



Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.

Major Drug Trafficking Operation Protects First Nations and Northern Communities

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, MB - Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) commends the Winnipeg Police Service, the Ontario Provincial Police, the RCMP, and all partner agencies for their coordinated efforts in Project Puma, a two-year national investigation that resulted in the removal of more than \$37 million in illegal drugs, firearms, cash, and contraband from cities, towns and First Nations.

MKO recognizes the significant work that led to 33 arrests, 174 charges, and the disruption of organized crime groups linked to methamphetamine, cocaine, fentanyl, and weapons trafficking. These seizures represent a major step toward improving safety across Manitoba and northern First Nations, where the impacts of drug trafficking are deeply felt.

“MKO acknowledges the dedication and persistence shown by officers across multiple jurisdictions,” said MKO Grand Chief Garrison Settee. “The scale of this operation demonstrates the seriousness of the threat facing our Nations. Every shipment intercepted means fewer families harmed and fewer lives lost.”

Project Puma shows how coordinated policing can effectively disrupt the flow of illegal substances entering Manitoba and northern regions. A challenge northern First Nations Safety Officers and Leaders have been seeing firsthand.

“We praise the efforts of all agencies working together to protect citizens,” Grand Chief Settee added. “MKO will continue to advocate for strong partnerships, increased policing resources in the North, and expanded supports for addictions treatment and community safety.”

MKO remains committed to working with law enforcement, governments, and leadership to ensure northern First Nations have the tools and supports needed to keep citizens safe.

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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.