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### **News release**

For immediate release

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug statement on Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families

February 9, 2024 – Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

Land Acknowledgement – The Homelands of Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) have existed since time immemorial and we have lived on the lands and waters since creation. KI was granted Miniikozowin, the inherent right, the right to respect all forms of life and most importantly, awaashishag, oshkaadizag and dibenjikewinan. Today, KI Homelands, is within Treaty #9 of 1905, and subsequent Treaty #9 Adhesion of July 1929 located in northwestern Ontario. KI is approximately 600 kilometres north of Thunder Bay, Ontario.

Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug Chief and Council welcome the unanimous decision released today by the Supreme Court of Canada ("The Court"), *Reference re An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families* to address the appeals of Canada and Quebec regarding this *Act*, also known as Bill C-92. This decision upholds the *Act* as a whole and by declaring it constitutionally valid.

KI has always had Miinikozowinan, inherent powers, that were bestowed upon KI by Kishe-Manidoo since time immemorial. These include inherent responsibilities that have continued. When the Europeans came, these responsibilities crystallized and are recognized as rights within the Canadian legal system, but remain responsibilities bestowed by Kishe-Manidoo within Indigenous legal orders of KI.

KIDO is a practice of Miinikozowin and KI continues to revitalize Maamao Dibenjikewin Kanawaabajikewin (MDK), which is the traditional practice of child rearing and care within which all members of the dibenjikewin (family), extended dibenjikewin (family) and community are involved in caring for awaashish (child) and oshkaadiz (youth). This is based on love, compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation. MDK goes beyond

P.O. Box 329 BIG TROUT LAKE, ON POV 1G0 mainstream child and family services, and the Court's decision reinforces KI's original intent to implement KIDO.

Regarding KIDO, KI, Canada and Ontario have signed a Coordination Agreement. This Coordination Agreement reflects Nakishkaadowinik, an Anishininiimowin word in the language of KI meaning "the place where parties meet together". KI will continue to work with both governments to advance KIDO. The Court's decision solidifies the tripartite relationship.

#### Quote

"Today's Supreme Court of Canada decision is historic. Historic in that it advances the Miinikozowin of all Nations for the care of awaashishag, oshkaadizag and dibenjikewinan, wherever they reside."

Chief Donny Morris, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug

## For more information, media may contact:

Samuel McKay
Councillor, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug
807-629-7266
samuel.mckay@ki-btl.ca

#### Website:

www.kibtl.ca/dibenjikewin-onaakonikewin