

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.



42nd Annual General Assembly

Thompson, MB

August 22, 23 & 24, 2023

Certified Copies of Adopted Motions & Resolutions

**Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.
42nd Annual General Assembly
Traditional Territory of
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
August 22, 23, & 24, 2023**

Motion 1:

To adopt the MKO 42nd Annual General Assembly Agenda, as presented.

Moved BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Simon Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted at the MKO 42nd Annual General Assembly
August 22, 23 & 24, 2023*



MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee

**Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.
42nd Annual General Assembly
Traditional Territory of
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
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Motion 2:

To appoint the Resolution Committee: Brennan Manoakesick, Brenda Wood, Stewart Hill, Colin Kinsella, Michael Anderson, Charles Wood, Rene Linklater, Ashley Moore, and Oliver Veuillot.

MOVED BY: Councillor Frederick Stevens, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation (Proxy)
SECONDED BY: Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Motion 3:

The Financial Statements of the Corporation for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023, shall be deferred to the next MKO General Assembly.

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Councillor Frederick Stevens, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Motion 4:

As per MKO Resolution #2023-02-06, the Chiefs in Assembly direct MKO to form a Northern First Nation led and operated comprehensive Emergency Management Response Entity.

MOVED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 13 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Motion 5:

After considering the presentation by Sheila North, on behalf of the International Commission on Missing Persons, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly endorse the efforts of the ICMP to support the MKO First Nations in our search for our children who became missing while being forced to attend Indian Residential Schools and support and direct the MKO Indian Residential Schools Path Forward to reach out to and explore a potential collaboration between MKO and the MKO First Nations with the ICMP.

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Councillor Annie Ballantyne, Misipawistik Cree Nation (Proxy)
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 13 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Motion 6:

After the presentation by Joseph Fourre on “No Thanks I’m Good” campaign, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly endorse and support the campaign efforts to extend messaging to First Nations communities throughout the MKO Region.

MOVED BY: Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

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Resolution #2023-08-01

**RE: CLAIMS PROCESS FOR REVISED FINAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (FSA) ON
COMPENSATION FOR FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

- WHEREAS,** in March 2022, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly ratified Resolution #2022-03-01, directing the MKO Chiefs Task Force on Child Welfare to provide ongoing oversight and direction regarding the northern Manitoba approach to providing compensation to recipients. In November 2022, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly adopted Resolution #2022-11-11, endorsing the Tribunal's decision and calling on the federal government to act on the FSA on Compensation; and,
- WHEREAS,** on April 3, 2023, the AFN, the federal government and the Caring Society announced that a revised FSA on Compensation had been reached, valued at over \$23 Billion, which addresses the concerns raised by the Tribunal as it now includes individuals who were disentitled under the previous agreement; and,
- WHEREAS,** on April 4, 2023, the AFN's First Nations in Assembly unanimously passed an emergency resolution to fully support the revised FSA on Compensation, and on July 26, 2023, the Tribunal approved the revised FSA on compensation, and it is now anticipated the revised FSA will be reviewed by the Federal Court in October 2023 for final approval. Upon approval, eligible recipients could begin receiving compensation as early as summer 2024; and,
- WHEREAS,** under the revised FSA on Compensation, the following individuals will be eligible for compensation: those who were unnecessarily removed from their homes on-reserve and in the Yukon as children from April 1, 1991 to March 31, 2022; those who faced a delay, denial or service gap for an essential service that they needed as a child because of Canada's narrow application of Jordan's Principle, between April 1, 1991 and November 12, 2017; the primary caregivers of eligible individuals in the above groups may also qualify for compensation; those who were put in foster care placements that were not funded by Indigenous Services Canada (ISC); the estates of deceased parents and children; and caregivers denied essential services under Jordan's Principle; and,
- WHEREAS,** once the revised FSA on Compensation is approved by the Federal Court, they will appoint an independent Administrator recommended by the AFN to administer the claims process. The claims process is intended to minimize the burden upon claimants and is intended to be expeditious, user-friendly, culturally sensitive, and trauma informed. As part of the claims process, the Administrator will provide claimants with a prefilled application based on data and information provided by ISC and claimants will be able to verify, correct or make changes to the application form prior to its submission; and, -
- WHEREAS,** in preparation for the claims process, some First Nations leadership are seeking access to the database managed by ISC to identify and assist eligible recipients in their community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly call on the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to make available the ISC database to all First Nations leadership, at their request, in advance of the claims process concerning the revised FSA on Compensation.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the Office of the Grand Chief to formally request the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to provide First Nations leadership access to the ISC database, at the request of a First Nation.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Larson Anderson, Norway House Cree Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-02

