



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Secretariat Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Inherent & Treaty Rights as Economic Rights

February 3, 2014 - Winnipeg, MB - On March 26 & 27, 2014, The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) will be hosting the Inherent & Treaty Rights as Economic Rights; Renewing Resource Equity in our Ancestral Lands conference at the Delta Hotel, on Treaty No.1 lands in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The conference is designed to draw a renewed awareness of the economic freedoms that remain intact with Indigenous communities across Turtle Island.

"We have seen successive generations of economic sanctions and apartheid in the form of colonial law and policy used to limit or completely exclude our participation in the development of the economic backbone of western provincial jurisdictions under Canadian law," stated Grand Chief Derek Nepinak. "This conference will remind participants that as Indigenous Peoples, we have Inherent and Treaty rights to develop our land based, human and intellectual resources in a manner that is consistent with our value systems, our responsibilities and opportunities as the origin peoples of this land. This does not mean that we reduce our responsibilities to implementing provincial laws through consultative processes, but to redefine the boundaries of acceptable and unacceptable use of our ancestral lands and our Peoples", he further stated.

The AMC conference is the first of its kind to bring strong political voices to the renewal of resource equity as an expression of economic sovereignty in the ancestral lands of Indigenous Peoples now called 'Canada'. Noted speakers include Bob Rae, former Premier of Ontario, and former leader of the liberal Party of Canada, Frank Tough PhD., Clarence Louie, Chief of the Osoyoos Indian Band, Morris Swan-Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation, Okimaw Bernard Ominayak of Lubicon Lake Nation, Chief Donny Morris, Big Trout Lake First Nation, and many others.

"This conference will be the first of a series of conferences that revolve around the central idea that we must rekindle our Treaty fires. That is, to remind ourselves as individuals, within our families and communities that we must respect the gifts of the land and protect the land in such a way that we can sustain our families and children for another thousand years. This means looking at alternative energy sources that can sustain life, not threaten it", concluded Grand Chief Nepinak.

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs advocates on issues that affect First Nations in Manitoba. AMC works with 61 First Nation member communities within the Treaty territories of Treaty No.1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Treaty No.10 with issues ranging from the Environment to Housing, Treaty Advocacy and Education. The political organization is assisting First Nations in Manitoba by promoting and strengthening a stronger and unified voice, while respecting each others Inherent Sovereignty.

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