



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
EMPOWERING OUR NATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18th, 2020

AMC statement on Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs declaring state of emergency

Treaty One Territory, Manitoba – “On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), I offer our unconditional support to the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs in their declared state of emergency, which was issued today as incidents of violence have arisen across Nova Scotia.

All Chiefs in Manitoba stand in solidarity with our Mi'kmaw colleagues as they assert their right to fish for a moderate livelihood, and as they defend this right in the face of violence directed at the Mi'kmaw fisheries from the mainstream society and from the commercial fishing industry in Nova Scotia.

This violence is unacceptable in all circumstances, but it is particularly abhorrent in light of the September 17 anniversary of the *Marshall* Decision, which affirmed the Treaty right of First Nations to fish for a moderate livelihood, and in light of *R v Sparrow* which affirmed the unextinguished Aboriginal right to fish. In the spirit of the peace and friendship Treaties of the east coast, I call upon the Minister of the Department of Oceans and Fisheries and the Minister of Indigenous Services to immediately intervene in this volatile situation and to implement the binding agreements, initiatives and investments that resulted from the Marshall Decision and work with First Nations to avoid any further violence.”

- Grand Chief Arlen Dumas

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About the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

The AMC was formed in 1988 by the Chiefs in Manitoba to advocate on issues that commonly affect First Nations in Manitoba. AMC is an authorized representative of 62 of the 63 First Nations in Manitoba with a total of more than 151,000 First Nation citizens in the province, accounting for approximately 12 percent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho / Inineew (Cree), Anishinew (Ojibwe-Cree), Denesuline (Dene) and Dakota Oyate (Dakota) people.