

GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
August 22, 23, 24, 1989

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
ASSEMBLY SECRETARIAT**

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Winnipeg, Manitoba  
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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 10/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

**Chief Rod Bushie  
Hollow Water First Nation**

WHEREAS it is apparent that the current Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs' structure of Chiefs' Committees on specific issues has achieved uneven progress over the last year;

WHEREAS the effectiveness of some, but not all, Chiefs' Committees has been hampered by an apparent general lack of commitment, especially as evidenced by poor attendance at meetings of some of the committees;

**SECONDED BY:**

**Chief Robert Wavey  
Fox Lake First Nation**


WHEREAS the Chiefs' Committee structure remains the desired method for the Chiefs to lead, direct and participate in advancing the interests of our people on common issues between Assemblies;

WHEREAS the effectiveness of the Chiefs' Committees ultimately depends on the commitment and exercise of responsibility by each participating Chief;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT all Manitoba Chiefs re-dedicate themselves to the principle that membership on an AMC Chiefs' Committee requires absolute commitment to the responsibilities involved if we are to succeed in advancing the interests of our people.

**CARRIED**

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Resolution adopted on:  
August 22, 1989  
Winnipeg, Manitoba**

  
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**Phillip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader**

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 11/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

**Chief Louis Stevenson  
Peguis First Nation**

**SECONDED BY:**

**Chief Raymond Swan  
Lake Manitoba First Nation**


WHEREAS the various Chiefs' Committees of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs require the support and assistance of technical staff;

WHEREAS the function of the technicians would be to do the follow-up to meetings and research and formulate from positions, information for presentations and negotiations of the Chiefs' Committees with Municipal, Provincial, and Federal Governments, as well as to provide reports to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee, Provincial Leader of the AMC, and the Secretariat be mandated to hire technicians on an as-needs basis within the funds available to work for the Chiefs' Committees of the Assembly.

**CARRIED**

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**Philip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader**

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 12/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

**Chief Raymond Swan  
Lake Manitoba First Nation**

WHEREAS numerous non-native individuals and organizations have either offered their services or expressed interest in supporting the First Nations; efforts to preserve and implement Treaty and Aboriginal Rights, especially regarding the issue of post-secondary education;

**SECONDED BY:**

**Chief Harvey Nepinak  
Waterhen First Nation**

WHEREAS the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs recognizes the need and value of encouraging such external support through a more concerted effort at educating the general public on Indian issues, particularly on Treaty and Aboriginal Rights.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs hereby authorizes it's Secretariat and other interested resource groups to prepare a professional public information and media strategy, which shall include a high quality video presentation describing First Nations issues and especially Treaty Rights issues, and further to implement the strategy to increase awareness of our issues among the general public and among specific target groups.

**CARRIED**

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**Philip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader**

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

No. 13/89

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Ronald Cook  
Shoal River First Nation

WHEREAS numerous First Nations in Manitoba have been adversely affected by the forest fires in 1989;

WHEREAS large sums of monies have been expended in the suppression of these fires and the protection of individuals;

WHEREAS the Capital and O&M Budgets already are under a heavy strain;

**SECONDED BY:**

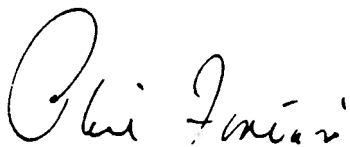
Chief Tommy Weenusk  
Oxford House First Nation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs condemn the existing federal policy to use Capital and O&M funds to cover the costs related to responding to emergencies and natural disasters;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Federal Government establish an emergency reserve or fund emergencies affecting Indian First Nations in the same manner as the rest of Canada.

**CARRIED**

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Provincial Leader**

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 14/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Raymond Swan  
Lake Manitoba First Nation

WHEREAS the Fort Churchill Dene-Chipewyan Band of Tadoule Lake, Manitoba have been severely affected by insensitive Government relocation experiments during the periods of 1951 to 1976;

**SECONDED BY:**

Chief Bill Traverse  
Jackhead First Nation

WHEREAS the Fort Churchill Dene-Chipewyan have demonstrated their courage and willingness to struggle against the disastrous affects caused by Government relocation experiments and organized an stabilized their community to address their unacceptable human conditions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs regard the Fort Churchill Dene-Chipewyan Band relocation issue as one of the most serious violations of the human rights of a First Nation people;

**CARRIED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs urge the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Province of Manitoba to ensure that discussions and action to compensate begin at once to remedy the destruction and injustice caused by the Government's relocation experiments.

