



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

For immediate release
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MKO Recommended for Special Consultative Status by United Nations

Treaty Five Territory, Thompson, MB – The United Nations Committee on Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) has recommended that the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) grant Special Consultative Status to Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO). This recommendation was made yesterday, during the 2023 regular session of the Committee on NGOs taking place from January 23 to February 1 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Grand Chief Garrison Settee states:

“I am excited to learn that the United Nations Committee on NGOs has recommended that ECOSOC grant Special Consultative status to MKO. This has been a long road for MKO that began almost ten years ago with MKO’s intervention in 2013 in the Universal Periodic Review of Canada at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Being formally in consultative status with ECOSOC means that MKO can enter United Nations buildings to attend official meetings, submit and make written and oral statements, meet official government delegations and other NGO representatives, organize and participate in parallel events, and participate in debates and panel discussions.

MKO will bring forward the voices, Traditional Knowledge, and the lived experiences of northern Manitoba First Nations to be heard by the United Nations. We look forward to participating in the work of the ECOSOC, like the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development, the United Nations Forum on Forests, and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

We are pleased for the opportunity to share and discuss with the United Nations bodies and with other NGOs the MKO approach to making the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples enforceable in Canada’s national law.

We are planning our upcoming intervention at the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Canada.”

The UPR of Canada will take place during the 44th session of the UPR Working Group scheduled for November 6 through 17, 2023. The review of Canada by the United Nations Human Rights Council is scheduled to take place on November 10, 2023 at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

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