

## **RESOLUTION:**

### **Ms. LATHLIN – Recognizing Indigenous Peoples as Founding Nations of Canada**

15. WHEREAS Indigenous peoples of Canada were the first peoples to govern this land, were present for thousands of years prior to Confederation and were self-determining nations with distinct cultures, languages, laws, traditions and unique understanding of the land and environment; and

WHEREAS Indigenous peoples provided land, knowledge, military and other supports to sustain colonial life, were essential to the success of the fur trade which became the backbone of the early Canadian economy and negotiated treaties with the Crown transferring land that have produced immense riches making Canada one of the wealthiest nations in the world; and

WHEREAS the contribution of the British and the French peoples are widely accepted and recognized as foundational to the existence of Canada and the contributions of the Indigenous nations of peoples are not widely accepted or recognized as such; and

WHEREAS at Confederation in 1867 the British and French languages were constitutionally protected as well as their civil rights, customs, traditions, laws and forms of governance yet Indigenous peoples' languages, civil rights, customs, traditions, laws and forms of governance were not protected; and

WHEREAS non-recognition of Indigenous peoples and control over their lands, culture and languages have contributed to historic injustices including their colonization and dispossession from their lands, loss of Indigenous languages, customs, cultures and civil rights and the loss of their inherent right to self-determination; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has declared its full support for the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and its intention to fully implement all of the ninety-four Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report and the protection of existing Aboriginal and treaty rights is an underlying principle in Canada's Constitution and Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and

WHEREAS recognizing the role of Indigenous nations and peoples as foundational to the existence of Canada is a step towards building a meaningful nation-to-nation relationship and an important step in reconciliation; and

WHEREAS in 2017 Canada will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Confederation for which recognition of the Indigenous peoples as founders of Canada is long overdue.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba urge the Federal Government to give formal recognition of Indigenous nations and peoples as founding peoples of Canada and to protect and promote their languages, cultures, history, traditions and laws in ways similar to the government's protection and promotion of the languages, cultures, history, traditions and laws of the British and French founding peoples.