



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **First Nations Youth Recovering From Surgery Allegedly Forced Out of Winnipeg Hotel**

Treaty One Territory, Winnipeg, MB (March 11, 2026) — Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin Inc. (KIM), a First Nations health organization serving northern First Nations, is condemning the treatment of a 16-year-old patient who was allegedly forced out of a Winnipeg hotel while recovering from knee surgery.

Nicolas Robinson, 16, travelled more than 500 kilometres from Pimicikamak Cree Nation to Winnipeg for knee surgery at Health Sciences Centre (HSC). He was staying at the Canad Inns at HSC while recovering. The hotel is commonly used to house patients and escorts who travel to Winnipeg through the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) medical transportation program to access medical care. Robinson required the use of a wheelchair following his surgery.

According to those present, Robinson and his escort were attempting to extend their stay while waiting for the NIHB extension paperwork to be processed. Instead of allowing time for the paperwork to be completed, hotel management and security allegedly forced them from their room and off the floor.

Witnesses say racial slurs were used during the incident. A video circulating on Facebook appears to show the confrontation and removal. Advocates say the treatment of a youth who had just undergone surgery and required mobility assistance is unacceptable.

“First Nations patients travel long distances to access medical care in Winnipeg. They deserve dignity, rest and safety while they recover,” said Michelle Monkman, interim CEO of KIM “Forcing a patient who cannot walk out of a hotel while waiting for medical transportation paperwork is unacceptable and deeply concerning.”

The Canad Inns at HSC serves as a key accommodation site for patients transported to Winnipeg for care. Leaders say stronger coordination between hotels, and both provincial and federal health systems is needed to prevent situations like this from happening.

This incident reflects ongoing concerns about racism experienced by First Nations people while travelling for medical services.

“Incidents like this show why Manitoba must review its consumer protection legislation and the regulations governing hotels and accommodations,” Monkman said. “We need clear protections against racism, mandatory anti-racism training in the hospitality sector and meaningful involvement of First Nations in shaping these laws, consistent with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Call to Action 92.”

KIM Inc. is calling for accountability within the hospitality and security sectors to ensure First Nations patients are treated with respect and dignity.

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**About Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin**

Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin (KIM Inc.) is a northern First Nations-led aggregate health organization that works to transform health and wellness services and improve health outcomes for First Nations people.