MKO Chiefs Task Force on Child Welfare Transformation

Update

October 17 and 18, 2022
Canad Inns Garden City
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Presentation by:
Chiefs Task Force member:
Chief Shirley Ducharme
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

MKO Chiefs Task Force - Background

- On October 21, 2021, the MKO Executive Council adopted the following motion.
  - That MKO establish a Task Force on Child Welfare Transformation comprised of Chiefs and the Child Welfare Secretariat (CWS)

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MKO Chiefs Task Force - Background

In November 2021, the MKO Chiefs-in-Assembly appointed the following Chiefs to the Task Force on Child Welfare Transformation

(Resolution #2021-11-09):

- Chief Larson Anderson, Norway House Cree Nation
- Chief Evan Yassie, Sayisi Dene First Nation
- Chief Shirley Ducharme, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
- Chief Betsy Kennedy, War Lake First Nation
- Further, these Chiefs are appointed to the board of directors of the Northern Authority as ex-officio members.

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MKO Chiefs Task Force - Background

- On February 24, 2022, the MKO Executive Council adopted the motion to appoint Chief Doreen Spence of Tataskweyak Cree Nation to the Task Force on Child Welfare.
- The Task Force also includes three staff from the MKO Child Welfare Secretariat and the MKO Grand Chief be appointed an ex-officio member of the Task Force.

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Direction of the Task Force

- Is to assert self-determination of sovereign First Nations and affirm their inherent right of self-government in relation to child and family services.

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Objectives of the Task Force

In line with the MKO Constitution (2021), the Task Force are to maintain, strengthen, lobby and defend the interests and rights of MKO First Nations members. Further, the objectives include the following:

a) Protecting, promoting and advancing all inherent, treaty and Aboriginal rights of MKO First Nations.

b) Providing technical assistance, consultative services and advice on all policies and statutes affecting all First Nations.

c) Protecting and advancing the powers, authority and autonomy of MKO First Nations governments.

d) Promoting, protecting and advancing the rights to establish a child welfare system deemed necessary by the MKO First Nations governments.

e) Working with all Tribal Councils, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Assembly of First Nations, and all non-affiliated First Nations on common matters, and each member First Nation of the MKO in Northern Manitoba, and all MKO First Nations peoples regardless of where they live.

The Chiefs Task Force on Child Welfare shall apply these objectives in the context of child and family services.

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