



Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Response to false social media allegations

Treaty One Territory, MB. _ The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) Grand Chief is concerned about the impact of conclusions being drawn about alleged inappropriate behavior based on unsubstantiated Facebook posts and a mobile phone text messages falsely attributed to him.

AMC Grand Chief Arlen Dumas said, "Yesterday, when I got back into cellphone range in the afternoon from Black River First Nation, I was informed that there had been some concerning Facebook posts attributed to me. These posts are not mine and appear to have originated from a fake Facebook account. Posts of a screenshot appearing to show some texts from my cellphone are also not mine, but a spoof text."

Fake accounts on Facebook are from individuals pretending to be someone else for political or other purposes and Facebook has a policy against fake accounts. Spoof texts are mobile phone texts that make a message appear to come from one cell phone number when, in fact, they originate from another. Formal requests from media outlets have been made to the Grand Chief's Office requesting comment on these false allegations.

Grand Chief Dumas continued, "I want to condemn whoever has created this false account. By attacking my credibility as the Grand Chief and reaching out to this young lady in this manner, they have caused unwarranted stress for her, her family and her partner. It is a cowardly attempt to discredit my reputation. This account was not my account nor was it created by me; neither were these comments from me."

Grand Chief Dumas concluded, "The posting and sharing of these messages is defamatory and we will get to the bottom of who is behind this. My office has already reported the fake Facebook account to Facebook. The AMC Secretariat has initiated processes to validate email addresses and social media accounts and will develop a policy to enable security measures that will work to prevent these types of fake accounts/numbers being attributed to our organization or its members. I have also sought legal advice on the defamatory nature of the posts and how such comments and dissemination of them continue to attack my reputation."

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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 First Nations in Manitoba with a total of more than 151,000 First Nation citizens in the province, accounting for approximately 12 per cent of the provincial population. AMC represents a diversity of Anishinaabe (Ojibway), Nehetho (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene and Dakota people and traditions.

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