



# ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS



*Special Chiefs Assembly on  
First Nations Families & Child Welfare*

***“BRINGING OUR CHILDREN HOME”***

**CERTIFIED COPIES  
OF  
ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS**

Marlborough Hotel  
June 10 & 11, 2014

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
ON FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES AND CHILD WELFARE  
MARLBOROUGH HOTEL – SKYVIEW BALLROOM  
WINNIPEG, MB  
JUNE 10 & 11, 2014**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTIONS**

- Jun-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*
- Jun-14.02      Support for the Ogitchitakwewak Kakikaynan
- Jun-14.03      Call on the Federal Government to Renew and Increase Investments in Maternal Child Health in Manitoba First Nation Communities
- Jun-14.04      Establishment of an On-Reserve Ownership Control Access and Possession (OCAP™) Compliant Electronic Information Management System in Relation to Child Welfare
- Jun-14.05      Directive for the Southern Authority to Withdraw Lawsuit Against Leadership
- Jun-14.06      Support for Mathias Colomb Cree Nation to Establish a Community-Based Safe House and Transitional Home for Youth in Care that are Reaching the Age of Majority
- Jun-14.07      AMC to Call on Council of the Federation to Join with First Nations in a National Inquiry on the Situation of Indigenous Women, Girls and Children

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
ON FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES AND CHILD WELFARE  
MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
JUNE 10 & 11, 2014**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.01  
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Moved by:

Felix Walker (Proxy)  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

Seconded by:

Chief Charlie Boucher  
Pine Creek First Nation

**RE: 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***

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**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS**, AMC made a commitment by way of leadership resolution (MAR-14.06) to “hold and participate in a Special Chiefs Assembly and an Open Forum for Concerned First Nation Citizens, on the topic of First Nations Families and Child Welfare in May 2014”; and

**WHEREAS**, a forum was held on May 1, 2014 in Winnipeg and May 13, 2014 in Thompson, hearing directly from parents, grandparents, child welfare workers and individuals who grew up in the Child and Family Service System; and

**WHEREAS**, the experiences shared are consistent with the experience and impacts expressed by the residential school survivors and those who were a part of the Sixties Scoop; and

**WHEREAS**, First Nations have never surrendered or transferred our rights and responsibilities for our children to Canada or to Manitoba; and

**WHEREAS**, First Nations remain committed to the long-term vision and transition to a First Nations Strategy that will be based on the original systems of child rearing, education, and nurturance of individual spirit.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly endorse and adopt the ten recommendations presented in *Bringing Our Children Home: Summary Report On The Outcomes Of The Open Citizens Forum And Recommendations For Leadership Consideration*.

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
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**RE: 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*(con't)**

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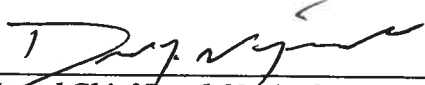
**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Secretariat to formulate a concrete Action Plan to carry out the recommendations from the Forum and further determine additional actions required including the establishment of working groups in the following areas:

- a) Legal: development of a First Nation Child Welfare Act;
- b) Governance and Administrative: work-plan for taking back First Nation jurisdiction and transforming the child welfare system from province to AMC /First Nations;
- c) Capacity in communities: work-plan to identify resources in each community to ensure child welfare services can be delivered; and,
- d) Finance: identify financial resource transfers from Canada and Manitoba that must occur.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief to ensure the resources are secured for the AMC Secretariat to develop the Action Plan.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, the AMC Secretariat will present the Action Plan for endorsement by the leadership at the July 29-31, 2014 Annual General Assembly.

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
*of a Resolution Adopted  
on June 10 & 11, 2014  
Winnipeg, Manitoba*

  
Grand Chief Derek Nepinak

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
ON FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES AND CHILD WELFARE  
MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
JUNE 10 & 11, 2014**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

**JUN-14.02**

**Moved by:**

Chief Betsy Kennedy  
War Lake First Nation

**Seconded by:**

Chief Francine Meeches  
Swan Lake First Nation

**CARRIED**

**RE: SUPPORT FOR THE OGITCHITAKWEWAK KAKIKAYNAN**

**WHEREAS**, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) has been supporting the establishment of a Grandmothers' group in an effort to promote wellness and health for First Nations in Manitoba; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 21, 2013, the AMC supported the first Grandmothers Gathering at the Turtle Lodge in Sagkeeng First Nation to discuss the wellness and safety of children; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and daughters in attendance were recognized as "Ogitchitakweg". In the spirit of unity and responsibility, the Ogitchitakweg developed and endorsed the statement entitled *Ogitchitakwewak Kakikaynan* and the supporting *Role of the Ogitchitakweg*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ogitchitakwewak Kakikaynan affirms the sacred duty of the Ogitchitakweg (Grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and daughters inclusive) to uphold traditional teachings and ways of knowing, including Abinoochi Okikaywin-teachings that are given to a child that last forever, and can only be given by Ogitchitakweg.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Chiefs-in-Assembly Nations, support and endorse the statement *Ogitchitakwewak Kakinaynan*; and

