

CERTIFIED COPIES
OF
ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
ON
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

RAMADA MARLBOROUGH HOTEL
WINNIPEG, MB

MARCH 13TH, 2002

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY
ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
RAMADA MARLBOROUGH HOTEL - WINNIPEG, MB
MARCH 13TH, 2002**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTIONS:

- MAR-02.01 DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- MAR-02.02 FIRST NATIONS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT
- MAR-02.03 INAC SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & FIRST NATION INDEBTNESS
- MAR-02.04 AMC URBAN STRATEGY FOR FIRST NATION CITIZENS - REVISITED 2001
- MAR-02.05 SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (S.I.N.)
- MAR-02.06 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) AND EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ECDI) FUNDING
- MAR-02.07 NORTHERN COST OF LIVING
- MAR-02.08 SOCIAL UNION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (SUFA)
- MAR-02.09 CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION (CMHC) ALLOCATION GUIDELINES FOR FIRST NATIONS OF MANITOBA
- MAR-02.10 THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
MARCH 13, 2002**

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**MAR-02.01
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Moved by:

Chief Vera Mitchell
Poplar River First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Dwayne Blackbird
Keeseekoowenin First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, the First Nations have the inherent right to develop their own social, economic, and cultural programs as a self-government right; and

WHEREAS, treaty and inherent rights of First Nations are entrenched in the Constitution of Canada; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous peoples around the world have the support of the United Nations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Chiefs-in-Assembly make the following declaration:

Generations of First Nations people have been displaced from our lands and resources, and our families, languages, cultural traditions, including values for independence and entrepreneurship, have been deliberately undermined. The cumulative effect of these imposed assimilative policies has resulted in the present state of so-called 'welfare dependency'.

The Chiefs-in-Assembly hereby set the direction for a comprehensive and culturally relevant Social Development policy by Manitoba First Nations in recognition of our reassertion of jurisdiction and governance.

The Chiefs- in-Assembly are dedicated to:

- Protect our treaty and inherent right to develop our own social, economic, and cultural programs as a self-government right, and a First Nations social safety net;
- Lay the foundation that will allow the growth, development and fruition of autonomous First Nations Social Development programs;

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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RE: DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Develop a mechanism which will build upon the existing INAC Social Assistance program, and the results of the AMC-INAC Joint Social Assistance Initiative (2000-2002) to review and restructure Social Assistance toward social development;
- Work with representatives of the Crown to develop a process or processes to ensure joint policy making and decision making in social development;
- Recognize and support the Social Development Advisors Technical Group (representing the seven tribal councils, three political organizations, and the independent First Nations) as the coordinating body to continue to spearhead the goal of First Nations autonomy in social development.

The Chiefs-in-Assembly support the following principles to guide this policy direction:

- Act in respect for our First Nations, and in recognition of our rights, including the reassertion of jurisdiction and governance;
- Promote and strive for quality of life for all members of Manitoba First Nations and future generations, through effective service delivery and social development;
- Advocate for social change;
- Follow a holistic approach to foster and encourage self-determination within our First Nations;
- Support and assist in the development and implementation of community plans;

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RE: DECLARATION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Work in cooperation with First Nation people to strive for adequate resources for First Nation development initiatives.

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of a Resolution Adopted on March 13, 2002, WINNIPEG, Manitoba



Grand Chief Dennis White Bird

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
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**MAR-02.02
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Moved by:

Chief Phillip Buck
Mosakahiken First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Dennis Meeches
Long Plain First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: FIRST NATIONS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

WHEREAS, the Chiefs-in-Assembly have set the direction for a Manitoba First Nations Social Development policy which is comprehensive and culturally relevant, and recognizes First Nations jurisdiction and governance; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a First Nations Social Development Secretariat be established to carry the mandate of the Chiefs Assembly Declaration on Social Development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs lobby the Department of Indian Affairs Manitoba Region to provide the essential funding for this Secretariat, including core staff, administrative support and resources for research and development.

