

# **ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS CHIEFS ASSEMBLY**

## **CERTIFIED COPIES OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

***ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS***

***36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly  
WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION  
60132 MB-10, Brandon MB  
Hwy 10, 1 KM N. HWY #1***

***July 23-25, 2024***

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS**

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly  
WAYWAYSEECAPPO FIRST NATION  
60132 MB-10 Brandon MB  
Hwy 10, 1 KM N. HWY #1**

**July 23-25, 2024**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

JUL-24.01	CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF REBECCA CONTOIS, MORGAN HARRIS, MARCEDES MYRAN, MASHKODE BIZHIKI'IKWE, AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN MANITOBA
JUL-24.02	ADMISSION OF SHOAL LAKE 40 FIRST NATION AS A MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
JUL-24.03	CONDEMNING THE FUNDING CAP FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO UNMARKED GRAVES AT INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

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36<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly  
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*July 23-25, 2024*

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

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**RE: CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF REBECCA CONTOIS, MORGAN HARRIS, MARCEDES MYRAN, MASHKODE BIZHIKI'IKWE, AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN MANITOBA**

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**WHEREAS**, in response to persistent calls from families of missing and murdered First Nations women for an inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, Two-Spirit and those who identify as part of gender-diverse communities that use additional terminologies (MMIWG), the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) developed a “Families First” initiative; and

**WHEREAS**, following the refusal of the conservative provincial and liberal federal governments to initiate an inquiry, the Families First, a Made-in-Manitoba initiative, prioritized MMIWG. The resulting AMC report, “Families First – A Made-in-Manitoba Approach to MMIWG,” endorsed by AMC Resolution JUL-15.01, prioritizes families, outlines a trauma-informed, culturally appropriate, Manitoba-specific strategy, and identifies actions to prevent further tragedies; and

**WHEREAS**, through AMC Resolution JUL-19.03, among others, the Chiefs-in-Assembly, supported and endorsed the *Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*, which describes the “ongoing genocide” against Indigenous MMIWG; and

**WHEREAS**, AMC stands in strong solidarity with the families of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe, and Tanya Nepinak, in advocating for searches of Brady and Prairie Green Landfills to find their loved ones' remains. Despite the Winnipeg Police Service's (WPS) belief that the remains are in these landfills, both WPS and Manitoba refused to conduct searches. AMC Resolutions AUG-23.02 and AUG-23.07 affirm this support and demanded that Manitoba's Progressive Conservative Party Leader resign for breaching UNDRIP's assertion that Indigenous Peoples have the right to repatriate human remains. This support remains steadfast following Chief Justice Glenn Joyal's July 11, 2024, conviction of the individual responsible for the deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe; and

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**RE: CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF REBECCA CONTOIS, MORGAN HARRIS, MARCEDES MYRAN, MASHKODE BIZHIKI'IKWE, AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN MANITOBA (cont.)**

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**WHEREAS**, working with the families, the AMC drafted a resolution for the July 2024 Assembly of First Nations (AFN) 45<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly, *Call for Provincial Public and Independent Inquiry into the Deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe* that called, among others, for the First Nations-in-Assembly support for AMC in seeking a provincial inquiry and directed the AFN National Chief to write a letter to the Manitoba government to immediately establish a public and independent inquiry into the deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikew; and

**WHEREAS**, the AFN Resolutions Committee subsequently made amendments to the draft resolution which instead called on Honourable Anita Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba to establish a commission to undertake an Inquiry into the deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikew and directed the AFN National Chief Cindy Woodhouse to write a letter to the Lieutenant Governor in support of public and independent inquiry; and

**WHEREAS**, the Honourable Anita R. Neville, Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba responded that it is beyond the authority of the Lieutenant Governor to establish a commission of inquiry; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to call on the New Democratic Party government of Manitoba to establish a public inquiry and to work with the AMC to co-develop and co-draft the scope of the mandate for an Order in Council to inquire into the circumstances surrounding the deaths and fully investigate; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to expand the scope of the inquiry mandated by the AFN Resolution to include the examination of other longstanding and unresolved investigations such as that of Tanya Nepinak, whose tragic disappearance in 2011 remains unresolved and has not led to a conviction, as charges against the accused were stayed in 2013 for a lack of evidence, which leaves outstanding questions regarding the thoroughness and completeness of the investigation by the police.

