

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

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CERTIFIED COPIES

OF

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

**CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

**FORT GARRY PLACE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.01
Page 1 of 2**

Moved by:

Chief Ron Evans
Norway House First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Norman Flett
Split Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: NATIONAL ENVELOPE SYSTEM FUNDING
TO INDIAN AND INUIT HEALTH CARE**

WHEREAS, the next Liberal Government budget is expected to be announced by February 18, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the current National Envelope System imposed severe spending limitations on Medical Services Branch and Indian and Inuit health services and programs; and

WHEREAS, the current National Envelope System of has been rejected nationally; and

WHEREAS, if the next Federal Government budget reflects continued drastic and severe funding limitations, First Nations health care crisis will remain unresolved.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs take concrete and immediate realistic action to resolve the Health Care Crisis in Manitoba.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Grand Chief, Chiefs Health Committee and Health Technicians immediately implement but not limit their activity to the attached Comprehensive Action Plan Process. The Comprehensive Action Plan to be acted upon by the end of March 31st, 1997.

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.01
Page 2 of 2**

**RE: NATIONAL ENVELOPE SYSTEM FUNDING
TO INDIAN AND INUIT HEALTH CARE
(Cont'd)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That if Medical Services Branch and/or Federal government does not provide favourable response then the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs will organize a mass First Nation movement in Manitoba to show the Government of Canada that the escalating Health Crisis will not be tolerated.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 5, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

COMPREHENSIVE ACTION PLAN PROCESS

- REVIEW / ANALYZE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET (FEBRUARY 1997)
- REVIEW ROYAL COMMISSION ON ABORIGINAL PEOPLES REPORT
- REVIEW CANADA HEALTH TRANSFER ACT
- REVIEW MSB - MANITOBA REGIONAL BUDGET IMPACTS
- MONITOR THE N.I.H.B. CABINET SUBMISSION FOR THE N.I.H.B. MANDATE RENEWAL
- ANALYZE THE HEALTH CRISIS IN MANITOBA (COMMUNITIES AND OFF-RESERVE)
- ANALYZE THE MANITOBA HEALTH REFORM IMPACTS
- REVIEW THE CONCEPT OF A FIRST NATIONS HEALTH COMMISSION
- RESEARCH / REVIEW THE FAI PROCESS AS IT RELATES TO FIRST NATIONS HEALTH CARE
- INVESTIGATE MSB, DRAFT NATIONAL ABORIGINAL HEALTH POLICY
- ORGANIZE A MASS MOVEMENT TO DEMONSTRATE UNITY OF OUR PEOPLE, REGARDING THE HEALTH CARE CRISIS SITUATION

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.02

Moved by:

Chief Louis Malcolm
Ebb & Flow First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Pascall Bighetty
Mathias Colomb First Nation

RE: MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH CONTRACTS

WHEREAS, there is inadequate provision of services related to medical patient transportation and other health services in Winnipeg as follows:

1. Escort and Interpreter Services
2. Local patient transportation
3. Referral services
4. Boarding homes

MOTION CARRIED

WHEREAS, many of our First Nations concerns have not been followed up to their satisfaction; and

WHEREAS, some of these service providers are in conflict of interest with other programs;

WHEREAS, the Non-Insured Health Benefits Pilot Projects are coming on-stream as early as April 1997.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That an investigation/inquiry be done regarding all Medical Services Branch contracts that service our First Nation members in the City of Winnipeg and that all contracts which provide these services be opened for open-bidding process effective July 1, 1997.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs call on the Regional Director of Medical Services Branch, Manitoba Region to participate in a joint inquiry with the Chiefs Health Committee.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*



Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.03

Moved by:

Councillor Charles Nelson
Roseau River First Nation

RE: PHYSICIAN SERVICES

WHEREAS, There is a critical shortage of physicians in northern and rural areas in Manitoba First Nation communities;

Seconded by:

Councillor Frank Whitehead
Opaskawayak Cree Nation

WHEREAS, The Provincial government is responsible for providing primary health care services in the province including the rural and northern areas of Manitoba First Nations;

MOTION CARRIED

WHEREAS, The issue of jurisdiction is a major factor in the recruitment and retention process; this being a joint federal/provincial responsibility;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs actively support and lobby for Manitoba First Nations and other organizations in negotiations for the transfer of provincial and federal physician and primary health care resources to local and regional control;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs seek representation on the provincial physician resource committee body to actively lobby and recruit physicians for northern and rural areas to ensure that First Nation communities have equitable access to physician and primary health care services;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs lobby Medical Services Branch to advocate on behalf of Manitoba First Nations to ensure that each and every First Nation in Manitoba has access to physician services and primary health care services.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.04

Moved by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

**RE: ACCESS FOR FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE
WITH DISABILITIES TO AMC EVENTS AND
ACTIVITIES**

Seconded by:

Chief Helen Cook
Bloodvein First Nation

WHEREAS, The First Nations with Disabilities Project works to remove all physical, systemic and attitudinal barriers for First Nations with Disabilities.

