

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak, Inc.
30th Annual General Assembly
Pimicikamak Cree Nation
August 30, 31 & September 1, 2011

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Resolution #2011-08-02

RE: PARTNERSHIPS IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO CLEAN RUNNING WATER

WHEREAS, The Centre for Human Rights Research (CHRR) at the University of Manitoba has initiated a research project on the internationally recognized human right to clean running water and adequate wastewater services; and

WHEREAS, CHRR recognizes that Indigenous Peoples worldwide and in Canada are among those most likely to have their basic water rights neglected, the new research consortium is focusing on drinking water and sewage issues for Manitoba First Nations; and

WHEREAS, Five working groups of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal university researchers and Indigenous community partners are collaborating to explore legal, health, economic, technical and advocacy issues; and

WHEREAS, In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly declared that "(t)he right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation is a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights." The UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues followed up May 23, 2011, with a reminder that Indigenous Peoples must be consulted if the target of halving the proportion of people lacking access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation was to be reached by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals; and

WHEREAS, Across Canada, 39 per cent of First Nation water systems and 14 per cent of the wastewater systems are considered high-risk. In Manitoba, 28 per cent of water systems and 10 per cent of wastewater systems on reserve have major deficiencies that pose a high risk to water quality, but the recent national assessment does not take into account the risk of living in homes without running water; and

WHEREAS, A *Winnipeg Free Press* investigation in 2010 revealed that there are 3,410 homes on Canadian First Nations without running water and also revealed that more than 40 per cent of First Nation homes in Canada without running water are in Manitoba, even though Manitoba has only 15 per cent of the total number of First Nation homes in Canada.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The MKO Chiefs in Assembly direct the MKO Grand Chief, the MKO Health Secretariat, the MKO Natural Resources Secretariat and MKO Housing, Infrastructure and Capital to engage in partnerships with the Centre for Human Rights Research, the Manitoba First Nations Centre for Aboriginal Health Research and other entities for the purpose of undertaking research in support of the recognition of the fundamental human right of all MKO citizens and other First Nations citizens in Manitoba and Canada to have access to clean running water and adequate wastewater services.

Moved By: Chief Garrison Settee, Pimicikamak Cree Nation
Seconded By: Chief Jack Dysart, O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation
CARRIED: YES

*Certified copy of Resolution adopted by the MKO Executive Council
September 20, 2011*



MKO Grand Chief David Harper