

**ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS
UPDATE REPORT FOR 2012 RESOLUTION**

ECC JAN- 12.09	Support for water as a human right research	Adopted Jan. 31, 2012, at Brokenhead Ojibway Nation by the executive council of chiefs. Signed by Grand Chief Derek Nepinak	Moved by Chief Barry Swan, Lake Manitoba First Nation & seconded by Chief Murray Clearsky, Waywayseecappo First Nation
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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC Executive Council of Chiefs supports the involvement of AMC with the inclusion of the Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO) with the Centre for Human Rights Research (CHRR); and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the AMC encourage First Nations to partner with the CHRR and other related organizations to undertake programs of research aimed at producing evidence and advocacy to support the fundamental right of AMC members and other First Nations in Canada to safe drinking water and sewage services; and

FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the ECC supports AMC's involvement in the planning of a symposium on the "Human Right to Water" for interested communities in the spring of 2012 to ensure strong First Nation representation.

UPDATE 2016:

The Centre for Human Rights Research at the University of Manitoba has worked with staff from AMC, the First Nations Health and Social Secretariat of Manitoba, St. Theresa Point First Nation and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation to study the economic impact of poor drinking water and wastewater services, as well as to analyze possible legal and advocacy strategies to address the problem. Some key results:

- First Nation residents with proper sanitation are 38 per cent more likely to report that they are in good health than those without.
- In one First Nation, two-thirds of people surveyed run out of water at home.
- Anishinaabe law teaches that water has a spirit, we do not own water, water is life, water can heal, women are responsible for water, we must respect the water, water can suffer and water needs a voice.
- Legal strategies that rely on international law and section 36 of the Canadian constitution look the most promising so far.
- Advocacy campaign messages that frame drinking water as a human right, show that solutions are feasible, remind people how they are connected to their own communities, emphasize the suffering of children and enlist support from other minority Canadians are likely to be effective.

Fact sheets outlining details of the research results are available in your assembly package, at the CHRR trade show booth and at chrr.info/index.php/water-rights.

Meanwhile, about 75 science and engineering students – including about 20 Indigenous students – with the University of Manitoba's H2O program have worked with First Nations in Manitoba and Ontario on how to improve drinking and wastewater services. Some of what they have discovered so far:

- Homes with cisterns are more likely to have bacteria-contaminated drinking water.
- Some of those bacteria are resistant to antibiotics, putting residents who drink the water or bathe in it at risk of hard-to-treat skin and gut infections.
- Natural wetlands are effective at removing phosphorus from wastewater before it pollutes lakes.
- Some First Nation garbage dumps are polluting nearby water.

Details are available at create-h2o.ca.