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support the establishment of a formal Grandmothers Council by encouraging and supporting Grandmothers from every community to become involved on a regional level and fulfill their Role as Ogitchitakweg, including the returning of the Grandmothers to their rightful place within the community to revitalize traditional parenting ways.

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**Grand Chief Derek Nepinak**

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.03  
Page 1 of 2*

**Moved by:**

Chief James Plewak  
Keeseekoowenin Ojibway  
Nation

***RE: CALL ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RENEW AND  
INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH IN  
MANITOBA FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES***

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**Seconded by:**

Proxy Felix Walker  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation

**WHEREAS**, First Nation communities have a definite need for maternal child health investments: First Nation babies suffer disproportionately high rates of childhood infections, and are hospitalized at greater rates for respiratory, injury and preventable illness in Canada. Infant mortality rates in Manitoba First Nations and throughout First Nations in Canada are two or three times higher than the National average, all factors related to poverty and colonization; and

**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS**, the First Nations Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health program has demonstrated capacity to deliver high quality maternal child health support to families in 14 First Nations in Manitoba. Further the First Nations Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health demonstrated success in two comprehensive evaluations 2005-2010 and 2013-14 in achieving positive outcomes in parenting skills, bonding, attachment and building healthier families in their work with First Nation families, all critical factors in reducing child morbidity and mortality; and

**WHEREAS**, April 2014 funding letters received by the AMC and the 14 Strengthening Families Maternal Child Health First Nation sites stated “This program is scheduled to sun-set/end of March 31, 2015”; and

**WHEREAS**, from May 28-30, 2014, Prime Minister Harper hosted a global summit on maternal newborn child health with the focus on preventable deaths of newborns, women and younger children to “save every woman and child within arm’s reach” and announced an additional 3.5 billion dollars to maternal child health in the developing world in addition to the 2.85 billion dollars previously committed through the Muskoka Initiative.

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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.03  
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**RE: CALL ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO RENEW AND  
INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH IN  
MANITOBA FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES (con't)**

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Grand Chief to advocate for equitable, ongoing and adequate A-based funding for Maternal Child Health programming in First Nations in Manitoba.

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Grand Chief to request a meeting with the Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Health to:

- 1) report to First Nations what the plan is for the immediate future for the Maternal Child Health program; and
- 2) advocate for the renewal and expansion of the Maternal Child Health program to all First Nations in Manitoba beyond March 31, 2015.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Grand Chief Derek Nepinak**

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
ON FIRST NATIONS FAMILIES AND CHILD WELFARE  
MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

**JUN-14.04  
Page 1 of 3**

**Moved by:**

Chief Walter Spence  
Fox Lake Cree Nation

**Seconded by:**

Chief Charlie Boucher  
Pine Creek First Nation

**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ON-RESERVE OWNERSHIP CONTROL ACCESS AND POSSESSION (OCAP™) COMPLIANT ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN RELATION TO CHILD WELFARE**

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**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS**, Honourable Ted Hughes conducted an inquiry to examine the circumstances surrounding the death of Phoenix Sinclair, as appointed by the Province of Manitoba on March 25, 2011, and on December 15, 2013, submitted to the Province, his Report entitled “*The Legacy of Phoenix Sinclair: Achieving the Best for All Our Children*” (the Report);

**WHEREAS**, the Chiefs in Assembly resolved on MAR-14.06 to “hold and participate in a Special Chiefs Assembly and an Open Forum for Concerned First Nations citizens”, on the topic of “First Nations Families and Children Welfare” in May 2014. These two events would provide opportunities to develop a comprehensive response to the Hughes Inquiry Report;

**WHEREAS**, Justice Hughes made one statement that supports First Nation self-determination and governance in relation to Child and Family Services, in which he states:

