



September 2007

Tansi, Boozhoo, Aniin, Wachay, Greetings

We are ***Kookum Gaa Na Da Ma Waad Abinoojiig Council (Grandmothers Protecting Our Children)***. We are very concerned with the violence that continues in our communities and our homes. We want the sexual abuse, incest, and violence perpetrated against our children to stop. We, as grandmothers, mothers, aunts, and sisters, are saying “**NO MORE**”!! There can be no future for our children as long as this continues. As grandmothers we are saying we can no longer stand by in silence and watch this happen to our children. We must stand up for children and be their voice. We are inviting all grandmothers, leadership, colleagues, and community members to walk with us and show our children that we honor them as sacred gifts and, that we will protect them.

We have historically been the nurturers and caregivers of our babies. We, as women, have become victims. We have watched our generations of children become victims. Our men, themselves, have been victims. And in turn, many of our men and women have become victimizers. Enough!!!! We are here to say that despite our damage and painful history, our hearts are not on the ground, our nations are not conquered, and we don't want to see our children hurt anymore!

On **Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007**, we will be lighting a Sacred Fire in Winnipeg. This fire will burn from sunrise to sunset, in honor of our children. Throughout the province of Manitoba, 4 other sacred fires will be lit simultaneously in the four directions, to also recognize the sacredness of our children and the calling of grandmothers to come forward and reclaim their role. We invite others to join us by lighting a sacred fire in their community as a symbol to provide a message of hope for our children. We also invite other Kookums and leaders to share our vision and stand together on that day across our province and our nation to honour all children. While we respect our men and our community, provincial, and federal leaders, we recognize that the time has come for the Kookums to step forward and take the lead for our children. We invite you to walk with us to demonstrate your support in honoring and protecting the children as the first step in a journey towards a brighter future. (Hand drums optional.)

**In Winnipeg, we will begin our walk from the Circle of Life Thunderbird House (715 Main Street at Higgins Avenue) at 10:00 a.m., making our way up Main Street to the Forks (at the Odena).** Upon our arrival at the Forks, we will share refreshments (tea and bannock) and Teaching Lodges to hear the Elders speak and share their wisdom on these sensitive matters.

All My Relations,

**Grandmothers Protecting Our Children**  
Kookum Gaa Na Da Ma Waad Abinoojiig Council

P.S. For those in support from other provinces or territories: Please let us know at (204) 945-1364 or 1-800-263-7146 (Manitoba only) if you are holding your own walk or lighting your own Sacred Fire on that day to demonstrate unity and strength, as we encircle our children with love and say “No More!”.

**Coordinating Organizations in Solidarity with the Grandmothers:**

Red Willow Lodge  
Grandmother Moon Lodge  
Mother of Red Nations Women's Council of Manitoba,  
Three Fires Midewiwin Society-Western Doorway  
Wahbung Abinoonjiig  
Ka Ni Kanichihk “Those Who Lead”  
First Nations of Northern Manitoba CFS Authority  
West Region CFS  
Office of the Children's Advocate  
Circle of Life Thunderbird House  
Boivin Communication Group  
Women of the Rainbow  
Sage House  
Urban Circle Training

CLOUT – Community Led Organizations United Together

- Andrews Street Family Centre
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- Community Education Development Association
- Native Women's Transition Centre
- North End Women's Resource Centre
- Ndinawemaaganag Endaawad (Ndinawe)
- Wolseley Family Place
- Rossbrook House

New Directions  
Mamoobida