



Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak Inc.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2026

MKO Mourns the Passing of Dr. Barry Lavallee

Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak (MKO) offers condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Barry Lavallee, a visionary leader who has always been a great support for First Nations people in the North.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, when uncertainty was widespread and the world was shutting down, Dr. Lavallee stood at the forefront of the crisis with unwavering commitment. He worked tirelessly to ensure our Nations were protected and supported. His steady presence during critical information briefings brought reassurance during a frightening time.

A fierce advocate for culturally safe care and health equity, Dr. Lavallee was a true champion of First Nations health and wellbeing. This past summer, as thousands of northern people were displaced by wildfires and forced into unfamiliar cities, he helped establish harm-reduction supports for those struggling with addiction, ensuring no one was left behind.

MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee said Dr. Lavallee offered tremendous support for First Nations people. He spent his long career working to dismantle colonial systems and end systemic racism in healthcare.

“During the covid crisis Dr. Lavallee guided our Nations with a steady hand, without fear, ensuring citizens from northern First Nations had priority to vaccinations. He reminded us of what true service looks like and we will carry his teachings forward.”

MKO honours Dr. Lavallee’s extraordinary contributions for Indigenous people around the world, and the profound impact he made across our Nations. We celebrate his life and his enduring legacy.

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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.

