



Education Centre in Tataskweyak Cree Nation, along with the rampant mould discovery at the high school in Garden Hill First Nation, highlight the unsafe and inadequate learning environments faced by students in Manitoba's First Nations schools.

The AMC emphasizes the critical need for funding to address these infrastructure deficiencies.

Grand Chief Cathy Merrick states, "The government of Canada's commitment in Budget 2024 towards First Nations education is a small step towards addressing the actual funding and infrastructure needs of First Nations schools in Manitoba. For too long, our schools have suffered from neglect and underfunding, resulting in unsafe and inadequate learning environments."

The AMC estimates that a comprehensive investment of \$10.1 billion in capital spending is required to address the infrastructure needs of First Nations schools in Manitoba. Despite the recent funding announcement, this amount remains insufficient to ensure safe and adequate learning environments for First Nations students. The AMC remains committed to advocating for safe schools and welcomes the opportunity to work collaboratively with Canada to ensure that these funds are effectively utilized to enhance educational outcomes for First Nations students in Manitoba.

### Water and Waste Systems

Despite allocating funds for drinking and waste systems, none of the new funds are specifically dedicated to First Nations in Manitoba. The AMC calls for equitable distribution of resources to address the unique needs of First

Nations communities in the province.

### Conclusion

While Budget 2024 includes important investments in various areas, the AMC notes with concern the lack of updates on critical programs such as Child and Family Services, Jordan's Principle, and winter road infrastructure and

maintenance, which are essential for the well-being and safety of First Nations in Manitoba.

"We urge the federal government to prioritize and provide more commitments to these vital areas, ensuring that the needs of our First Nations in Manitoba are effectively addressed and supported," concluded Grand Chief Cathy Merrick.







## Celebrating Excellence: MASRC Class of 2024 Major Award Recipients

*Continued from page 4*

contributions to sports and community activities in Churchill are invaluable, organizing hockey, baseball, and volleyball events for local youth. His commitment extends beyond coaching and playing sports, as he dedicates his spare time to ensure the smooth operation of local arenas. Benjamin's selfless service and dedication



# Higher density living is changing the way neighbouring works in Canada

*Continued from page 6*

## Neighbouring is a spectrum

In our focus group research conducted in Vancouver, we discovered that it makes more sense to consider neighbouring not as good versus bad but as a spectrum of different behaviours in challenging contexts.

Residents of community housing experience neighbouring in ways that run the gamut from pro-social to anti-social, with a significant middle zone of asocial activities and relationships. Rather than associating certain behaviours with bad or good neighbours, different contexts and dimensions of vulnerability can determine where a behaviour falls on the neighbour spectrum.

Our focus group participants defined good neighbours as residents who understood the importance of social recognition, respect for difference and need for privacy, offering help, and opportunities for shared social activities.

In the middle zone, we found asocial neighbouring activities that defied categorization. Depending on the circumstances, these activities could be the source of conflict or a path to generate a more pro-social sense of neighbouring. Activities included mutual aid; sharing food; noise and odours; responding to illness and loss of life; observing rules; response to emergencies; attitudes about privacy; and organized social activities.

People who may appear disillusioned with their neighbours often still had the capacity to be good neighbours — but they struggled to be good neighbours under the weight of poverty, inequality, and the structures and regulations in place at home.

The more the participants discussed with one another and with us, the more willingness they demonstrated to improve the functional neighbourliness of their buildings. This willingness proves the potential for new programs, rules and spaces to support neighbouring within community housing. However, it also provides a warning.

## New realities of neighbouring

Social connections are not a natural, synergistic outcome of living in close quarters with other people. New understandings of the spectrum of neighbouring may open up more meaningful neighbour behaviours for those facing social isolation who are most at risk from anti-social behaviours.

At the same time, making better neighbours is not always the place to start to improve quality of life in high density neighbourhoods undergoing rapid change. Neighbouring can be politically and emotionally charged. Pro-social neighbouring work should be treated with cultural and situational awareness in mind.