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of a Resolution Adopted on March 13, 2002, WINNIPEG, Manitoba



Grand Chief Dennis White Bird

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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**MAR-02.03
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Moved by:

Chief Roger Ross
Manto Sipi First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Vera Mitchell
Poplar River First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: INAC SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & FIRST NATION
INDEBTNESS**

WHEREAS, the Department of Indian Affairs introduced the Integrated Social Assistance System, (ISAS) in April 1996, and the department was quite clear that this system was part of a "Partnership for Improvement" for timely processing and immediate response, to work toward "gradual devolution of the system to First Nations' government", and;

WHEREAS, the Department states that ISAS is not designed to serve First Nations needs, and;

WHEREAS, the implementation of ISAS has resulted in major problems in compliance and verification of social assistance expenditures, and the reimbursement of First Nations with CFAs, and;

WHEREAS, this ISAS makes reimbursements to First Nations very difficult which had led to the Department claiming major First Nations debt and deficits, however it is more accurately characterized as INAC shortfall, and;

WHEREAS, administrative directives adopted unilaterally by the Department without consultation with First Nations have compounded this already oppressive situation, and;

WHEREAS, the present situation has resulted in millions of dollars not being reimbursed to First Nations, and is a major cause of First Nations indebtedness.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the First Nations together reject the Department's claim of First Nations debt incurred in the administration of social assistance, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly demand a forensic audit of INAC's administration on the social assistance program be carried out immediately, and;

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**RE: INAC SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & FIRST NATION
INDEBTNESS**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chiefs-in-Assembly demand that an independent commission of inquiry be established to resolve this issue.

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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
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**MAR-02.04
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Moved by:

Chief Dennis Meeches
Long Plain First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Dwayne Blackbird
Keeseekoowenin First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

**RE: AMC URBAN STRATEGY FOR FIRST NATION CITIZENS -
REVISITED 2001**

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs resolved in 1997 to establish an urban strategy based upon the following principles:

- portability of treaty rights; and
- prevention of the federal offloading of responsibility for First Nations people and programs to provinces; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Framework Agreement Initiative has undertaken legal research pertaining to mobility rights of First Nations citizens; and

WHEREAS, there have been shifts in federal, provincial and municipal government policies since 1997; and

WHEREAS, these policies have been directed at Aboriginal peoples instead of First Nations citizens; and

WHEREAS, there has been an increasing number of First Nations citizens moving off reserve for education, housing, health and other reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs resolved in 1999 to decentralize HRDC funding; and

WHEREAS, this decentralization has resulted in training programs to the First Nations in the south, and to the First Nations in the north, and;

WHEREAS, this funding includes the off reserve population; and

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of Canada decision in the Corbiere case has recognized the discrimination against off reserve First Nation citizens contained in the election regulations, enacted according the Indian Act, and

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**MAR-02.04
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**RE: AMC URBAN STRATEGY FOR FIRST NATION CITIZENS -
REVISITED 2001**

WHEREAS, off reserve citizens are now eligible voters who expect services from the First Nations.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs asserts the following principles for the AMC Urban Strategy:

- i. To advance and protect the treaty and inherent rights of First Nation citizens, regardless of residency on or off reserve, including equitable access to programs and services;
- ii. To ensure federal, provincial, municipal government urban policies have a First Nations focus, and are reconciled with judgments of the Supreme Court of Canada affirming First Nation rights regardless of residence, and with the recognition and affirmation of First Nations inherent, treaty and aboriginal rights by the Constitution of Canada;
- iii. To ensure federal, provincial and municipal governments fully involve First Nations in the development of urban policies impacting First Nations citizens;
- iv. To ensure the federal fiduciary responsibility to First Nations is specifically included in federal policies, and is not offloaded to the provinces.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly further direct that this policy be communicated to all First Nation organizations, Aboriginal organizations, and outside governments and their agencies.

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of a Resolution Adopted on March 13, 2002, WINNIPEG, Manitoba



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**MAR-02.05
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Moved by:

Chief Dennis Meeches
Long Plain First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Wesley Harper
Red Sucker Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (S.I.N.)

