lake First Nation

CARRIED

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RE: SUPPORT FOR THE AFFIRMATION OF NAME, LANGUAGE AND SOVEREIGNTY: ST. THERESA POINT ANSININEW NATION

WHEREAS, prior to the signing of Treaty #5, the Island Lake Adhesion, St. Theresa Point Band and its peoples from three sites, together occupied its ancestral lands, had title to those lands, and exercised jurisdiction over every sphere of its Nation's lives. The Nation was independent, and it did not merely survive, it thrived; and

WHEREAS, Article 3 of the *United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* states: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly support the attached Statement by Chief and Council of St. Theresa Point Ansininew Nation in declaring its official name as St. Theresa Point Ansininew Nation, affirming its language as Ansininimowin.

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on April 30, May 1 & 2, 2024
Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Proxy Councillor Vernon Wood,
Proxy
St. Theresa Point Ansininew Nation

Seconded by: Chief Betsy Kennedy
War Lake First Nation

CARRIED

**STATEMENT BY CHIEF and COUNCIL
of ST THERESA POINT ANSININEW NATION
to the
THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS**

THE GATHERING OF THE NATIONS FROM MANITOBA IS TIMELY, TIMELY BECAUSE, TODAY, ON BEHALF OF CHIEF RAYMOND FLETT, WE WANT TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

ST. THERESA POINT BAND, THAT BECAME KNOWN AS ST. THERESA FIRST NATION HENCEFORTH WILL BE KNOWN AS ST. THERESA POINT ANSININEW NATION. OUR LANGUAGE IS NOT OJI-CREE, IT IS ANSININIMOWIN.

PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF TREATY #5, THE ISLAND LAKE ADHESION, OUR PEOPLES FROM THREE OTHER SITES, WE, TOGETHER OCCUPIED OUR ANCESTRAL LANDS, WE HAD TITLE TO OUR LANDS, WE EXERCISED OUR JURISDICTIONS ON EVERY SPHERE OF OUR LIVES. WE WERE TOTALLY INDEPENDENT, WE DID NOT SURVIVED, WE THRIVED.

BE IT VERY CLEAR, WE NEVER EXTINGUISHED, SURRENDERED OR IN ANY WAY TERMINATED OUR CREATOR GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY TO BE WISE AND CARING STEWARDS OF ALL OUR ANCESTRAL LANDS.

SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY #5 ADHESION, SETTLER GOVERNMENTS, FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL HAVE CONTINUOUSLY ERODED, SUPPRESSED AND DISMANTLED OUR CREATOR GIVEN INSTITUTIONS. AFTER HUNDRED YEARS OF OCCUPATION BY THE CROWN UNDER COLONIAL MEASURES, WE ARE BARELY SURVIVING. THROUGHOUT THESE PAST HUNDRED YEARS, WE HAVE SEEN MUCH POVERTY, WE HAVE COUNTLESS PREMATURE AND UNTIMELY DEATHS, WE ARE SADDENED EACH DAY WITH THE VIOLENT DEATHS, SUICIDES OF OUR YOUTH. WE ARE CHALLENGED WITH DRUGS AND ADDICTIONS.

THIS IS THE INDICTMENT OF THE HUNDREDS OF YEARS OF COLONIAL SUPPRESSION. COLONIAL AND CROWN RELATIONS HAVE TRAGICALLY FAILED ST. THERESA POINT ANSININEW NATION. THE FUTURE, UNDER SUCH RELATIONS IS NOT PROMISING; THEREFORE, ST THERESA POINT ANSININEW NATION WILL NOW AND HAS COMMENCED TO LEARN AND WALK THE PATHWAYS OF OUR GRANDFATHERS AND GRANDMOTHERS. OUR ANCESTORS WALKED AND TALKED UNDER ANSININEW SOVEREIGNTY.

WE NEVER RELINQUISHED OR SURRENDERED OUR SOVEREIGNTY. THE SPIRITS OF OUR ANCESTORS HAS ONLY STIRRED IN OUR LIVES, IN OUR HEARTS OF THE LONGING TO HAVE THE TOTAL RIGHT TO DECIDE AND THE RIGHT TO CONTROL OUR OWN DESTINY.

