



# TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA BILATERAL PROCESS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009

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According to the Government of Canada, Aboriginal People in Alberta are:

**Aboriginal**-Collective term; Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982 defines Aboriginal people to include First Nations (Indians), Inuit and Métis people.

**First Nations**-The people of the First Nations are the descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. Traditions and protocols may vary from community to community.

**Métis**-People of mixed First Nations and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people and are accepted as such by Métis leadership. They are distinct from First Nations, Inuit or non-Aboriginal peoples.

**Inuit**-Aboriginal people in northern Canada living generally above the tree line in the Northwest Territories, northern Quebec and Labrador.

## Bilateral and the Nation Workshop

The Bilateral and the Nation Workshop was held in March 2009 at the Ramada Hotel and Conference Centre in Edmonton, Alberta.

The purpose of the workshop was to promote and provide an update of the Bilateral Process. The themes of the workshop included: Treaty Discussions, Nation Building, Constitution Development and Practical Measures.

The workshop utilized plenary panels to convey important messages from knowledgeable experts on each of the topic areas. We are proud to say that our panels consisted of highly respected and experienced dignitaries.

Over 140 people attended this workshop including: Chief and Council, CEO's, and representatives from the Women, Youth and Elders councils.

The Bilateral Process received a lot of good feedback from participants, and the



participants said that the workshop was full of useful information.

The topic of Day 1's discussions was **Treaty** and the panel presenters were:

Wilton Littlechild, Chief Ovide Mercredi, Lyndon Linklater, Councillor Mike Beaver and Chief Rose Laboucan.

Dr Wilton Littlechild stated that a Treaty Right, is an Inherent Right, in

other words, we are born with it. It's not something that another human being can give you or can take away. You're born

**"...no one can break the Treaty, but us and I say that very seriously, we are the only ones that will ever break our Treaty..."**  
- Chief Rose Laboucan

## Bilateral and the Nation Workshop cont.....

with it so it's an Inherent Right.

Furthermore the Elders believe that the Treaties were made with the Crown, in the Right of Great Britain and Northern Ireland-- and not with Canada.

Chief Ovide Mercredi told a story of how he travelled to England to meet with the Queen to discuss the Treaty. He, Elders, Youth and Willton Littlechild travelled all that way, but where not able to speak to the Queen. One reporter commented that they probably had a better chance of getting heard by the Queen than the government of Canada. Chief Mercredi suggests that First Nations should raise money for the next 2 years to go back to England. We need to go to England so that we can state our case and let the Queen know that Canada is not protecting and honouring our Treaties.

**"I'd like to be known as the Cree Nike, just do it!  
I am a man of action." –  
Chief Roland Twinn**

The topics of Day 2 were **Nation Building** and **Constitution Development** and the panel presenters were: Chief Roland Twinn & Proxy Chief Syd Halcrow, Chief Allan Adam,

Kwatsitswai Meloche, Garry Laboucan and Sol Sanderson.

Chief Roland Twinn talked about how the Sawridge Band has been developing its own constitution and stated that the benefit of self-government for First Nations will be that they will no longer be under the Indian Act. People



*Elder James Yellowknee, Bigstone was honoured for all of his hard work and dedication to the Treaty 8 people*

think that the Indian Act is there to protect us, but it has not done this in the 110 years since its conception! Chief Twinn notes that *"in reality the Indian Act is just a piece of legislation that the crown, through the government of Canada asserts jurisdictional authority over you!"*

Chief Rose Laboucan noted, that we need to keep in mind, as First Nations people, we need the support of non-aboriginals. They have supported us in advocating to keep Bills like Bill 51 off of the table. Bill 51 was initiated

by the UN and the World Health Organization. It would put a ban on the use of all vitamins, minerals, and supplements, which would include our traditional medicines. Basically any of these items would have to pass the protocols and procedures that Drug Company's have to use to have their drugs sold legally.

A comment we heard from a number of speakers was that First Nation people traditionally never wrote things down. In this day and age, we need to write things down in order to be taken seriously!

Sol Sanderson pointed out that *"Canada's policy says we recognize your Inherent Right to self-government, but they hesitate to say that we recognize your Inherent Rights and powers for self-government."* The point is that we need to start talking about Inherent Rights and powers for governing.

A summary of the workshop has been prepared and was mailed to all conference participants. If you would like to receive a copy of this publication then contact Michelle, Communications Technician at the Treaty 8 sub-office 780.444.9366.