The AMC issued the following response to last week’s Supreme Court of Canada’s decision in *Shot Both Sides v. Canada*.

In this case, the Kainai Nation commenced an action against Canada for failing to set aside reserve lands that were promised under Treaty 7. The claim was started after the expiration of the limitation period in Alberta, but the Federal Court determined that the claim could continue because Treaty rights could not be enforced until the enactment of s. 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. The Federal Court of Appeal reversed the decision, finding that Canada’s obligations to fulfill Treaty promises existed before the enactment of s. 35. The Kainai Nation then appealed the decision to the Supreme Court.

Last week, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld the Federal Court of Appeal’s finding that the enactment of s. 35 did not impact the limitation period. The Supreme Court ruled that Treaty obligations are enforceable and actionable from their execution and that s. 35(1) is “not the source of Treaty rights”. The result is that the limitation period unilaterally imposed by the province of Alberta is effective to bar the Kainai Nation’s claim.

Unfortunately, this means the only enforceable judgement the Kainai Nation can seek to for compensation for their stolen land is at the Specific

Claims Tribunal, which significantly limits the remedies they can seek through judicial or quasi-judicial means. While the Tribunal can address claims that are barred by statutes of limitations, compensation is capped at \$150 million and the Tribunal cannot award punitive or exemplary damages, damages for cultural loss, or order the return of land. Due to Canada’s breach of Treaty, the Kainai Nation is owed 162.5 square miles of reserve land from the time it entered into Treaty 7 in 1877. The lack of judicial remedies available to the First Nation is, therefore, immensely troubling.

The AMC participated as an intervener in the case, arguing that the Crown’s reliance on the statute of limitations is inconsistent with the Nation-to-Nation Treaty relationship, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), and perpetuates breaches of Treaty. The AMC argued that it is no longer justifiable to maintain colonial laws such as statutes of limitations, which were founded without the input of First Nations and used to their detriment. The AMC asked the Supreme Court to reject narrow interpretations of the law that are contrary to reconciliation in favour of legal interpretations that strengthen and uphold the Treaty relationship and meaningfully advance reconciliation.

The Supreme Court determined that reconciliation in this case could be fostered by declaratory relief. Declaratory relief is a discretionary remedy that cannot be enforced in courts and instead assumes that the Crown will act honourably in implementing its obligations. However, the declaration the Supreme Court granted in no way guarantees a just remedy, “[a] clear statement setting out the Crown’s infringement of an Indigenous party’s rights may spur reconciliation efforts between the parties to address the wrongs suffered [emphasis added].”

In response, Grand Chief Cathy Merrick noted that Canada’s history of dishonourable conduct towards First Nations makes it evident that without courts meaningfully compelling the Crown to act honourably, First Nations cannot expect to be treated fairly. She stated, “Declaratory relief affords too much deference to the Crown, the same entity that has historically and continually acted against First Nations interests. On the one hand, the Supreme Court recognized Canada’s conduct in breaching Treaty 7 was “deplorable,” but on the other, it forces the Kainai Nation to rely on Canada’s goodwill to negotiate a remedy that can even come close to addressing the First Nation’s loss.”

“This case provided a significant opportunity for the Supreme Court to meaningfully advance reconciliation by making clear that statutes of limitation do not apply where meritorious Treaty-based claims are at issue. It is discouraging that the Court is allowing legal technicalities to restrict the Kainai Nation’s Treaty rights— I, ed. as a resold, / Canada will re pur to/ ± on/ disadn ymits dis onour able conduct!”

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# AMC discouraged by the Supreme Court's Decision

*Continued from page 8*



# Southern Chiefs' Organization encouraged by latest Federal Budget

The Southern Chiefs' Organization (SCO) is responding to the federal budget called "Fairness for Every Generation," which was delivered by the Government of Canada on April 16, 2024.