WE DO NOT ASK COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS AND THEIR INSTITUTIONS TO GIVE PERMISSION. WE ARE NOT ASKING FOR PERMISSION. ALL WE ASK COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS IS TO RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE ANSININEW PEOPLES. IF THEY SHOULD DECIDE TO CONTINUE THEIR OWN COLONIAL PATHWAYS, THEN, RECONCILIATION IS NOT ACHIEVABLE. WE WILL WALK THE ANCESTOR'S PATHWAY.

BE IT KNOWN TO CANADA AND MANITOBA, NOTHING LESS THAN FULL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OUR INHERENT ANSININEW OKIMAWIN WILL SUFFICE; THEREFORE, YOU MUST NOW WALK WITH US, IN ORDER FOR OUR ANSININEW NATION RECONCILIATION TO BE ACHIEVED.

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**RE: BILL C-223 AN ACT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A
GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME**

WHEREAS, AMC has expressed support for initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and advancing the human rights of First Nations peoples including advocating for comprehensive policy reforms to combat poverty within First Nations, with a specific focus on income assistance; and

WHEREAS, the AMC has passed the following resolutions: MAR-16.02 *First Nation Income Assistance Policy in Manitoba Region* the AMC recognized the impacts of the unilateral imposition of colonial income assistance policies on First Nations; APR-17.07 *Parity of On-Reserve Income Assistance and On-Reserve Foster Care Rates*, the AMC acknowledged the elevated poverty rates experienced by First Nations children on reserves and underscored the urgent necessity to formulate a robust poverty reduction strategy, which includes bolstering income assistance provisions; and JAN.2020-02 *Canada's On-Reserve Income Assistance Program Policy*, wherein the AMC endorsed recommendations to increase service delivery program funding, increase all income assistance rates, and develop a regionally-based income assistance policy in alignment with principles of self-determination; and

WHEREAS, AMC has affirmed its commitment to the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) and recognized the impacts of colonial income assistance policies on First Nations; as such, The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (UNDRIP) was formally endorsed by the AMC by way of resolution Jul-10.01: *Adoption and Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)*; and

WHEREAS, Bill C-223 *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*, is consistent with the Calls for Justice 4.5 in the Final Report of National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS, there is a need of respecting the sovereignty and self-determination of First Nations in the implementation of basic income programs, emphasizing the need for consultation and consideration of unique cultural, social, and economic circumstances.

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**RE: BILL C-223 AN ACT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A
GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (cont'd)**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-In-Assembly endorse Bill C-223 *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income*, on the condition that it includes significant structural changes to establish genuine partnership and co-development:

1. It is essential that First Nations have an equal role in all stages of the framework's development and implementation. The framework must address First Nations food security by ensuring affordable and nutritious groceries. Specific measures should be taken to regulate and subsidize essential foods and services for First Nations, making them more accessible to First Nations citizens. Additionally, the framework must guarantee a livable income for First Nations, with special consideration given to the needs of AMC member First Nations citizens and First Nations Elders.
2. The framework must also include provisions to prevent clawbacks of Canada Emergency Response Benefits and similar payments.
3. The framework should also address the link between poverty and violence. This entails providing measures to reduce and eventually eliminate poverty, which can be achieved by ensuring access to post-secondary education to support socio-economic progress.
4. The development and administration of the framework must be led by First Nations, without interference from non-First Nations or other 'indigenous bodies.' This ensures that First Nations retain autonomy in shaping their socio-economic future.