MOTION CARRIED

WHEREAS, The First Nations with Disabilities Project and its Working Committee have identified the need for a policy for improved access for members with disabilities to AMC Assemblies, events and activities; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chiefs in Assembly address the need for better access ensuring unrestricted access for members with disabilities to all AMC Assemblies, events and activities.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chiefs in Assembly recommend that this policy be adopted by all First Nations, Tribal Councils, and relevant organizations so that First Nations with disabilities can have access within their own communities so that they may become equal members of society.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON HEALTH &
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT INITIATIVE
SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION
MARCH 5-9, 2001**

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CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**MAR-01.05
Page 1 of 2**

Moved by:

Proxy Ronald Moar
O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi First
Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sheldon Kent
Little Black River First
Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: PROVINCIAL REGIONAL DIABETES
PROGRAM PROCESS**

WHEREAS, Manitoba Health (under the Province) is in the developmental stages of working towards implementing the recommendations from their- Manitoba Diabetes Strategy and that Manitoba Health implementation plan makes reference to a Regional Diabetes Program in each Provincial Regional Health Authority in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, Manitoba Health has access to the Canadian Diabetes Strategy funding from the Federal system and that First Nations are counted on a per capita basis for the Manitoba funding; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear what Manitoba Health and the Regional Health Authorities have in mind regarding Diabetes Strategies as it relates to First Nations on/off reserve; and

WHEREAS, the Province is inviting First Nations to participate at discussion tables and committee levels as a means of a consultation mechanism in lieu of the Canada Health and Social Transfer Act provisions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-In-Assembly direct AMC Grand Chief to access funding from the Provincial and Federal governments to address and analyze the Manitoba Diabetes Strategy impacts to Manitoba First Nations;

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON HEALTH &
FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT INITIATIVE
SIOUX VALLEY DAKOTA NATION
MARCH 5-9, 2001**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

MAR-01.05

Page 2 of 2

**RE: PROVINCIAL REGIONAL DIABETES
PROGRAM PROCESS (cont'd)**

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-In-Assembly direct AMC Grand Chief to ensure completion of the Analysis Report leading to the development of a Strategic Plan to be presented to the Chiefs Health Committee before the end of December 2001.

***Certified copy of a Resolution Adopted
on March 5-9, 2001, SIOUX VALLEY, Manitoba***


Dennis White Bird, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.05
Page 1 of 2**

Moved by:

Chief Louis Malcolm
Ebb & Flow First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: DIABETES EPIDEMIC IN MANITOBA FIRST
NATIONS**

WHEREAS, There is a serious and dramatic diabetes epidemic in the First Nations of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, According to the report Burden of Illness Study of Manitoba Health (1995), statistics clearly reference the diabetes epidemic of:

- 1993 - 23% of First Nations women and 14% of First Nations men had diabetes in Manitoba;
- Prevalence of diabetes has increased in 1995 by 40% among First Nations women, and 50% among First Nations men.

WHEREAS, the diabetes major contributing factors are resulting in amputations, blindness, pregnancy complications, kidney disease, heart disease, and other health-related problems; and

WHEREAS, the diabetes epidemic in Manitoba requires immediate and resolved action, which involves First Nations, Manitoba Health and Health Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chiefs in Assembly mandate the Grand Chief and the Chiefs Health Committee to meet with the Federal Minister of Health, Medical Services Branch, Provincial Minister of Health and Manitoba Health to address the overall outstanding issues related to the diabetes epidemic. (Refer to attached action plan).

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
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CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.05
Page 2 of 2**

**RE: DIABETES EPIDEMIC IN MANITOBA FIRST
NATIONS (Cont'd)**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Manitoba First Nations, Federal and Provincial Health Systems work in partnership to achieve positive results to the Diabetes Epidemic in Manitoba.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

Attachment to Resolution

DIABETES EPIDEMIC ACTION PLAN

- Extra dialysis machines made available in close proximity to First Nations communities;
- Mobile dialysis availability to First Nations communities;
- Mass education and prevention programs availability to First Nations;
- Statistical and research data base designed by First Nations;
- Quality and frequent foot care and podiatry services to First Nations;
- Guaranteed medical transportation relating to diabetes;
- Specialized education and training programs for local First Nations workers to focus on First Nations persons with diabetes.