**RE: BOARD APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FIRST NATIONS OF
NORTHERN MANITOBA CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority (Northern Authority) is to be appointed by Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. as per section 6(2) of the Child and Family Services Authorities Act (Authorities Act); and,

WHEREAS, in respecting the autonomy of MKO First Nations, the respective First Nations child welfare Agencies are encouraged to implement their own recruitment and selection processes to determine their nominations for representatives on the Board of Directors of the Northern Authority; and,

WHEREAS, members of the Board of the Authority shall serve three (3) year terms. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms that may be served by a Director.

WHEREAS, as per Resolution #2021-11-09, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly appointed the following persons to the Board of Directors of the Northern Authority.

1. Denise Packo, Cree Nation Child & Family Caring Agency;
2. William G. Lathlin, Opaskwayak Cree Nation CFS;
3. Vacant, Awasis Agency of Northern Manitoba;
4. Sydney Garrioch, Nikan Awasisak Agency;
5. vacant, Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency;
6. Theresa Yetman, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation FCWC;
7. Gilbert Andrews, MKO Northern Authority representative; and,

WHEREAS, Norway House Cree Nation leadership and community representatives recommend that Nicholas Saunders be appointed as the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency representative to the Board of Directors of the Northern Authority for a three-year term as per the Northern Authority by-law #1 (October 21, 2011).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc. hereby appoint Nicholas Saunders, the Kinosao Sipi Minisowin Agency representative, to the Board of Directors of the Northern Authority for a three-year term

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Larson Anderson, Norway House Cree Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-03

**RE: MKO TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR INFORMATION
SHARING AND DATA COLLECTION IN THE NORTH**

- WHEREAS,** On November 9th, 2022, the MKO Path Forward for Investigations of Former Indian Residential School Sites (Path Forward Project) officially commenced with a traditional pipe ceremony and a Bible prayer to acknowledge those who follow traditional and Christian faiths. The Path Forward Project provides guidance, assistance, and support to MKO communities, Survivors, and families involved in searching, identifying, commemorating, and repatriating deceased and missing children at former Indian Residential Schools, Indian Hospitals, and Sanitoriums; and
- WHEREAS,** The Path Forward Project has received a commitment from the Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) to do this work. MKO's proposal to CIRNAC requested funding to hire a team of researchers to collect, analyze, and transcribe records stored in the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) database, Vital Statistics, Library and Archives Canada, church entities, Manitoba Health, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP); and
- WHEREAS,** MKO is in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the NCTR to grant access to all records stored in the NCTR Internal Database. The MOA with NCTR requests that MKO be given the right to facilitate access to the records in the database to MKO First Nations, provided that such access is subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement between MKO and the NCTR; and
- WHEREAS,** MKO would like to work with MKO First Nations to develop guidelines and protocols for research related processes such as the collection of data, sharing of information, and the storing of records and Survivors truth-telling. Further, MKO would like to establish a set of standards for conducting research on former Indian Residential Schools, Indian Hospitals, Sanitoriums and the sharing of information to affected communities and families; and
- WHEREAS,** Communities and organizations leading investigations of former Indian Residential Schools, Indian Hospitals, and Sanitoriums are maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of their records and are hesitant to share this information to MKO without Survivors and/or Chief and Council consent given the sensitive nature of the information of those who attended Indian Residential Schools/Indian Hospitals/Sanitoriums; and
- WHEREAS,** MKO understands the safekeeping and storage of confidential information by communities and organizations leading investigations to release sensitive information to MKO without proper consent and guidance of protocols to ensure that information is collected and stored on behalf of the community and then shared with affected Survivors and communities in a timely manner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That MKO host a one-day event for MKO leadership and the Regional Indian Residential School Advisory Committee to discuss the creation of guidelines and protocols for the collection of data, sharing of information, and the storing of records in conjunction with First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession – more commonly known as OCAP.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Chiefs in Assembly support the Path Forward Project in making requests to receive all documents pertaining to MKO communities from communities and organizations leading investigations of former Indian Residential Schools/Indian Hospitals/Sanitoriums.