"First Nations have faced many deficits in the area of housing and infrastructure with little investment made in repairing, rebuilding, and funding First Nations homes and communities," stated SCO Grand Chief Jerry Daniels. "It is encouraging to see Canada's commitment to invest \$918 million over the next 5 years to address these housing inequities. We hope these budgeted investments are front end loaded and deliver quality projects that meet the housing needs for our member Nations and citizens."

As there continue to be huge gaps in infrastructure for First Nations, it is essential to see capital investments in schools, water and wastewater systems, and roads on reserve lands.

The Government of Canada announced a new "Public Lands for Homes Plan," which commits to unlock 250,000 new homes by 2031 on public lands. SCO reminds the government of Treaty Land Entitlement and calls on Canada to prioritize First Nations in accessing land.

"Although this budget provides us with hope, we find this new plan

about building new homes on public lands to be quite concerning. First Nations have been waiting for decades to receive the land we are owed by Canada. What I'd like to know is how the government can provide land so quickly for housing, but they have been okay to let First Nations languish as we wait for our Treaty Land Entitlement to be fulfilled," said Grand Chief Daniels.

SCO also encourages the provincial government to match the federal contribution of \$250 million for the transitional housing fund to ensure that our relatives who are experiencing homelessness can access housing. We look forward to continuing to work with Canada and our other Treaty partners to complete SCO's significant housing projects in downtown Winnipeg.

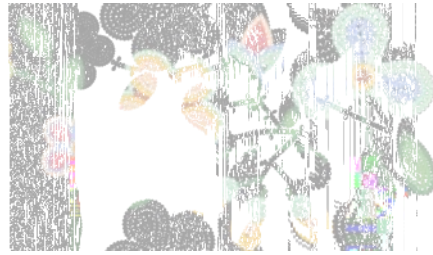
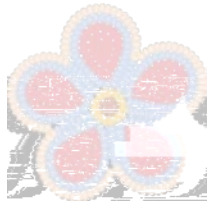
Canada is investing \$1.3 million to co-develop with Indigenous partners, on a priority first phase, a regional Red Dress Alert system. SCO is encouraged by this investment and is also pleased to see the government follow through with its commitment to invest \$20 million to search a landfill for the sacred remains of Morgan Harris, Mercedes Myran, and Mashkode Bizhiki'ikwe (Buffalo Woman). These investments will further our efforts to end this national emergency, address intergenerational trauma, and gender-based violence that is disproportionately experienced by our relatives.

"While Canada's funding commitments to emergency management, climate resiliency, and clean energy are much needed by our Nations, they don't do enough to capture true environmental reconciliation that encompasses First Nations self-governance and determination," said Grand Chief Daniels. "The inherent rights of First Nations must extend to the lands and waters to make space for reconnection and stewardship and rectify the devastating environmental impacts of settler colonial systems and governments."

Education remains a key priority for and within our member Nations. SCO is pleased with the \$243 million investment for the next generation of First Nations post-secondary students and the additional \$1.4 billion commitment to develop First Nations kindergarten programs. We are also supportive of the new National School Food Program, to ensure all children have the nutrition they need to grow healthy minds and bodies.

Better health outcomes are another crucial issue for First Nations, with significant and widening life expectancy gaps across Turtle Island. The federal government's investment of more than \$630 million to improve access to mental health and wellness services is welcomed.

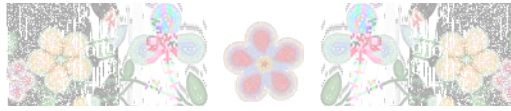
"Health continues to be a major priority for citizens of our Nations. SCO is pleased to see the continued investment and support for the health transformation initiatives as First Nations work to deliver health care to our own people, in our own way," said Grand Chief Daniels. "We applaud the commitment to build and renovate health facilities to support First Nations citizens receiving care closer to home. SCO is pleased to see additional funding to support the mental health of First Nations youth and to combat racism in health care. Overall, we will continue advocating to ensure our Treaty partners are working to provide the best outcomes for SCO member Nations and citizens."