WHEREAS, the Department of Indian Affairs introduced the requirement for status Indian numbers, and has used these numbers for identification purposes in what is now referred to as the Manitoba Region for over 120 years; and

WHEREAS, First Nations citizens and Chiefs and Councils have adopted the use of status Indian numbers assigned by census by the federal government under Indian Affairs since treaty-making in the 1870s; and

WHEREAS, status Indians have tax-exempt status by virtue of our treaties and inherent rights; and

WHEREAS, the tax exempt status of status Indians is recognized in the Indian Act; and

WHEREAS, there is, therefore, no obligation on status Indians to be registered with Revenue Canada under a different number; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Indian Affairs Manitoba Region has recently issued a requirement for S.I.N. numbers for all First Nation citizens applying for social assistance, and has threatened First Nations administrators that their social assistance funding will not be reimbursed unless S.I.N. numbers are attached to all applicants.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that INAC-Manitoba Region should cease and desist from any requirement for any other identification number other than the status Indian number.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that INAC support the AMC initiative to develop and institute immediately a technologically appropriate system of status identification cards for all citizens of First Nations in Manitoba region.

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**MAR-02.05
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RE: SOCIAL INSURANCE NUMBER (S.I.N.)

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that Assembly of First Nation Taxation Committee pursue the use of status numbers in order to access social programs.

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of a Resolution Adopted on March 13, 2002, WINNIPEG, Manitoba



Grand Chief Dennis White Bird

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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**MAR-02.06
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Moved by:

Chief Louis Stevenson
Peguis First Nation

**RE: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) and EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ECDI)
FUNDING**

Seconded by:

Chief Arnold Ouskan
War Lake First Nation

WHEREAS, since 1993, the federal government, under the Liberal "Red Book" plan, has embarked on a campaign to support the early childhood development requirements for ALL children in Canada, and specifically to eliminate child poverty as it pertains to Aboriginal peoples, and this commitment has since been mentioned repeatedly in budget and throne speeches by this government; and,

WHEREAS, in September 2000, the federal government announced an increase of \$23.4 billion of new federal investments over five years to support agreements by First Ministers on Health and ECD; and,

WHEREAS, within the \$23.4 billion, \$2.2 billion is identified as the ECDI portion; and,

WHEREAS, the federal-provincial-territorial governments have failed to identify the First Nations component of ECDI funding; and,

WHEREAS, all ECDI dollars have flowed to provincial and territorial governments, without ECDI dollars reaching First Nations; and,

WHEREAS, since early 2001, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has embarked on a lobbying campaign with federal and Manitoba governments to identify First Nations funding within ECD dollars; and,

WHEREAS, in December 2001, the federal government committed a further \$185 million dollars under the ECDI to Aboriginal children nationally over the next two years, without any plans to involve and reach First Nations; and,

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of Manitoba First Nation children on reserve is being jeopardized by the failure of the federal government to identify First Nations ECD funding, and therefore, our children's well-being lags behind children in mainstream society.

MOTION CARRIED

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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**MAR-02.06
Page 2 of 2**

**RE: EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) and EARLY
CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE (ECDI)
FUNDING**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC demand meaningful involvement and a direct role with the federal government in planning regional allocations of ECD funding as it pertains to First Nations; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC demand that ECD funding is directly transferred to First Nations and First Nations entities to meet the priorities of First Nations children on- reserve; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this First Nations involvement will ensure that gaps and barriers in ECD funding for First Nation children are identified and overcome.

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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**MAR-02.07
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Moved by:

Chief Vera Mitchell
Poplar River First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Wesley Harper
Red Sucker Lake First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: NORTHERN COST OF LIVING

WHEREAS, Northern First Nations through the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, with the federal and provincial governments undertook "An Examination of Issues Related to the Social Assistance Northern Food Allowance Rate" in 1996-98; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this 1998 report, the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, and the Provincial Department of Family Services adopted higher rates for basic social allowance for isolated communities; and

WHEREAS, the cost of living in isolated and northern communities in Manitoba continues to climb, and is compounded when weather limits accessibility via winter roads; and

WHEREAS, many northern First Nations residents rely upon social assistance whose low basic rates do not cover the excessively high food and clothing costs, which have been estimated to be two to three times the cost in Winnipeg; and

WHEREAS, air transportation costs vary from approximately 40 to 80 cents a pound which contributes to the high cost of living;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC organize and seek funding for the establishment of a joint First Nations-Federal-Provincial study to be undertaken on the cost of living in northern and isolated communities; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this study be action-oriented with a report provided to the Chiefs-in-Assembly and the appropriate Ministers of the respective governments no later than 12 months after its establishment; and

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RE: NORTHERN COST OF LIVING

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that this study consider options such as an increased basic assistance rate for isolated and northern First Nations, subsidies for transportation costs of food, clothing and shelter, and an insurance process to provide emergency measures funding in years when the weather will not sustain winter roads.

