MKO Stands with SCO in Condemning Dangerous Winnipeg Sun Column on Residential School Denialism

Treaty 1 Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba — Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) is outraged that the Winnipeg Sun, led by CEO Kevin Klein, a registered candidate for Mayor of Winnipeg, chose to publish an opinion article on October 4 that attacks residential school Survivors' credibility and distorts the public record. MKO stands firmly with the Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) and Grand Chief Jerry Daniels in condemning this harmful commentary, which attempts to question the documented truths Survivors have carried for generations.

The column redirects scrutiny away from the institutions that forcibly removed Indigenous children from their homes, subjected them to abuse, and frequently denied families the truth about what happened to their children. It seeks to undermine established evidence and Survivor testimony by suggesting that records alone can fully explain what occurred.

MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee has stood at the historic burial ground of the former Brandon Residential School, a place left without headstones or markers. The site became a city park and was used as a campground. Through the determination of Survivors, Nations, families, and researchers, efforts to locate and honour these lost children have ensured they are not forgotten.

"MKO stands with every Survivor whose truth is being questioned," said MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee. "Residential school denialism is not harmless commentary. It dishonours the children who never came home and undermines the Truth that Survivors have courageously shared for generations. We will continue speaking the truth and supporting the sacred work of finding our lost children."

The residential school system inflicted suffering, abuse and death while pursuing the forced assimilation of Indigenous children. Survivor testimony and archival evidence have firmly established this history within Canada's public record, including through the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

Survivors have carried this truth for generations. MKO will continue to stand beside them and confront every attempt to question or erase it.

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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.

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