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.06

Moved by:

Councillor Ernie Massan
Fox Lake First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: 1964 AGREEMENT BETWEEN FOX LAKE FIRST
NATION and WAR LAKE FIRST NATION**

WHEREAS, Fox Lake First Nation and War Lake First Nation have entered into negotiations with Manitoba Health in regards to the 1964 Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Fox Lake First Nation and War Lake First Nation have submitted a proposed budget to Manitoba Health and to Medical Services Branch to cover the negotiation expenses; and

WHEREAS, Both levels of Government have not responded favourably on funding the negotiating process for these 2 (two) First Nations; and

WHEREAS, Fox Lake First Nation and War Lake First Nation have exhausted their Band funds and are unable to continue the negotiation process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs support War Lake First Nation and Fox Lake First Nation in their initiatives to get both levels of Government to commit the necessary funds to cover costs for the negotiating process immediately.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs ensure that Manitoba Health and Medical Services Branch is held accountable for their actions and that Manitoba Health does not delegate this responsibility if not resolved by March 31, 1997, to the Regional Health Authority.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*



Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.07

Moved by:

Chief Jerry Fontaine
Sagkeeng First Nation

**RE: MANITOBA COMMUNITY WELLNESS
WORKERS TRAINING**

Seconded by:

Councillor Frank Whitehead
Opaskwayak Cree Nation

WHEREAS, there is an identified need for accredited community wellness workers training; and

WHEREAS, there are ongoing discussion between the Manitoba Community Wellness Working Group, Yellowquill College, and the University of Manitoba to develop a post-secondary program to address this training need for First Nations; and

MOTION CARRIED

WHEREAS, there is an intent to eventually transfer the Manitoba Community Wellness Workers training program to First Nations control and delivery.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs support the continued development of the Manitoba Community Wellness Workers training program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That AMC participate in the formal signing of the Letter of Intent during Wellness Awareness Week, February 20-24, 1997, which would establish a formal working relationship for the development and implementation of a Manitoba Community Wellness Workers training program.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.08

Moved by:

Chief Ron Evans
Norway House First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: MANITOBA FIRST NATIONS and HIV/AIDS

WHEREAS, There is a potential increase in the number of Manitoba First Nations people living with HIV/AIDS and there is a need to address programs/services to provide continuance of care, education\prevention, intervention treatment and palliation; and

WHEREAS, The cost and treatment for Manitoba First Nation people living with HIV/AIDS needs to be addressed in community health planning after the National AIDS Strategy ends; and

WHEREAS, Manitoba Regional AIDS Steering Committee was mandated in 1994 by Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to promote and facilitate comprehensive primary HIV/AIDS health care for Manitoba First Nations (education, prevention and treatment); and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs lobby to ensure that HIV/AIDS funding allocated into the Indian Health Programs from the National AIDS Strategy be identified and protected for to AIDS programming; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs mandate the First Nations with Manitoba Regional AIDS Steering Committee to undertake a 2 year process to facilitate inter-agency community action planning to discuss Aboriginal continuance of HIV/AIDS programs and services to develop the required linkages.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.09

Moved by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

Seconded by:

Councillor Barbara Turenne
Sioux Valley Dakota Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: NATIONAL NURSING EDUCATION
PROGRAMS**

WHEREAS, An MSB Branch Executive Committee has decided to decentralize the National Nursing Education Programs; and

WHEREAS, AMC supported MKO in securing the National Nursing Education Program's Transfer (Resolution July-96.01); and

WHEREAS, Preliminary work has been carried out and the following recommendations have been identified:

1. Establish a Manitoba Region Steering Committee to be representative of all Tribal Councils and independent Bands.
2. Establish sub-committees to support the steering committee on an Ad Hoc basis.
3. Seek the appropriate budget to carry out mandate.
4. Work in consultation with the University of Manitoba in the Nursing Education Curriculum development phase.
5. Guide the implementation of the nursing programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs mandate the Manitoba Region Steering Committee to carry out the recommendations identified under the auspices of MKO.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*



Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.10
Page 1 of 2**

Moved by:

Chief Bill Traverse
Jackhead First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief David Crate
Fisher River First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: ALCOHOL RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE
ACCIDENTS**

WHEREAS, The First Nations of Manitoba are concerned with the alarming incidence of alcohol related motor vehicle and accidental pre-mature death involving First Nations people; and

WHEREAS, The rate of pre-mature death from alcohol related injury involving First Nations is significantly higher than the national average; and

WHEREAS, Health Canada funds, through Medical Services Branch, a Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention program (NNADAP) to educate and counsel First Nations about alcohol and alcohol treatment measures; and

WHEREAS, Health Canada, through Medical Services Branch, and Manitoba Health need to take immediate action to augment, fund and support the existing Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention program to provide for increased training and skill development for NNADAP workers and to implement an effective First Nation education program aimed at reducing the unacceptable incidence of First Nation alcohol related motor vehicle and accidental pre-mature death; and