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA
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**MAR-02.08
Page 1 of 1**

Moved by:

Chief Sam Murdock
Fisher River First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Frank Whitehead
Opaskwayak Cree Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: SOCIAL UNION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (SUFA)

WHEREAS, the Social Union Framework Agreement was negotiated and agreed upon by federal, provincial and territorial First Ministers without the involvement of First Nations leaders; and,

WHEREAS, the SUFA directly impacts the lives of First Nations people through the design and accessibility of social programs and funding; and

WHEREAS, the First Ministers have rebuffed efforts by the Assembly of First Nations to agree to a Companion Accord of First Nations to co-exist with SUFA; and

WHEREAS, the federal, provincial and territorial governments have embarked upon major initiatives such as the National Children's Agenda and the Early Childhood Development Initiative, without any meaningful First Nations involvement or consultation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs in Assembly do hereby authorize the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs to open discussions with federal and Manitoba Ministers to pursue First Nations involvement in SUFA, in the design and delivery of social policies and programs impacting First Nations.

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SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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**MAR-02.09
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Moved by:

Chief Phillip Buck
Mosakahiken Cree Nation

**RE: CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORPORATION
(CMHC) ALLOCATION GUIDELINES FOR FIRST NATIONS
OF MANITOBA**

Seconded by:

Chief Louis Stevenson
Peguis First Nation

WHEREAS, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly agree that the current allocation process of Section 95 CMHC is flawed; and,

WHEREAS, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly have received the "Draft Allocation Guidelines for CMHC Housing Programs" from the Manitoba First Nations Regional Technicians Committee; and,

WHEREAS, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly be provided the opportunity to review these options within each First Nation Council; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief and the Housing Secretariat to convene a Special Chiefs Assembly on Housing no later than May, 2002 to deal with this issue and other pressing Housing & Capital matters; and,

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly provide feedback on the "Draft Allocation Guideline for CMHC Housing Program" prior to the Special Chiefs Assembly on Housing to allow the Housing Technicians to prepare Final Guidelines for ratification by the Chiefs-in-Assembly.

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Grand Chief Dennis White Bird

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
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CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

**MAR-02.10
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Moved by:

Chief Dennis Pashe
Dakota Tipi First Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Roger Ross
Manto Sipi First Nation

MOTION CARRIED

RE: THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, DIAND unilaterally determines remedial action such as Remedial Management Plans, Co-Management and Third Party Management when DIAND determines that First Nations are in breach of the terms and conditions of their funding agreements; and,

WHEREAS, DIAND has final approval on the selection of Third Party Managers for First Nations; and,

WHEREAS, DIAND, Manitoba Region currently spends about \$4 M on Third Party Managers from Indian Management Development (IMD) which has been designated for First Nation training; and,

WHEREAS, the DIAND-funded Third Party Managers are failing to meet DIAND's monthly social services reporting requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the Third Party Managers who are not familiar with DIAND's Social Assistance Program are having to seek the expertise of the Tribal Councils Social Development Staff to help meet their obligations with DIAND; and,

WHEREAS, the inability of Third Party Managers to manage the Social Assistance Program is creating financial hardship for First Nations; and,

WHEREAS, Third Party Managers do not take appropriate action to work with the First Nations to develop concrete plans to enable First Nations to resume management of their own affairs;

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**MAR-02.10
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**RE: THIRD PARTY MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manitoba Chiefs-in-Assembly:

1. Direct DIAND to take immediate responsibility to address this serious issue by working with First Nations, Tribal Councils, AMC, MKO, SCO and the Chiefs Committee on Social Development;
2. Endorse the establishment of a Joint DIAND/Manitoba First Nations Working Group to identify alternatives to the current Third Party Management of the Social Assistance Program;
3. Direct the Joint Working Group to complete a report identifying solutions for addressing this issue by September 30, 2002 and that this report be submitted to the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs for review and direction.

CERTIFIED COPY

of a Resolution Adopted on March 13, 2002, WINNIPEG, Manitoba


Grand Chief Dennis White Bird