



## Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak Inc.

---

For immediate release  
March 8, 2022

### **MKO Statement on International Women's Day**

**Treaty Five Territory, Thompson, MB** – Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak (MKO) Inc. is issuing this statement to acknowledge and recognize the importance of International Women's Day, which is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality.

**Grand Chief Garrison Settee states:**

“On behalf of Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak, today I recognize and honour women for the essential roles they have in our First Nations. I celebrate the ongoing achievements of the strong women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people in MKO communities.

Let us imagine a world free of bias, discrimination, and stereotypes. As much as we like to believe that Indigenous women are advancing in social and political spheres, there is much more work to do. We all need to work together and call out gender stereotypes, discrimination, and bias, while increasing visibility.

Sadly, First Nation women and girls continue to live in poverty. This includes invisible poverty that impacts food security, wages, social security, access to health care services, and so on. Many women have dual roles where they are raising children in single parent homes—we see you and we commend you.

Women are the backbone of our communities, but through colonization their roles have been minimized. As men, we are responsible to uphold women. We need to ensure they are treated with respect and honour. So today as Grand Chief of MKO, I honour First Nation women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people. Together, let's celebrate the achievements of all women while raising awareness of the bias women face.

I recognize and thank all women, girls, Two Spirit, and gender-diverse people at MKO who are dedicated to making a positive impact in our First Nations. I acknowledge all female Chiefs and Councillors who step up to take on important roles of providing leadership. You are an inspiration to all MKO community members, including our children and grandchildren. Ekosi for your ongoing service.”

-30-

**For more information:**

Melanie Ferris, MKO Communications  
Cell: 204-612-1284  
Email: [melanie.ferris@mkonorth.com](mailto:melanie.ferris@mkonorth.com)