*Manitoba’s child welfare system needs an information system that is reliable, current, accurate, and complete. This is not to say that First Nations should not retain ownership over their members’ information. I understand their purpose in asserting this right and responsibility, and if it can be achieved without risk to children’s safety, priority should be given to a system that will recognize this right.*

**WHEREAS**, Minister Kerri-Irvin Ross unilaterally issued a directive to the Authorities “to direct their respective agencies that the Child and Family Services Application (CFSA) use is mandatory for all provincial and federal open cases. This directive must be provided by February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014... and that by February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014, the Authorities are further directed to provide the CFS Division verification of this direction...”; and

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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.04  
Page 2 of 3*

**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ON-RESERVE OWNERSHIP CONTROL ACCESS AND POSSESSION (OCAP™) COMPLIANT ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN RELATION TO CHILD WELFARE (cont'd)**

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**WHEREAS**, the Aboriginal Justice Initiative – Child Welfare Initiative (AJI-CWI) Memorandum of Understanding between the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the Province of Manitoba clearly states and acknowledges that:

*The delivery of child and family services and programs to First Nations people within Manitoba must occur in a manner which respects their unique status, as well as their cultural and linguistic heritage; and that,*

*First Nations people have a right to control the delivery of child and family services and programs for their respective community members; and that,*

*the parties acknowledge that solutions developed locally with respect to both the delivery of child and family services and programs, as well as adoption services are the most effective and practical approach towards ensuring self-determination and healthy communities.*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the AMC Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the AMC Grand Chief to secure the resources for the Secretariat to confer with all First Nation Authorities and Agencies and seek common ground to undertake the planning, research, development and implementation of an On-Reserve OCAP™ Compliant Electronic Information Management System in relation to child and family matters with capabilities to interface with provincial systems.

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
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MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.04  
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**RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ON-RESERVE OWNERSHIP CONTROL ACCESS AND POSSESSION (OCAP™) COMPLIANT ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN RELATION TO CHILD WELFARE (cont'd)**

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**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Grand Chief meet directly with the Minister of Family Services to provide notice that Manitoba's First Nations:

- 1) will continue to exercise their rights and responsibilities to provide governance and leadership as determined by First Nations for all matters related to First Nations children and families; and
- 2) will establish an on-reserve OCAP™ compliant electronic information management system to uphold our rights for ownership, control, access and possession of all information in relation to our children, families, communities, and Nations; and
- 3) expect the Province of Manitoba to work together with the AMC Secretariat in developing and funding an on-reserve OCAP™ compliant electronic information management system that is interoperable with the provincial Information Management System.

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\_\_\_\_\_  
**Grand Chief Derek Nepinak**

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
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MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.05  
Page 1 of 2*

Moved by:

Councillor Shirley Castel,  
Proxy  
Mathias Cololmb Cree Nation

**RE: DIRECTIVE FOR THE SOUTHERN AUTHORITY TO  
WITHDRAW LAWSUIT AGAINST LEADERSHIP**

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Seconded by:

Chief Jim Bear  
Brokenhead Ojibway Nation

**WHEREAS**, the Chiefs are elected representatives of their First Nations, empowered by their membership to provide leadership and governance, and the Chiefs negotiated the implementation of the Aboriginal Justice Inquiry – Child Welfare Initiative and creation of the Child and Family Services Authorities with the best interests of First Nations children, families, and communities at the forefront;

**CARRIED**

**WHEREAS**, in December 2010 the First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority (SA) commenced an application in the Manitoba Court of Queen’s Bench that named AMC Secretariat Inc., five individually named Chiefs (Donavan Fontaine, Glenn Hudson, Garnet Woodhouse, Deborah Chief and Derek Nepinak) and the Government of Manitoba (Manitoba). The SA seeks a declaration that AMC’s appointments of the five Chiefs to the SA were invalid because it did not follow the eligibility requirements of its by-laws. It also sought an injunction to prevent the five Chiefs from assuming office as SA Board members; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 27, 2012 a meeting with then Family and Labour Minister Jennifer Howard, and AMC and SCO representatives took place. At that meeting it was agreed the SA and AMC would work together on issues related to the SA, and the Queen’s Bench application was adjourned *sine die* to allow for a political process to deal with issues related to the SA. The Queen’s Bench application remains an ongoing proceeding.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly direct the Southern Authority to withdraw the lawsuit against the five individually named Chiefs (Donavan Fontaine, Glenn Hudson, Garnet Woodhouse, Deborah Chief and Derek Nepinak) and the AMC Secretariat Inc.