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, That MKO share records pertaining to MKO communities in a timely manner and store a copy of records in a repository for safe keeping.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Gordie Bear, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Councillor Mary Spence, God's Lake First Nation (Proxy) |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-04

RE: SHAMATTAWA FIRST NATION CALL UPON CANADA TO TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON THE TUBERCULOSIS OUTBREAK

WHEREAS, Shamattawa First Nation is experiencing an outbreak of tuberculosis (TB), and recognize that tuberculosis is a serious disease that poses a significant public health risk to the health and wellness of the 1600 community members; and,

WHEREAS, Shamattawa First Nation currently has 11 active cases of tuberculosis that are on medication; 34 latent tuberculosis infections (LTBI) and 15 cases requiring further investigation for a total of 60 suspected/confirmed cases; and,

WHEREAS, Shamattawa First Nation continues to be challenged with the lack of prioritization of additional clinical resources to manage the growing number of TB and LTBI cases. Shamattawa First Nation is concerned with the lack of clinical staff in addressing the outbreak has only exacerbated the outbreak; and,

WHEREAS, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and the First Nation Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) is responsible for providing health services and must acknowledge the urgency of the situation and take immediate and appropriate measures to address the TB outbreak. These measures must include the addition of clinical staff to work directly with the community to identify and treat those who are infected or at risk of infection; and,

WHEREAS, In 2018, the United Nations High-Level meeting on TB has called on governments, partners and civil society to scale up the TB response that includes prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care to achieve global targets agreed on at the UN High-Level TB meeting; and,

WHEREAS, The failure of Canada to address, control and stop the outbreaks of tuberculosis in Shamattawa and in the MKO First Nations represents an act of genocide in accordance with the definition set out at Article II of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the Office of the Grand Chief to support the Shamattawa First Nation and to demand that ISC and FNIHB, on behalf of Canada, take immediate action to address, control and stop the ongoing tuberculosis outbreaks in Shamattawa and in the MKO First Nations; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, the MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct MKO, in MKO's capacity as a Non-Governmental Organization in consultative status with the United Nations, to prepare a written submission to the 2nd UN High-Level meeting on TB to disclose and to assert that Canada's failure to take immediate and effective action to address, control

and stop the spread of tuberculosis in Shamattawa and in the MKO First Nations is an act of genocide under the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and to demand that Canada to take all necessary steps to end Tuberculosis in First Nations in northern Manitoba.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Jordna Hill, Shamattawa First Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Simon Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| VOTE: | For: 16 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-05

RE: INAUGURATE FEBURARY 5th AS THANADELTHUR DAY

WHEREAS, The Denesuline and Cree Peoples living in today's northern Manitoba had a hostile relationship aggravated by the fur trade in the early 1700s. The Denesuline occupied ancestral lands northwest of the Churchill River, where the Denesuline did not possess firearms and had minimal contact with Europeans during this time. However, the Cree possessed muskets and ammunition, provided by the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC), which gave them the upper hand during the Denesuline-Cree conflicts; and,

WHEREAS, Thanadelthur was a young Denesuline woman who was a skilled interpreter, ambassador, and negotiator for the HBC and played a crucial role in the expansion of the English/French fur trade in the Northwest; and,

WHEREAS, In 1713, Thanadelthur was captured by the Cree and enslaved for a year before escaping. She came across the HBC York Factory Post governed by James Knight, where she stayed to work and plan with James Knight to make peace with the Cree, not only for trading purposes but to live harmoniously in peace; and,

WHEREAS, In 1715-16, Thanadelthur guided HBC trader William Stuart and a contingent of Cree peoples to the northwest of York Factory on Hudson's Bay into Denesuline territory. Thanadelthur's contribution led to peace between the Cree and Denesuline with long-lasting impact upon the Cree, Denesuline, and the HBC; and,