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly fully support the call for an independent inquiry into the deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe identified in the AFN Resolution #08/2024 *Call for Independent Inquiry into the Deaths of Rebecca Contois, Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe*.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support expanding the scope of the mandate of the inquiry to include other unresolved investigations, such as that of Tanya Nepinak, focusing on the sufficiency of the search efforts undertaken by provincial authorities including:

- a. methodology and thoroughness of the search efforts; and
- b. protocols followed for the management and preservation of evidence; and
- c. actions and responsiveness of official parties through the investigative process; and
- d. the intersection of these issues with the crisis of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and Two-Spirit and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual Plus (2S and LGBTQQIA+) peoples, scrutinizing systemic biases have potentially influenced case outcomes; and
- e. effectiveness of communication and coordination between various law enforcement agencies and community organizations; and
- f. transparency and accountability measures implemented by the Winnipeg Police Service and the Government of Manitoba in handling these cases; and
- g. training and cultural competency of law enforcement officers in dealing with cases involving First Nations women and First Nations; and
- h. impact of media coverage on public perception and the investigative process of these cases.

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**RE: CALL FOR INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO THE DEATHS OF REBECCA CONTOIS, MORGAN HARRIS, MARCEDES MYRAN, MASHKODE BIZHIKI'IKWE, AND OTHER FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE IN MANITOBA (cont.)**

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**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the government of Manitoba to co-develop and co-draft the scope of the mandate and terms of reference for an Order in Council for the independent inquiry, including working with the AMC on the selection process for First Nations commissioners of the inquiry.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly mandate the AMC to prioritize the investigation of incidents of failures to investigate cases, as identified in Call for Justice 9.6, by initiating collaboration with the WPS and RCMP to jointly co-develop and co-draft foundational documents to establish an independent special investigation unit, and call on the province of Manitoba to support this approach.

**CERTIFIED COPY  
of a resolution adopted  
on July 24, 2024  
Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB**

  
**Grand Chief Cathy Merrick**

**Moved by:** Chief Derek Nepinak,  
Minegoziibe Anishinabe

**Seconded by:** Chief Heidi Cook,  
Misipawistik Cree Nation

**CARRIED**

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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUL-24.02*  
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**RE: ADMISSION OF SHOAL LAKE 40 FIRST NATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS**

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**WHEREAS**, the current Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Constitution grants the unqualified right for all First Nations in Manitoba to seek membership in the AMC, as stated at article 4.1: “All First Nations in Manitoba have the right to seek membership in the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. The Assembly Secretariat shall maintain a schedule of First Nation members.”; and

**WHEREAS**, on July 15, 2024, the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation, which has reserve lands that cross provincial boundaries in both Manitoba and Ontario, resolved to apply for membership in the AMC through a Band Council Resolution, and on July 16, 2024 the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs discussed the application and recommended that the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation Chief and Council be invited to present at the July 2024 AMC Annual General Assembly in order to present their request for membership to the Chiefs-in-Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the AMC’s Constitution provides no guidance on membership processes or withdrawal methods. However, Article 4.1 implies that First Nations have the unqualified right to both seek membership and withdraw from the AMC. Changes in AMC membership, such as the addition or removal of First Nations, may impact funding calculations, funding opportunities based on membership criteria, settlement negotiations and allocations, membership in extra-provincial PTOs, and negotiated agreements on behalf of member First Nations.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly will recognize Shoal Lake 40 First Nation’s request for AMC membership, pending:

1. The negotiation by the AMC Secretariat of an agreement relating to the distribution of potential entitlements including gaming and other revenues, to be reviewed and approved by the Executive Council of Chiefs; and
2. The addition of new AMC Constitutional requirements for adding new members, which will include an interim non-voting period.