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**FEB-97.10
Page 2 of 2**

**RE: ALCOHOL RELATED MOTOR VEHICLE
ACCIDENTS (Cont'd)**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs call upon Health Canada, through Medical Services Branch, and the Province of Manitoba, through Manitoba Health, to take immediate action to augment, fund and support additional training for Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Workers and to launch an effective First Nation education program to reduce the unacceptable incidence of First Nation alcohol related motor vehicle and accidental premature death.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.11

Moved by:

Chief Philip Buck
Mosakahiken Cree Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Pascall Bighetty
Mathias Colomb First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: 1964 AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the 1964 Agreement was initiated and signed without First Nation participation; and

WHEREAS, this agreement was declared no longer viable by the signatories of April 1991; and

WHEREAS, the First Nations are exercising self-government and their inherent right as stated and affirmed in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, that Swampy Cree Tribal Council have taken a lead role on this issue and therefore could set a precedence for other First Nations working on the 1964 Agreement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs recognize and support Swampy Cree Tribal Council in their initiatives to get both levels of government to work collectively in resolving this issue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs recognize and support the efforts of the Swampy Cree Tribal Council in the statement of claim they filed in the Federal Court of Canada. RE: 1964 Agreement.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.12

Moved by:

Chief Helen Cook
Bloodvein First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME/EFFECTS
RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs gave a press conference on February 22, 1996 announcing a ten part initiative to combat the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects (FAS/E) issue in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, A recent study indicates prevalence of FAS/E in a First Nation of Manitoba at a rate 16.6 to 50 times higher than that of the average rate in Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, This rate indicates a crisis for the individuals, families, schools and communities living with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects; and

WHEREAS, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is 100% preventable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs strike a working group to develop a terms of reference and action plan, pursue necessary funds, and follow up on the 10 part initiative as outlined in the Press Release of February 22, 1996 (attached).

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief

PRESS RELEASE

ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS ENDORSES HEALTHY BABY MONTH FEBRUARY 14 - MARCH 15, 1996

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome / Effect (FAS/E) has been recognized in Canada as one of the leading causes of preventable birth defects and developmental delay in children. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) announced today a 10 part initiative to combat the FAS/E issue in Manitoba:

1. AMC is encouraging First Nations and individual members to become involved in a coordinated public awareness and prevention campaign. The Assembly recognizes that First Nation members are in the high risk category. Grand Chief Phil Fountain says: "What needs to be focussed on is that FAS/E is 100% preventable. If no alcohol is consumed, the unborn child is not at risk on being born with FAS/E. Everyone has a stake in addressing this complex issue. No single group, organization, community, ministry, or level of government can effectively deal with the problem on its own. Prevention will only be successful if there is a holistic approach."
2. Government funding must be adequate to ensure educational and supportive resources are developed and put into place.

AMC is outlining preventative actions required in various areas:

3. Public and First Nation school systems must include in its curriculum information on FAS/E with exercises to allow students to clarify their values on the use of alcohol and their lifestyle. The Assembly is urging all early, middle and high schools to ensure that their curriculum delivers relevant information for the prevention of FAS/E.
4. Social Workers must be provided with the tools and skills to be able to educate their clients to make healthy choices. This must be provided by the agencies and the Faculty of Social Work.
5. Drs. and nurses must be provided with training to enable them to effectively screen and provide medical information to those that need it the most.

Vice- Chief Royce Wilson recently stated: "It must be kept in mind that the unborn child has no choice when it comes to alcohol consumption, therefore we are all responsible for the best possible healthy environment of that baby."

6. Parents, foster parents and family members must be able to freely talk about the importance of a supportive and healthy pregnancy. They must also be given the resources and support necessary to ensure a nurturing environment for those living with FAS/E to assist them in living life to their fullest potential.
7. Youth Peer groups must be taught the skills necessary to share support, information, and refusal skills in this high pressure, alcohol-focused society.

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
CHIEFS HEALTH ASSEMBLY
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
FEBRUARY 4, 5 & 6, 1997**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

FEB-97.13

Moved by:

Chief Ron Evans
Norway House First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Sydney Garrioch
Cross Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: PSYCHOLOGY AND COUNSELLING
SERVICES IN MANITOBA REGION**

WHEREAS, there is a need for continued effective and efficient management of mental health services within First Nations of Manitoba; and

WHEREAS, the Manitoba Community Wellness Working Group has been allocated funding for the past two fiscal years from the Brighter Futures contribution dollars for the management and administration of psychology/counselling services; and

WHEREAS, Medical Services Branch, Non-Insured Health Benefits has provided financial resources for psychology/counselling services.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Medical Services Branch, Non-Insured Health Benefits continue to provide the necessary financial resources for psychology/counselling services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Medical Services Branch, Non-Insured Health Benefits, provide the necessary human resources for the effective and efficient management and administration of psychology/counselling services.

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted on
February 6, 1997; WINNIPEG, Manitoba*


Phil Fontaine, Grand Chief