



Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak Inc.

For immediate release
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MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee responds to acts of vandalism and online racism

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, MB – Manitoba Keewatinowik Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) is issuing a statement in light of recent acts of vandalism to government buildings and property in the City of Winnipeg.

The vandalized property of Minister Dan Vandal's constituency office, the monument at the RCMP "D" Division headquarters and Canadian Human Rights Museum inadvertently aids in shifting the focus away from the real issue at hand. MKO does not promote this type of activity and calls on the general public and supporters of the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to remain respectful and maintain a peaceful approach in all aspects of the issue.

One of our inherent principles and goals as a Nation is to maintain a diplomatic approach. We must lead the way and educate each other through the sharing of factual and credible information, especially during critical times such as these. We understand that the negative relational impacts are also spread through many social media and communication outlets across the country and to help heal the Nation, we are urging media outlets to close off their comments sections.

Grand Chief Settee notes, "The media is a prominent platform for expressing different views and opinions to a high number of the population with a wide demographic. In this regard, the media has a responsibility to not incite hatred toward our people in an already tense and volatile situation. We must remember that peaceful protests are legal in Canada. They have been used numerous times throughout the history of this country to fight injustice and to bring fair and just treatment to disadvantaged and minority groups, which has led to the improvement of our democracy. Racist views should not be tolerated, and extremists should not be given the avenue by which they can propagate their hatred against Indigenous people. All social media outlets are encouraged to address this issue."

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Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) is a non-profit, political advocacy organization that has represented 26 First Nation communities in Manitoba's North since 1981. The MKO represents more than 72,000 First Nations people.