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**RE: ADMISSION OF SHOAL LAKE 40 FIRST NATION AS A MEMBER OF THE  
ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS (cont.)**

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**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Secretariat to review existing revenue-sharing agreements including all gaming arrangements for current AMC members and identify necessary adjustments to ensure that the inclusion of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation does not adversely affect the financial allocation and benefits of existing member First Nations; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Executive Council of Chiefs will ensure that the revenue-sharing process is transparent, fair, and maintains the equitable distribution of resources—both existing and future—among all current AMC member First Nations, and that it does not negatively affect their own-source funding agreements and arrangements.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct AMC Secretariat to develop proposed Constitutional amendments for consideration at a General Assembly in the fall of 2024 so that the Chiefs-in-Assembly can confer membership of Shoal Lake 40 First Nation as an AMC member.

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
***of a resolution adopted***  
***on July 24, 2024***  
***Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB***

  
**Grand Chief Cathy Merrick**

**Moved by:** Chief Angela Levasseur,  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

**Seconded by:** Chief Gord Bluesky,  
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation

**CARRIED**



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*JUL-24.03*  
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**RE: CONDEMNING THE FUNDING CAP FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO  
UNMARKED GRAVES AT INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS**

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**WHEREAS**, the government of Canada has abruptly, and without meaningful consultation, imposed a severe funding cap of \$500,000.00 from an established funding opportunity of \$3,000,000.00 annually for investigations into unmarked graves at Indian Residential Schools across Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, through Resolution AUG-08.10, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Chiefs-in-Assembly resolved to negotiate with the provincial and federal governments including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission fund for adequate funding for the identification and commemoration of unmarked burial sites of our relatives who were in Indian Residential Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, through Resolution OCT-22.05, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly affirmed support for Residential School commemoration and memorialization activities; and

**WHEREAS**, the funding cap imposed is grossly inadequate and undermines the essential work required to uncover the truth and seek justice for the children who lost their lives and never returned home from Indian Residential Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Call for Action 74 of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee states: “We call upon the federal government to work with the churches and Aboriginal community leaders to inform the families of children who died at residential schools of the child’s burial location, and to respond to families wishes for appropriate commemoration ceremonies and markers, and reburial in home communities where requested” and reduction of funding is contrary to this call; and

**WHEREAS**, this decision fails to recognize the complexity and sensitivity required in these investigations, including the unique circumstances of each site, the varying costs of investigative methods, and the necessity for cultural and ceremonial practices; and

**WHEREAS**, the cap disregards the necessity for First Nations engagement, commemorations, and mental health support throughout the process, and constitutes an affront to the memory of our lost children and a blatant disregard for the ongoing trauma experienced by survivors and their families.

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**RE: CONDEMNING THE FUNDING CAP FOR INVESTIGATIONS INTO UNMARKED GRAVES AT INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS (cont.)**

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly condemn the federal government's decision to impose this funding cap and demands the immediate reversal of this decision, reinstating full, flexible funding for investigations through to 2028 according to previous Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) commitments.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly call on the federal government to engage in meaningful consultation with First Nations and survivors to develop a more appropriate funding model and reaffirm its commitment to uncovering the truth about the atrocities that occurred at residential schools.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly urge all Canadians to advocate for justice and hold the government accountable to its Treaty obligations to First Nations peoples.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Grand Chief Office to communicate the mandates of this resolution to the Minister of CIRNAC and other relevant federal government officials.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Secretariat to work with other First Nations organizations and allies to ensure proper resources are allocated for these critical investigations.

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
***of a resolution adopted***  
***on July 24, 2024***  
***Waywayseecappo First Nation, MB***

  
**Grand Chief Cathy Merrick**

**Moved by:** Chief David Monias,  
Pimicikamak Cree Nation

**Seconded by:** Chief Taralee Beardy,  
Tataskweyak Cree Nation

**CARRIED**