Your Red River Métis Government is looking forward to our first ever Business Excellence Awards Gala. The event will take place on May 30 and will honour our hardworking business community by recognizing the best of the best in the following categories: Traditional Economies, Young Entrepreneurs, Sustainable Economy, Infinity Women Secretariat Spokeswoman's Award, and President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

These categories are reflective of our growing entrepreneurial strength. Whether you're a beader, a trapper, a fisher, a Youth entrepreneur, a woman leading a business, the owner of a stable and mature business, or a business invested in preserving our Homeland, its imports



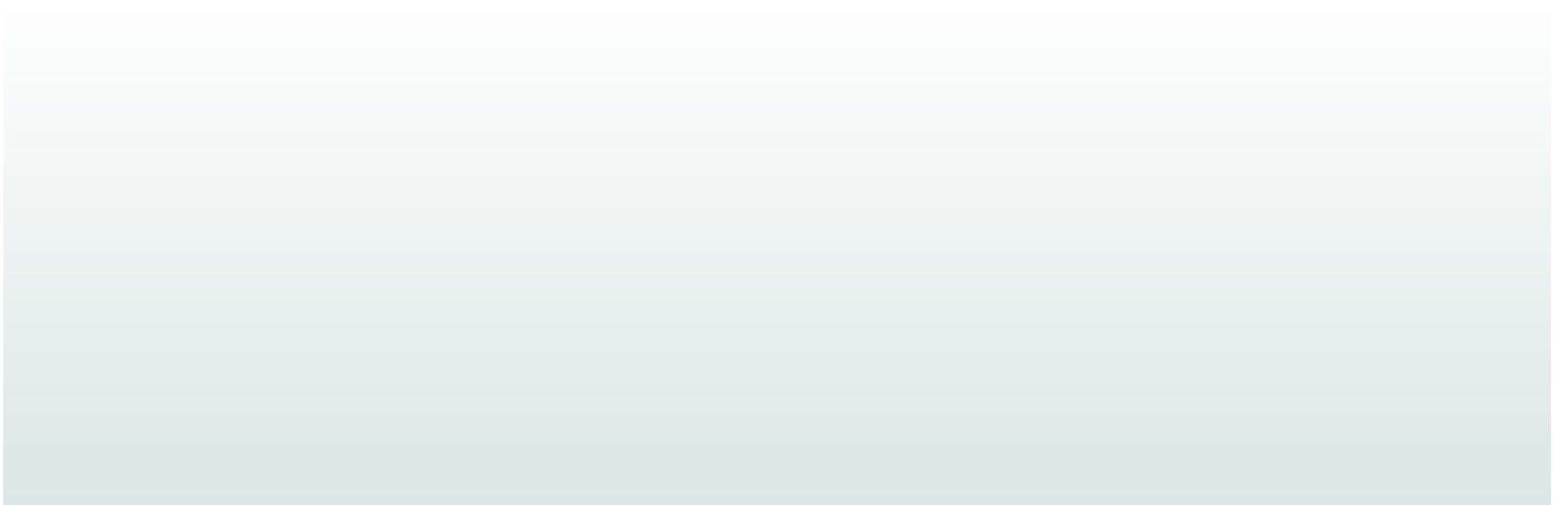


Gorrie is thankful for all the help from the National Government of the Red River Métis.

"I hear all these stories of other communities getting involved with the MMF, partmgs

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Manitoba will increase the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative by \$500,000 for the 2024-25 academic year, with a focus on increasing awards for Indigenous students and those facing financial barriers to accessing post-secondary education, Advanced Education and Training Minister Renée Cable announced.

“By working with partner organizations such as the Manitoba Business Council through their Indigenous Education Awards, we will deliver more scholarships and bursaries to Indigenous students, increase equitable access to training and educational opportunities, and prepare students for successful careers,” said Cable.

The Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative is a long-standing partnership between the Manitoba government and partner organizations, which sees government match private donations for student awards programs. The goal of the initiative is to award scholarships and bursaries to Manitoba students based on merit and financial need and to remove financial barriers to education. This investment of \$500,000 will increase government’s commitment to \$10.5 million for 2024-25.