WHEREAS, Thanadelthur died February 5th, 1717; and,

WHEREAS, Her undocumented, untold, inspirational story of bravery and determination sheds light on the early years of northern fur trades and speaks to the important contributions of women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The MKO Chiefs in Assembly support Senator Mary Jane McCallum to call upon the Governments of Canada and Manitoba to honor Thanadelthur Day in recognition of the impact of her negotiation skills to bring peace to the Cree, Denesuline and Hudson's Bay Company; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, The MKO Chiefs in Assembly call on the federal government to adopt legislation establishing February 5th as Thanadelthur Day. The Denesuline offered for individuals to wear red on February 5th to honour Thanadelthur because she wore red during peace negotiations, and she wanted to be visible to her people.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Simon Denechezhe, Northlands Denesuline First Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Councillor Billy Linklater, Barren Lands First Nation (Proxy) |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| VOTE: | For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-06

RE: MKO TO HOST SUMMIT ON CHILD AND FAMILY MATTERS

WHEREAS, as directed by the MKO Chiefs Task Force on Child Welfare, in October 2022, the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat hosted a summit on First Nations exercising jurisdiction over child welfare; and,

WHEREAS, participants at the summit included: representatives from MKO First Nations, including youth and Elders; and staff from the First Nations Child and Family Services Agencies, the Northern Authority, Tribal Councils, and Indigenous Services Canada; and,

WHEREAS, MKO Chiefs are seeking an update on various child and family matters, including but not limited to Jordan's Principle, Post-Majority Support Services, the lawsuit against Manitoba concerning the Children's Special Allowance, the revised Final Settlement Agreement on Compensation to First Nations children and families, and long-term reform of the First Nations Child and Family Services Program.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the MKO Chiefs in Assembly support and direct the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat to host a Summit on Child and Family Matters in October 2023.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Gordie Bear, Mathias Colomb Cree Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 15 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-07

**RE: MKO TO SUPPORT NORWAY HOUSE CREE NATION IN PROCESS TO ESTABLISH
NEW NAME FOR JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE**

WHEREAS, Jordan's Principle is named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a Cree child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba. In 2007, the House of Commons passed Jordan's Principle in memory of Jordan Anderson. The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) determined the Government of Canada's approach to services for First Nation children was discriminatory. Under the CHRT legal ruling, it obligates Canada to ensure First Nation children can access products, services and supports they need; and

WHEREAS, Jordan River Anderson was born in 1999 with multiple disabilities and was required to stay in hospital since birth. When Jordan was two-years old, doctors said he be discharged from the hospital to a home that could support his medical needs, essentially meaning Jordan could go home. However, the federal and provincial governments could not agree on who would be responsible for paying for his home-based care; and

WHEREAS, Since the launch of Jordan's Principle, the implementation to meet the needs of First Nation children continues to be a challenge. The core intent and integrity of Jordan's Principle has been compromised by the Canadian government and the name of Jordan River Anderson should not be associated with denials of services, on-going jurisdictional barriers and other administrative regulations that continue to deny substantive equity to services for First Nation children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Norway House Cree Nation is seeking support from the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat to facilitate a traditional ceremony that is consistent with Cree customs and beliefs. The ceremony will honor the Spirit of Jordan River Anderson and to request a new name for Jordan's Principle. The Spirit of Jordan River Anderson has done so much work for First Nation children and it is time for his Spirit to rest. The MKO Family First Nation Secretariat will ensure that federal and provincial governments are present to witness the ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Once the ceremony is complete and the name "Jordan's Principle" is retired, MKO Family First Nation Secretariat will work towards commemoration of the legacy for Jordan River Anderson. The MKO Family First Nation Secretariat will issue a letter to Canada and Manitoba stating the retirement of the name "Jordan's Principle" and to adopt the new name that is identified through ceremony.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat to support Norway House Cree Nation to facilitate a traditional ceremony to honour Jordan River Anderson and a naming ceremony to retire "Jordan's Principle" to a new name that is inclusive to all children and youth; and,

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED,

The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat to work with Norway House Cree Nation to coordinate commemoration options for Jordan River Anderson; and,

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED,

The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Family First Nation Secretariat to issue a letter to the Government of Canada stating the name change of Jordan's Principle and to adopt the new name identified through ceremony. The MKO Family First Nation Secretariat will coordinate with the Government of Canada to facilitate the process of the name change from Jordan's Principle.

