



Manitoba Keewatinow Okimakanak Inc.

Head Office

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation
Nelson House, Manitoba
R0B 1A0

www.mkonorth.com

Thompson Sub-Office

200-701 Thompson Drive
Thompson, Manitoba
R8N 2A3

Winnipeg Sub-Office

6th Floor, 338 Broadway Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0T2

Office of the Grand Chief DR. SYDNEY GARRIOCH

June 5, 2009

Hon. David Chomiak
Government House Leader
Legislative Building
Room 101, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Gerald Hawranik
Official Opposition House Leader
Legislative Building
Room 227, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Kevin Lamoreux
(Unofficial) Opposition House Leader
Legislative Building
Room 169, 450 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

**RE: Amendment of Sessional Orders of June 1, 2009
Urgent Request for Designation of Bill 6 as a "specified fall Bill"**

Dear House Leaders:

On February 12, 2009, the east side MKO First Nations affected by Bill 6, The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act, shared their concerns with Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Phil Fontaine that Bill 6 does not reflect the spirit and intent of Manitoba's commitments to east side First Nations to establish co-decision authorities to plan and manage First Nation traditional lands on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. As a former co-chair of the East Side Planning Initiative process, the National Chief advised that he concurred in and supported the position of the MKO First Nations.

National Chief Fontaine proposed that he would seek Premier Doer's commitment to a further joint process with the MKO First Nations. The objective of this further joint process is to provide a meaningful opportunity for the east side MKO First Nations to examine the principles and processes set out in Bill 6 and to identify amendments that will reflect the spirit and intent of the April 3, 2007 *Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin Council of Chiefs Accord* and that will address the concerns of east side First Nations.

.../2

As a result of the National Chief Fontaine's interventions with Premier Doer on behalf of the MKO First Nations, the Clerk of Executive Council and Secretary to Cabinet, Paul Vogt, met with AFN Regional Chief Bill Traverse and MKO Legal Counsel Louis Harper regarding Bill 6.

Regional Chief Traverse and MKO Legal Counsel have reported to me that Mr. Vogt assured both AFN and MKO that the government of Manitoba would not proceed quickly to pass Bill 6 and that an opportunity for a meaningful future process would be provided to the east side MKO First Nations affected by Bill 6.

In contrast to Mr. Vogt's assurances to AFN and MKO of this "further process" and to the expectations of the east side MKO First Nations, the sudden designation of Bill 6 as a "specified spring Bill" in the June 1, 2009 Sessional Orders will not provide for the meaningful engagement of First Nations in a further joint process in respect of Bill 6.

The agreement of the Government House Leader and the Leader of the Official Opposition to provide an additional day of Committee hearings on June 8, 2009, in light of the short notice provided and in light of the pressing public health emergency affecting the St. Theresa Point First Nation, does not fulfil the "further process" on Bill 6 sought by the National Chief or assured by Mr. Vogt.

Therefore, on behalf of the east side MKO First Nations affected by Bill 6, MKO urgently requests that the Government House Leader, with the concurrence of the Official Opposition House Leader, immediately present a motion to the House to amend the June 1, 2009 Sessional Order to designate Bill 6 as a "specified fall Bill".

Please contact me directly to discuss this request.

Sincerely



Dr. Sydney Garrioch
MKO Grand Chief

cc: Premier Gary Doer
AMC Grand Chief Ron Evans
MKO Executive Council
Minister of Conservation
Acting of Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Minister of Culture, Heritage,
Tourism and Sport
East Side Council of Chiefs
Chief Marcel Balfour, Norway House Cree Nation
Leader of the Official Opposition
Dr. Jon Gerrard
Mr. Ed Wood