“Meeting our province’s current and future economic needs, including those of our Indigenous communities, requires a diverse and educated workforce,” said Bram Strain, president and CEO, Business Council of Manitoba. “This increase in funding to the Manitoba Scholarship and Bursary Initiative



Across the world, climate change



# Advancing the rights of girls and women promotes justice and is also effective climate action

*Continued from page 16*

separate from conversations about climate and environmental policy. This separation of gender equity efforts from climate change preparedness strategies problematically overlooks the deeply intertwined nature of these issues.

## **Overlooked and ignored**

In an examination of the national climate agreements submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (under the terms of the Paris Agreement), UNICEF found that only 34 per cent of countries with new or revised climate plans, including their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), explicitly reference children or youth.

Fewer than 19 per cent of NDCs consider children as having defined rights and only five of 166 countries mention a child's right to education amid climate disruptions. Lastly, only two per cent of the national climate change strategies specifically reference girls.

Put differently, 98 per cent of submitted NDCs fail to mention girls at all.

Canada, despite its stated commitments to the federal government's Feminist International Assistance Policy, also fails to mention girls — or children generally — in its NDC.

This suggests that climate policy is failing to even recognize its most vulnerable stakeholders and consequently failing to meaningfully incorporate the needs, rights and voices of some of the most vulnerable



Canada recently released its long-awaited third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, entitled Foundations for Peace.

Women, peace and security is a policy framework that recognizes women must play a critical role in all efforts to achieve sustainable global peace and security.

As a self-styled leader on women, peace and security, Canada has been a vocal advocate of feminist foreign policy, appointed the first ambassador for women, peace and security in 2019 and has integrated the Gender-based Analysis Plus analytical tool in its policymaking to support the development of inclusive initiatives.

Yet this international engagement has not always translated into domestic action.

### **How women, peace and security evolved**

With the regression of women's rights, threats to LGBTQ+ and two-spirit individuals and continued violence against Indigenous women and girls, initiatives focused on women, peace and security should be of critical importance to all Canadians.

It's helpful to look back on how these initiatives evolved.

Formally introduced in 2000 as the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the women, peace and security agenda was created to bring attention to the need for equitable decision-making in security processes and the inclusion of women's rights in all activities related to peace and conflict resolution.

The decades of work done by civil society organizations on this issue resulted in the resolution being passed. This milestone led to greater awareness of the role of women in peace building and armed conflict.

Furthermore, as countries became more invested in UNSCR 1325, they produced national action plans to confront gender inequality issues related to security in their countries. This also allowed governments to emphasize regional, state and local priorities.

Canada's latest national action plan covers 2023 to 2029. It's based on lessons learned from

Canada's previous two national action plans on women, peace and security that spanned 2010 to 2022.

It was created in collaboration with 11 federal partners, alongside experts, members of civil society and Indigenous Peoples. Importantly, it references the final report on the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, bringing attention to the higher levels of insecurity and instability faced by Indigenous women as a result of ongoing colonial legacies.

### **Six goals**

The 2023-2029 national action plan outlines Canada's goals over the next six years through its domestic and international commitments.

To do so, it has highlighted six key areas of focus and four main principles. The focus areas are:

- Building and sustaining peace;
- Security, justice and accountability;
- Crisis response;
- Sexual and gender-based violence;
- Leadership and capabilities;
- Inclusion.

To properly respond to these focus areas, Canada has outlined four principles as the foundation for the implementation: humility, responsiveness, coherence and trust.

As explained in the plan, the purpose of outlining these focus areas and principles is so that Canada can adapt the implementation based on "emerging needs, changes in the broader environment and ongoing learning."

### **Strengths of the new action plan**

There are many strengths of the new national action plan, particularly the creation of a co-ordination hub within Global Affairs Canada. This change is intended to strengthen communication between stakeholders and ensure consistency in implementing policy.

In addition, there's a greater focus on qualitative reporting. That means data is being collected on lived experiences, ideas and concepts (as opposed to quantitative data that focuses on numbers and statistics), which will be central to understanding how Canadians are

directly impacted by the women, peace and security agenda.