MOVED BY:

Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation

SECONDED BY:

Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

CARRIED:

DEFERRED

Vote:

Deferred by Consensus to the Next Chiefs Assembly

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Resolution #2023-08-08

**RE: MKO CALLS ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND THE AGE OF
ELIGIBILITY FOR JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE**

- WHEREAS,** Jordan's Principle, named in memory of Jordan River Anderson, a Cree child from Norway House Cree Nation in Manitoba, and is a legal rule that obligates the federal government to ensure First Nations children have substantive equity and that there are no gaps in publicly-funded health, social and education programs, services and supports; and,
- WHEREAS,** The Canadian Human Rights Tribunal's (CHRT) decision ordered Canada to immediately cease its discriminatory practices regarding First Nations child welfare, to reform the First Nations child welfare program, to cease applying a narrow definition of Jordan's Principle, and to take measures to implement the full meaning and scope of Jordan's Principle; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jordan's Principle applies to First Nations children from birth to the age of majority in the province or territory of their residence, which in Manitoba is the age of 18, and there are currently no provisions for post-majority services/supports (beyond 18) under Jordan's Principle in Manitoba, which is a significant gap for youth with disabilities and special needs and their families; and,
- WHEREAS,** Jordan's Principle ensures that all First Nation children have access to necessary services, however, cutting off services and resources without providing the necessary infrastructure for transition will only harm those in need. This highlights the importance of investing in the development of self-sustaining First Nation communities; by providing the necessary resources and support, they can create their own infrastructure to support youth aging into adulthood. Until then, the government of Canada must continue to uphold their commitment to Jordan's Principle by providing the necessary resources and services in First Nation communities; and,
- WHEREAS,** Once First Nations youth transition from Jordan's Principle services to adult disability services, there is a need to ensure a similar program as the provincial Adult Disability Services program is available to First Nations on reserve; and,
- WHEREAS,** When First Nations youth in Manitoba turn 18, they may not have access to the same level of support and services as received from Jordan's Principle, which may have a negative impact on their health, education, and overall well-being. Advocates are calling for Jordan's Principle to extend the age of eligibility up to 30.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The MKO Chiefs in Assembly call upon the Government of Canada to:

1. Extend the age of eligibility for Jordan's Principle up to 30 and continue to uphold their commitment to Jordan's Principle and end the discriminatory practices against First Nation children as they transition into adulthood; and

2. To provide the necessary special needs and disability resources and services for First Nation citizens from birth up to the age of 30 as services for special needs and disability do not end at the age of 18; and
3. To ensure a similar program as Adult Disability Services is available to First Nations on reserve.
4. To ensure a similar program as Community Living Disability Services be available to MKO Citizens living-off reserve.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED,

The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the Office of the Grand Chief to engage the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada to implement the process to extend the age eligibility for Jordan's Principle up to 30. And to further engage with Indigenous Services Canada to ensure the necessary services and resources for special needs and disabilities are available to citizens living on First Nations.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-09

**Re: INDIGENOUS SKILLS EMPLOYMENT TRAINING (ISET) PROGRAM UTILIZATION
OF DEFERRED REVENUE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT TRAINING PROJECTS**

- WHEREAS,** The Indigenous Skills and Employment Training (ISET) Program is a distinctions-based labour market program designed to assist First Nation citizens improve their education and skill levels to meet their long-term career goals. The ISET program offers First Nation citizens training for employment, targeted job coaching, pre-employment training, and other services. ISET administers sub-agreements with Employment & Training and Child Care programs that includes monitoring, training, compliance support, financial reporting, client reporting and audit preparation; and,
- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic had impacted the delivery of education and training programs where many programs were postponed and/or cancelled. Accessibility for education and training opportunities remains challenging for many First Nation citizens in northern Manitoba due to factors such as, training space, accommodations, internet connectivity, student support resources, relocation requirements, student financial aid; and,
- WHEREAS,** ISET is an expense-based program, sub-agreement holders with deferred revenue at the end of the fiscal year are required to identify how they will spend those funds, if no plan is identified the deferred revenue is taken in to account when the next allocation is released based on their financial reports; and,
- WHEREAS,** As a result of the decrease of education and training opportunities, the ISET programs have incurred multi-year surplus funding and is working on deferral plan to utilize the deferred revenue to develop and implement larger training projects that will benefit First Nations people and provide them with valuable training and job opportunities. These projects could include specialized training in areas such as construction, healthcare, and technology, as well as training on essential skills such as financial management and communication; and,
- WHEREAS,** The ISET program will work closely with the sub-agreement holders by developing an advisory committee in identifying the most relevant and impactful training projects for their communities. The sub-agreement holders should be actively involved in the development of the projects, from designing the curriculum to identifying potential trainers and instructors; and,
- WHEREAS,** By utilizing deferred revenue to develop and implement larger training projects, the ISET program can empower First Nations people with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in today's job market. This can lead to higher rates of employment, economic growth in First Nations communities, and ultimately, a stronger and more prosperous Indigenous workforce.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Chiefs in Assembly approve the allocation of the deferred revenue of the sub-agreement holders to the MKO ISET program to develop and implement larger training projects for the clientele of the sub-agreement holders. The MKO ISET program will develop an advisory committee comprised of representatives from sub-agreement holders to identify opportunities to create training and employment programs for their communities.