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**RE: BILL C-223 AN ACT TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A
GUARANTEED LIVABLE BASIC INCOME (cont'd)**

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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Michael Yellowback
Manto Sipi Cree Nation

Seconded by: Councillor Vernon Wood, Proxy
St. Theresa Point

CARRIED

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT IMPACTING FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION

WHEREAS, the Chiefs-in-Assembly accepted the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Report Bringing Our Children Home in June 2014 by way of resolution (June-14.01 *Supporting Action on the recommendations presented within Bringing Our Children Home: Summary Report on the outcomes of the open citizens forum and recommendations for Leadership Consideration*) and Bringing Our Children Home identified the need to overhaul Manitoba First Nations Child and Family Services that involves and engages First Nations, and to respect First Nations jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, in November 2017, the Chiefs-in-Assembly passed resolution NOV-17.02 *Memorandum of Understanding between the AMC and Canada on Child Welfare* to develop a process to renew a Nation-to-Nation relationship, including inherent jurisdiction in the area of families and children. The MOU was signed on December 7, 2017, in Ottawa, ON; and

WHEREAS, *An Act Respecting First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children, youth and families* (Bill C-92) became federal law on January 1, 2020, affirming the jurisdiction of Indigenous groups and First Nations to enact and enforce laws on child and family services. Co-developed with Indigenous, provincial, and territorial partners, Indigenous governing bodies have two options to establish their legislation, ensuring compliance with minimum standards set by Bill C-92 for the "Best Interest of Indigenous Child" and "Provision of Child and Family Services"; and

WHEREAS, *An Act Respecting Child and Family Services* (Bill 32) received royal assent on May 20, 2023, an effort by Manitoba to align its child welfare framework with the national standards outlined in Bill C-92; and

WHEREAS, Manitoba is bringing forward further amendments to the provincial legislation that will be introduced in the Spring of 2024, and will introduce significant amendments to the following Acts:

- *The Child and Family Services Act;*
- *The Child and Family Services Authority Act;* and
- *The Vital Statistics Act.*

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RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT IMPACTING FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION (cont'd)

WHEREAS, included in the amendments are revisions to the preamble of *The Child and Family Services Act*. The revision intends to properly reflect Manitoba's efforts at reconciliation with Indigenous people while recognizing the inherent jurisdiction of distinct groups and the intergenerational effects of colonialism; and

WHEREAS, the AMC and First Nations Family Advocate Office submitted a proposal and budget on March 14, 2024, to the Minister of Families to bring First Nations Leadership together in April 2024 in a General Chiefs Assembly on Child and Family Services noting that a General Chiefs Assembly would ensure full transparency and understanding of the implications of the provincial amendments on First Nations children and families as First Nations continue the process of asserting jurisdiction and implementing their own laws, policies, and standards for child and family wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, despite the advocacy efforts of the Grand Chief, the Minister of Families responded to the proposal and budget, informing the Grand Chief of plans to host a roundtable directly with First Nations as rights holders to discuss restoring First Nations jurisdiction over child welfare, and to discuss the amendments to the provincial CFS legislation; and

WHEREAS, the AMC's mandate is to coordinate political action and technical work on common issues including to address prospective provincial amendments that encroach upon the inherent jurisdiction of First Nations concerning CFS. This action is essential as First Nations endeavor to assert jurisdiction and enact our own laws pertaining to First Nations children and families.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Secretariat to establish a First Nations-led Expert Table with representation from the Province of Manitoba and the Federal Government to discuss Child Welfare Reform efforts that affect First Nations jurisdiction and self-determination.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Women's Council to guide and oversee the establishment of a Tripartite Table, including the development of Terms of Reference, work plan, and composition.

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RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PROVINCIAL CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT IMPACTING FIRST NATIONS JURISDICTION (cont'd)

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Women's Council will provide regular reports and updates to First Nations Leadership on the progress of discussions on Child Welfare Reform.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that the province of Manitoba invite the Grand Chiefs of the AMC, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Southern Chiefs Organization, and Anishinew Okimawin to the roundtable discussion on May 13, 2024 and be active participants in the discussions.

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that any materials from the province of Manitoba including proposed Memorandum of Understandings or Declarations be sent in a timely manner for leadership to review prior to the round table discussion.

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Winnipeg, MB


Grand Chief Cathy Merrick

Moved by: Chief Heidi Cook
Misipawistik Cree Nation

Seconded by: Chief David Monias
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

CARRIED