This is critical to undertaking an intersectional approach, since women are affected by security issues differently depending on the context, their experiences and overlapping identities.

For too long, the women, peace and security agenda — as well as other international initiatives such as the UN's Sustainable Development Goals — have focused on quantitative monitoring. This limits our understanding of context, individual experiences and variations when it comes to women, peace and security issues.

The focus on qualitative data also moves Canada further away from the problematic "add women and stir" approach that has dominated the issue for too long, and it better enables policymakers to confront systemic challenges.

### **Areas of concern**

Nonetheless, there is uncertainty around funding and minimal details on the monitoring, evaluation and learning efforts that will track the progress of the latest national action plan.

How the provisions of the action plan will be implemented also remains unclear as ha

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# Women, peace and security initiatives should matter to all Canadians

*Continued from page 18*

action plan, international concerns such as conflicts and climate change will soon become domestic ones if they aren't already.

Investing in women, peace and security initiatives at both domestic and international

levels is important to Canada's commitment to an equitable society and just world.

While Canada has until 2029 to confront the many issues highlighted in the third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, it

must invest at all levels of government.

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*Emma Fingler, PhD Candidate in Political Studies, Queen's University, Ontario. Originally published at theConversation.com.*

UWinnipeg will be honouring their Indigenous grads at the 19th annual Graduation Pow Wow on May 5, and this year's event will be a bit different. The Grad Pow Wow, which in previous years has been in March, will be held on Sunday, May 5. The move was made to coordinate with Red River College and University of Manitoba to create a weekend of pow wows.

A new addition this year is the Red Dress Special in honour of Red Dress Day (May 5), or the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). The Special will include ceremony to honour graduates who are family members of MMIWG2S+, and will be hosted by Giganawenimaanaanig (also known as the Manitoba MMIWG2S+ Coalition).

"We wanted to make sure that we were honouring that day," said Aboriginal Student Services Center (ASSC) Coordinator, Sarah DeLaronde. "Recognizing that, for some of the graduates and attendees, those are their family members. We want to make sure that they feel the love on that day and that they feel seen."

This year's event will also have a memorial for Elder Calvin Pompana. Elder Wakin ya Hosksida/Calvin Pompana (Thunder Boy) was a proud member of Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, who joined ASSC in the winter of 2017 as one of the Elders in Residence. Throughout his time with UWinnipeg he facilitated many cultural activities, including sweat lodge and pipe ceremonies, medicine picking, and sharing/healing circles. He provided numerous class lectures on a variety of subjects, including the Sun Dance and his Residential School experiences.

As someone who has attended two Graduation Pow Wows as



# Type 2 diabetes is not one-size-fits-all: Subtypes affect complications and treatment options

*Continued from page 20*

uniformly to the same treatments.

To better serve people living with Type 2 diabetes, and to move away from a “one size fits all” approach, it is beneficial to understand which subtype of Type 2 diabetes a person lives with. When someone needs a blood transfusion, the medical team needs to know the patient’s blood type. It should be the same for diabetes so a tailored and effective game plan can be implemented.

This article explores four unique subtypes of Type 2 diabetes, shedding light on their causes, complications and some of their specific treatment avenues.

## **Severe insulin-deficient diabetes: We’re missing keys!**

Insulin is produced by beta cells, which are found in the pancreas. In the severe insulin-deficient diabetes (SIDD) subtype, the key factories — the beta cells — are on strike. Ultimately, there are fewer keys in the body to unlock the cells and allow entry of sugar from the blood.

SIDD primarily affects younger, leaner individuals, and unfortunately, increases the risk of eye disease and blindness, among other complications. Why the beta cells go on strike remains largely unknown, but since there is an insulin deficiency, treatment often involves insulin injections.