MOVED BY: Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
SECONDED BY: Chief Jordna Hill, Shamattawa First Nation
CARRIED: YES
VOTE: For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

*Certified copy of a Resolution adopted at the MKO 42nd Annual General Assembly
August 22, 23 & 24, 2023*


MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc.
42nd Annual General Assembly
Traditional Territory of
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
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Resolution #2023-08-10

**RE: MANITOBA WILDFIRE ACTION POLICY AND FIRST NATION DISASTER
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

- WHEREAS:** The *Government of Canada Adaptation Action Plan* recognizes that, “Indigenous peoples experience unique and disproportionate impacts from climate change caused in part by historic and ongoing government practices and policies, socio-economic inequalities, remote and hard-to-access geographic locations, and deep cultural connections with the natural environment. For example, First Nation reserves and communities with a primarily Indigenous population represent 5% of the population in the country, but experience 42% of wildland fire evacuation events” in Canada; and
- WHEREAS:** The Manitoba wildfire Protection Zones in the MKO region are: a Primary Protection Zone, which contains most of the commercially valuable timber resources in which Manitoba will carry out an immediate initial response on all fires and will require an escaped fire analysis with continued action determined based on values at risk, availability of suppression resources and estimated suppression costs; and, an Observation Zone within which an initial response is taken only if life is at risk and/or property values warrant a suppression response, which amounts to a “let it burn policy”; and
- WHEREAS:** Manitoba may establish a Disaster Financial Assistance Program when: damages from an event are widespread and affect a large area or number of residents, are mostly uninsurable, and represent a significant financial burden; and
- WHEREAS:** The “values at risk” assessments of the province of Manitoba to determine whether fire suppression action will take place do not take adequately into account the significant “values at risk” represented by the hundreds of traditional and Treaty-related harvesting camps as well as commercial trapping and fishing harvesting encampments, equipment and infrastructure of the MKO First Nations throughout the Primary Protection Zone and the Observation Zone; and
- WHEREAS:** The result of this persistent and significant underestimation by Manitoba of the “values at risk” of the MKO First Nations is that wildfires in the MKO region, particularly those that are not adequately suppressed, always result in damages that are widespread and affect a large area or number of MKO First Nation citizens, are mostly uninsurable, and represent a significant financial burden for the MKO First Nations and the citizens of the MKO First Nations; and
- WHEREAS:** Although there have been previous Manitoba Disaster Financial Assistance Programs (DFAP) to address the damages and losses from wildfire to Treaty-related and commercial harvesting camps, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure of the MKO First Nations, for example the DFAPs in 1989 and 2003, there is no permanently established Disaster Financial Assistance Program for this purpose.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Grand Chief and the MKO Secretariat to:

1. Demand that Manitoba accord a significantly higher value to the “values at risk” of the MKO First Nations in making decisions to carry out fire suppression actions in the MKO Region and that Manitoba adopt and implement revised policies which take into account the need to protect these First Nation values at risk and Treaty-related harvesting facilities from damages and losses caused by wildfire.
2. Demand that that Manitoba immediately establish a permanent First Nation Disaster Financial Assistance Program (FNDFAP) that will address the damages and losses from wildfire to the harvesting-related camps, buildings, equipment and infrastructure of the MKO First Nations, similar to the DFAP that MKO negotiated with Manitoba and Canada and assisted in operating in response to the disastrous 1989 wildfires in the MKO region.