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Provincial Leader

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 15/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Bill Traverse  
Jackhead First Nation

WHEREAS the First Nations of Manitoba and Canada assert that access to and control over quality education is an Aboriginal and Treaty Right;

WHEREAS the First Nations of Manitoba recognize the need to protect and advance the educational needs and rights of First Nations;

**SECONDED BY:**

Councillor Marvin McKay  
Pine Creek First Nation

WHEREAS the Chiefs of Manitoba have established the principle and practice of pursuing common priority issues for the benefit of all Native people in Manitoba;

WHEREAS the First Nations have elected a Chiefs' Committee on Education, to be assisted by a technical force composed of advisors from Native education authorities;

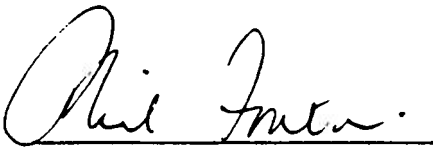
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Education is an Aboriginal and Treaty Right that cannot be unilaterally abrogated by one person, department, or government;

**CARRIED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- 1) the First Nations of Manitoba reject the Post-Secondary Student Assistance Policy that has been unilaterally and wrongly imposed by the Federal Government;
- 2) a moratorium be placed on the new post-secondary education guidelines until First Nations of Canada have been consulted and made participants in the policy formation; and
- 3) the Federal Government implement a bilateral government-to-government process to confirm First Nations' inherent right to post-secondary education.

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Provincial Leader

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 16/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Dennis Whitebird  
Rolling River First Nation

**SECONDED BY:**

Chief Wendell Sinclair  
Brokenhead First Nation

**CARRIED**

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**WHEREAS**

1) At the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak General Assembly held in Winnipeg, June 13-15, 1989, Resolution #89-06-19 was carried which supported and endorsed the establishment of the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund, and

2) The intent of the establishment of this fund is to provide the necessary financial resources to those First Nations involved in order that direct action may be taken towards settlement of the Treaty Land Entitlement issue in Manitoba, and

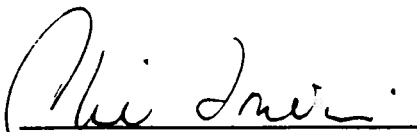
3) This Fund is to be developed through contributions from individuals First Nations and from Tribal Councils, Indian political associations and any other sources, and

4) We, the Chiefs of the First Nations of Manitoba, are committed to securing a fair resolution of the Treaty Land entitlement issue in Manitoba and view the establishment of the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund as a positive step towards reaching that objective;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

1) That we, the First Nations of Manitoba, do hereby support and endorse the establishment of the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund in order that the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee First Nations can begin to take direct action towards settlement of this most important issue;

2) That we are prepared to commit the available financial resources to the fund through commitment from individual First Nations and from any other available sources.

  
Philip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader



**APPENDIX TO #7**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The majority of the First Nations in the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak have additional land due under the terms of Treaty; and
2. These First Nations being part of the Manitoba Treaty Land Entitlement committee have been attempting to resolve the treaty land entitlement issue in Manitoba through direct negotiations with Canada and Manitoba for the past twelve (12) years; and
3. Direct negotiations with Canada and Manitoba have not resulted in the development of an acceptable settlement agreement and the TLE Committee is no closer to settlement than it was twelve (12) years ago; and
4. Canada through its recent actions and policies has indicated quite clearly that fair settlement of the TLE issue through negotiation is not a realistic possibility; and
5. It was the consensus of the First Nations who participated in the TLE Committee meeting held in Thompson on June 5, 1989 that the only viable option open to the TLE First Nations to achieve fair settlement of the issue is to utilize other forum such as the courts to force Canada to deal with the TLE issue in a real and substantive way; and
6. In order to provide the necessary financial support to pursue the option of court action relative to the Treaty Land Entitlement issue in Manitoba it was recommended that a trust fund to be called the "Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund" be established through financial contributions from individual First Nations, other Indian organizations and individuals and organizations that support this initiative by Manitoba First Nations; and
7. We the First Nations of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak are committed to securing a fair resolution of the treaty land entitlement issue and view the establishment of the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund as a positive step towards reaching that objective.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:**

1. That we, the First Nations of the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, do hereby support and endorse the establishment of the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund in order that the Treaty Land Entitlement Committee First Nations can begin to take direct action towards settlement of this most important issue.
2. That we are prepared to commit the available financial resources to the Fund through commitment from individual First Nations and from the MKO itself.
3. That the First Nations and Tribal Councils in Manitoba and Canada be requested to make any available financial contribution to the Treaty Land Entitlement Settlement Fund.
4. That the MKO table a similar resolution before the upcoming Assembly of Chiefs of First Nations in Manitoba requesting their political and financial support for the TLE First Nations in this struggle.
5. That the Treaty Land Entitlement First Nations be advised to be very selective in the determination of the case or cases to go to court for litigation.

