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Media Release

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For Immediate Release
February 25, 2016
12:00 p.m. CST

MKO Support Nishnawbe Aski Nation in Health Crisis

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, Manitoba - The Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. (MKO) supports the call by the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) in regards to the health crisis situation in the NAN territory. Nishnawbe Aski Nation Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and representatives of the Sioux Lookout Area Chiefs Committee on Health have declared a Health and Public Health Emergency for First Nations in the Sioux Lookout region and across NAN territory.

MKO is standing in support of NAN Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler and all Leaders in the NAN and Sioux Lookout region, as well as with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) Ontario Regional Chief, Isadore Day, as they make a firm and committed stand for equitable and high quality health services for their people.

“Our MKO Territory is similar in many ways with the NAN region and I understand and empathize with the people and leaders there as we face a similar health crisis situation across MKO territory”, said MKO Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson. “MKO has taken calls from citizens and leaders in regards to the dire need for diabetes education and aftercare, suicide prevention and mental wellness supports, and documented the underlying causes of these challenges”, concluded MKO Grand Chief Sheila North Wilson.

In solidarity with Nishnawbe Aski Nation, the MKO also is calling on all levels of governments to commit to a plan of action within 90 days to address the longstanding health inequities for both northern Ontario and northern Manitoba First Nations.

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~Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc. is a non-profit, political advocacy organization that has represented 30 First Nation communities in Manitoba's North since 1981~