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Angela Levasseur, Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief David Monias, Pimicikamak Cree Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-11

RE: MKO TAX FRAMEWORK INITIATIVE

WHEREAS: There are a wide range of mechanisms to secure the tax-free status of MKO citizens, employees, fisherman and businesses which the MKO First Nations have considerable experience in applying; and,

WHEREAS: There are significant opportunities for the MKO First Nations to assess and charge user fees to Crown corporations operating on First Nation reserve lands including Manitoba Hydro and there are opportunities to assess and impose taxes on businesses operating on First Nation reserve lands which are not Crown Corporations such as Bell MTS; and,

WHEREAS: It is of significant potential value to the MKO First Nations to be aware of and to apply these mechanisms to secure the tax-free status of MKO citizens, employees, fisherman and businesses, to assess and charge user fees to Crown corporations and assess and impose taxes on non-Crown businesses; and,

WHEREAS: MKO has previously initiated securing a “point of sale” exemption from provincial sales tax for First Nations purchases in Manitoba similar to the point-of-sale exemption mechanism applied to First Nation purchases in the province of Ontario.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Grand Chief and the MKO Secretariat to support the MKO First Nations in securing the maximum benefits of mechanisms to secure the tax-free status of MKO citizens, employees, fisherman and businesses and to assess and charge user fees to Crown Corporations and assess and impose taxes on non-Crown businesses by:

1. Documenting and developing a compendium of all such measures, which compendium will be made available to all MKO First Nations, MKO First Nation employers, MKO First Nation businesses, fishermen and First Nation governments and their financial advisors; and,
2. Developing the capacity to provide general information advisory support to all MKO First Nations, MKO First Nation employers, MKO First Nation businesses, fishermen and First Nation governments and their financial advisors

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| MOVED BY: | Chief Morris Beardy, Fox Lake Cree Nation |
| SECONDED BY: | Councillor Annie Ballantyne, Misipawistik Cree Nation (Proxy) |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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Resolution #2023-08-12

**RE: INSTALLATION OF SCANNERS AND POSTING OF INSPECTORS TO STOP
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS**

WHEREAS: Several MKO First Nations have enacted a State of Emergency regarding the crises of addictions and the widespread community harms resulting from the virtually uncontrolled epidemic of bootlegging and drug dealing; and,

WHEREAS: In response to these declared States of Emergency, several MKO First Nations have directed Canada Post to search all non-letter mail addressed to these communities pursuant to the *Non-Mailable Matter Regulations* under the Canada Post Corporation Act; and,

WHEREAS: As part of the MKO Vision of the Elements and Roles of a Whole of Government Response, the MKO By-law Pilot Project has developed in collaboration with the Manto Sipi Cree Nation a "Manto Sipi Intoxicants By-law 2023-08-03", which By-law prohibits the possession, use and sale of alcohol and includes enhanced peace officer powers and protections for First Nation Safety Officers and includes enhanced provisions to search all persons traveling to and all cargo being delivered to the community; and,

WHEREAS: Pursuant to s. 55 of the provincial *Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act*, it is unlawful for any person to deliver, or to cause to be delivered, alcohol to a location where alcohol is prohibited.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Grand Chief and the MKO Secretariat to support the MKO First Nations which have declared a State of Emergency in relation to addictions and to support the MKO First Nation which have enacted By-laws prohibiting the possession, use and sale of alcohol by taking every step to urgently:

1. Require, secure and immediately install scanners at the facilities of every air services, shipping and transportation provider serving the MKO First Nations; and,
2. Secure and immediately install additional scanners and duly appointed Postal Inspectors to facilitate the inspection by Canada Post of all non-letter mail being delivered to the MKO First Nations which have requested such searches, including at the Canada Post facility in Thompson, Manitoba.

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| MOVED BY: | Councillor Bobby Okemow, Manto Sipi Cree Nation (Proxy) |
| SECONDED BY: | Chief Jordna Hill, Shamattawa First Nation |
| CARRIED: | YES |
| Vote: | For: 14 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0 |

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