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**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
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MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
JUNE 10 & 11, 2014**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.05  
Page 2 of 2*

**RE: DIRECTIVE FOR THE SOUTHERN AUTHORITY TO  
WITHDRAW LAWSUIT AGAINST LEADERSHIP (cont'd)**

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**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Southern Authority will eliminate all restrictions in the By-Laws that prevents Chiefs from being appointed to the Board.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs begin a selection process to appoint Directors to the Board of the Southern Authority and that the Southern Authority respect the appointment of the members to the Board.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, subsequent to the above actions, the Chiefs-in-Assembly, in good faith, will continue to move forward with the Southern Authority and work collaboratively to transform child welfare and family matters in Manitoba.

**CERTIFIED COPY**  
*of a Resolution Adopted  
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Winnipeg, Manitoba*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Grand Chief Derek Nepinak*

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS  
SPECIAL CHIEFS ASSEMBLY  
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MARLBOROUGH HOTEL, WINNIPEG, MB  
JUNE 10 & 11, 2014**

**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.06*

**Moved by:**

Councillor Shirley Castel  
Proxy  
Mathias Colomb Cree Nation

**RE: SUPPORT FOR MATHIAS COLOMB CREE NATION TO  
ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY-BASED SAFE HOUSE AND  
TRANSITIONAL HOME FOR YOUTH IN CARE THAT ARE  
REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY**

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**Seconded by:**

Chief Francine Meeches  
Swan Lake First Nation

**WHEREAS**, there are critical opportunities for intervention at times of transition for youth-in-care. There are no resources, supports, parenting skills, or life skills provided to said youth-in-care to prepare them for independence once they reach the age of majority and are no longer supported by Child and Family Services (CFS);

**WHEREAS**, community members of all ages are exposed to risks that may lead to injury, addiction, or involvement with child welfare and justice. Community members want to receive supportive services in the community to maintain connections with family and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation is working towards sustainable and long-term preventative solutions that will support services to protect families from injury, addiction, and CFS involvement by providing proactive program and service alternatives.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs-in-Assembly support Mathias Colomb Cree Nation in seeking capital funding to establish a Safe House and Youth Transitional Home in the community to:

- (1) Support young people that are seeking independent living or that are aging out of the child and family services system.
- (2) Provide a safe place for community members of all ages to seek healing interventions and supports.

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Grand Chief Derek Nepinak

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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.07  
Page 1 of 2*

**Moved by:**

Chief Betsy Kennedy  
War Lake First Nation

**RE: AMC TO CALL ON COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION TO JOIN WITH FIRST NATIONS IN A NATIONAL INQUIRY ON THE SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND CHILDREN**

**Seconded by:**

Chief Albina Brass  
Wuskwi Sipiik First Nation

**WHEREAS**, the RCMP report *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview* released in May, 2014 by the RCMP on missing and murdered Indigenous women recorded that Indigenous women are over-represented among Canada's murdered and missing women and that the rate of victimization by acts of violence against Indigenous women and girls was "close to three times higher" than in the case of non-Indigenous women and girls;

**WHEREAS**, the unacceptable risk of violence that Indigenous women and girls in Canada face is attributable to the same factors that result in the disproportionality with respect to the representation of Indigenous children in the child welfare system;

**WHEREAS**, Families, women and First Nations in Canada, including the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, have urgently and repeatedly called for a national public inquiry into the situation of missing and murdered Indigenous women;

**WHEREAS**, The Premiers of the provinces and territories in Canada, meeting as the Council of the Federation in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2013 , called for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women;

**WHEREAS**, the national public inquiry into the situation of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls has not come to pass; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Federation is meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island in August, 2014.

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**CERTIFIED RESOLUTION**

*JUN-14.07  
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**RE: AMC TO CALL ON COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION TO JOIN WITH FIRST NATIONS IN A NATIONAL INQUIRY ON THE SITUATION OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND CHILDREN (cont'd)**

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**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chiefs in Assembly call on Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger to facilitate a co-presentation by Manitoba and a delegation of First Nation representatives on the relationship between the situation of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and of Indigenous children and families to the Council of the Federation during its meeting in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island on August 26 to 30, 2014.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that as part of this presentation, the Chiefs in Assembly call on the Council of the Federation to reiterate and re-emphasize the Council's call for a national public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

**FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that, in the event that Canada does not initiate such a national inquiry, the Chiefs in Assembly also call on the Council of the Federation to engage in a national inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls as a joint initiative of the provincial, territorial and First Nation governments in Canada.

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Grand Chief Derek Nepinak