## **Severe insulin-resistant diabetes: But it’s always locked!**

In the severe insulin-resistant diabetes (SIRD) subtype, the locks are overstimulated and start ignoring the keys. As a result, the beta



Childhood-onset Type 2 diabetes is on the rise across Canada, but disproportionately affects Indigenous youth. It is undoubtedly linked to the intergenerational trauma associated with colonization in these communities. While many factors are likely involved, recent studies have discovered that exposure of a fetus to Type 2 diabetes during pregnancy increases the risk that the baby will develop diabetes later in life.

Acknowledging this distinct subtype of Type 2 diabetes in First Nations communities has led to the implementation of a community-based health action plan aimed at addressing the unique challenges faced by Indigenous Peoples. It is hoped that partnered research between communities and researchers will continue to

help us understand childhood-onset Type 2 diabetes and how to effectively prevent it. [Media](#)

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References

Footnotes

## Road transfer agreement increases access for Northern Manitobans

*Continued from page 22*

the possibilities of improved transportation for people as well as goods and services into Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Gillam, and Thompson which are all located near or along this vital route, the minister said.

Manitoba Hydro is a provincial Crown corporation and one of the largest integrated electricity and natural gas distribution utilities in Canada.

Keeyask is Manitoba Hydro's newest generating station. It was developed as a collaborative effort between Manitoba Hydro and four Manitoba First Nations – Tataskweyak Cree Nation and War Lake First Nation, York Factory First Nation, and Fox Lake Cree Nation – who are owners under the Keeyask Hydropower Limited Partnership (KHLP). Manitoba Hydro operates the station on behalf of the KHLP.

## AMC Renews Call for Enhanced Cultural Sensitivity Training in Healthcare Following Tragic Death of Indigenous Woman

The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) is renewing its call for the province to work with First Nations Leadership to administer enhanced cultural sensitivity training for healthcare professionals across the province. This call to action comes a day after the daughter of Jean Kemash filed a statement of claim alleging her mother's race played a role in negligent medical care that caused her death. Jean Kemash, a 68-year-old Indigenous woman, died at Winnipeg's Grace Hospital in 2022.

"First Nations' lived experiences of racial bias and systemic racism within healthcare institutions raise urgent questions about the equitable treatment of First Nations patients and the disproportionate impact of systemic racism and practitioner prejudice on their health outcomes," said AMC Grand Chief Cathy Merrick.

Such allegations underscore broader concerns about the quality of healthcare provided to First Nations in Manitoba and across Canada. In fact, just last year, the college that regulates Manitoba's physicians apologized for its current and historical failure to respond to indigenous-specific racism in the medical profession. The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba said its responsibility also extends to the racist actions and inactions

perpetuated by physicians, residents, medical students, clinical assistants, and physician assistants.

The loss of Jean Kemash serves as a stark reminder of the persistent barriers faced by First Nations citizens in accessing culturally safe and dignified healthcare services. "First Nations experience the consequences of institutionalized racism when trying to access services in provincial health systems. Look at the case of Brian Sinclair, an indigenous man who died at Winnipeg's Health Sciences Centre in 2008 or that of Joyce Echequan, an Atikamekw woman in Quebec. Across the country, healthcare professionals are quite literally ignoring our people to death," continued Grand Chief Merrick.

"Reconciliation demands that the province and health authorities collaborate with First Nations Leadership to confront and dismantle these systemic barriers to transform Manitoba's health system into one that upholds the dignity and self-identified rights of First Nations. That is the standard that I expect."

The AMC remains dedicated to advocating for justice, accountability, and meaningful reforms within the healthcare system to ensure the well-being and survival of all First Nations seeking care in provincial healthcare systems.

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The MMF and the Chiefs of Ontario (COO), are pleased to announce an Identity Summit aimed at tackling rampant identity theft faced by many Indigenous Nations in Canada today.

Co-hosted by both MMF and COO, the summit will take place in Winnipeg on May 14 and 15, 2024. This historic summit marks an unprecedented gathering of First Nations, Inuit and Red River Métis leadership from across Canada, all of whom are bound by concerns about the wholesale theft of their respective identities by those seeking to use them for their own purposes or gains.

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