**MOVED BY: Chief Walter Monias - Cross Lake Band  
SECONDED BY: Chief Robert Wavey - Fox Lake Band  
MOTION CARRIED**

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 17/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Robert Wavey  
Fox Lake First Nation

WHEREAS many fires during the 1989 forest fire season threatened communities and destroyed significant amounts of resources and property within traditional use areas;

WHEREAS Manitoba First Nations desire to have effective, fully trained and equipped forest fire fighting crews located in each First Nations community;

**SECONDED BY:**

Chief Larry Beardy  
Split Lake First Nation

WHEREAS the Manitoba Department of Natural Resources had expressed its concerns regarding the level of training of some First Nations communities to fight forest fires and this opinion contributed to decisions by the Department of Natural Resources to not fight fires in certain areas;


WHEREAS It is the desire and need for Manitoba First Nations to be able to adequately protect the resources and property within the traditional use areas of each First Nation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs support the creation of fully trained and equipped fire fighting crews for each Manitoba First Nation, and;

**CARRIED**

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Manitoba First Nation be provided the necessary equipment to provide an effective early response to lightning strikes and other circumstances which would threaten the resources of the traditional use areas with fire.

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

**No. 18/89**

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

**Chief Robert Wavey  
Fox Lake First Nation**

WHEREAS during the 1989 fire season, fire suppression efforts, particularly at the earliest stages, were dictated by the present provincial policies regarding the commitment of fire fighting resources, and that policy describing much of the traditional use areas of Northern Manitoba as having the lowest or no priority for fire fighting efforts, resulting in an effective "let-burn" policy;

**SECONDED BY:**

**Philip Dorion - Proxy  
The Pas First Nation**

WHEREAS during the 1989 forest fire season, several million acres of land in these lowest and no priority and resources areas where damaged or destroyed by fire;

WHEREAS it is the view of Manitoba First Nations that the governments of Manitoba and Canada did not fully recognize the importance of these lands, resources, and property to the Manitoba First Nations in terms of Treaty rights, traditional pursuits, and the economics of First Nations communities;

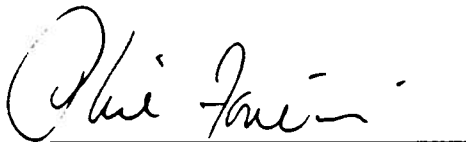
**CARRIED**

WHEREAS this massive destruction of lands, resources and property will lead to significant negative impacts to traditional pursuits, the enjoyment of Treaty rights, and livelihoods within First Nations communities;

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WHEREAS the Government of Canada has taken the position that it has no responsibility to support fire fighting efforts by First Nations communities on provincial Crown lands, even though these fires may be affecting Treaty rights;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, in concert with other Manitoba First Nations organizations, work to amend and change the fire fighting policies of the Province of Manitoba to provide significantly greater priority to lands, resources and properties of importance to First Nations communities;



**Philip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change in provincial fire fighting policy also provide an explicit role for Manitoba First Nations in fire suppression policy development, planning and fire-fighting, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this change in provincial fire fighting policy also include a role on provincial Crown lands for the Government of Canada to ensure that adequate resources, equipment and financial support is available to assist Manitoba First Nations communities in protecting their traditional lands and resources from destruction by forest fires.

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**MANITOBA CHIEFS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
RESOLUTIONS**

No. 19/89

Subject:

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**MOVED BY:**

Chief Ronald Cook  
Shoal River First Nation

WHEREAS First Nations from the Yukon to Nova Scotia responded to the emergency forest fire situation in Manitoba with offers of crews and equipment;

**SECONDED BY:**

Chief Bill Traverse  
Jackhead First Nation

WHEREAS several First Nations within Canada have developed extensive forest fire fighting training programs and experience in organizing the necessary equipment and resources to effectively fight forest fires;

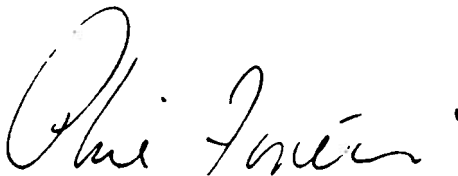
WHEREAS the low government fire fighting policy priority is a concern and problem which exists in many other jurisdictions in Canada;

**CARRIED**

WHEREAS the Provincial and Federal Governments of Canada do not fully appreciate the value of traditional lands, resources and property to First Nations communities;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs fully supports the creation of a National Indian Fire Fighting Network, and the efforts to increase the priority of traditional lands in government fire fighting policies in Canada.

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**Philip Fontaine  
Provincial Leader**