# Announcing



## **TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Hosted by Dene Tha'**

**Location: Bushe River  
High Level, Alberta**

**When: July 28, 29, 30, 2009**

For more information contact Marlene  
Poitras or Sharlene Alook at

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's "Honouring Our Treaty" Gathering will be held in conjunction with the AGM on July 25, 26, 27, 2009 at Bushe River. This year's theme is "The Strength Is In Our Treaty". Topics will include Treaty Issues related to Livelihood, Health and Education.



**Treaty 8 First Nations  
of Alberta**

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## Alberta First Nations Telehealth Change Management Project

### Project Goal

The Alberta First Nations Telehealth Change Management Project provides an opportunity for Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 First Nation communities to implement change management processes to enhance clinical Telehealth services. These processes will assist in establishing an environment of collaboration, structure, skill building, increased capacity and readiness within First Nations communities.

### History

Many First Nations communities in Alberta have had access to videoconferencing technology for some time, accessing educational sessions and some clinical Telehealth services. In 2006, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta took the lead on a planning project to determine the requirements for expanding clinical Telehealth, based upon a recognized need that Telehealth could provide increased access to health care services for Alberta First Nations communities. This increased access to specialized services would have tremendous impact for First Nations in Alberta, especially those that are more remote and have limited number of health care providers. Cur-

rent project include, Diabetes Care, Mental Health, Discharge Planning, Family Physician Services and Visitation. The possibilities are endless, including Community Medicine, Public Health, Emergency, Geriatric, Oncology, Psychiatry, Cardiac, and the list goes on and on.



### Significance

The AFNTCMP is an initiative forged with the intent to strengthen and enhance Alberta First Nations' access to health care services. This Regional project has the capacity and potential to serve 44 Nations and is the largest First Nations Telehealth project in Canada. It also has the potential to improve the lives of First Nation members through improved health services, providing access to a wide array of health care specialists, reducing travel times and keeping families together in the community.

### Governance

The Project is led by a Steering Committee with written representation from the Grand Chiefs of Treaty No. 6,

Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8. dedicated and knowledgeable of telehealth, working in conjunction with non voting members from Canada Health Infoway, and First Nations and Inuit Health. A Terms of Reference has been developed, and regular Steering Committees are held monthly. The AFNTCMP is a First Nations lead, governed and managed project that will work with First Nation communities in addressing their Health priorities.

### Sponsor

The project is sponsored by *Canada Health Infoway* which is a federally funded independent not-for-profit organization that invests with public partners to implement and reuse compatible health information systems. First Nations and Inuit Health also contributes greatly to the project by providing medical expertise, technical expertise and assistance, and by providing communities with videoconferencing equipment.

### Communications Plan

The AFNTCMP is in the process of developing a comprehensive communication plan to ensure that the First Nations of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 remain informed in

## Telehealth Change Management Project cont.....

each facet of the project. We are dedicated to keeping First Nations communities involved and ensuring that any input and concerns be managed respectfully by the Project Team. The AFNTCMP is committed

Project Manager – Alayna Many Guns  
 Project Consultant – Terry Brown  
 Administrative Assistant – Margaret McKay  
 Treaty No. 6 Change Management



*Left to Right—Ron Sunshine, Jerome Yellowdirt, Margaret McKay, Alayna Many Guns, Robbi Lawrence, Brad Heavy Shields (Missing Terry Brown)*

wholeheartedly to working collaboratively with First Nations in Alberta in the development of this initiative and look forward to building healthy, strong communities together as it is a First Nations driven project. We also look forward to celebrating the ‘Launch’ of the project at the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs meeting in Calgary on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

### Project Team

The Project Team consists of the following:

Project Lead – Wendy Twin, Treaty 8 Health Director

Liaison – Jerome Yellowdirt  
 Treaty No. 7 Change Management  
 Liaison – Brad Heavy Shields  
 Treaty No. 8 Change Management  
 Liaison – Robbi Lawrence  
 Treaty No. 8 Change Management  
 Liaison – Ronald Sunshine

### Contact Information

Alberta First Nations Telehealth  
 Change Management Project  
 Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta  
 Attention: Project Manager – Alayna Many Guns

### **Farewell Dustin Twin**



**Dustin Twin has resigned as the Elders/Treaty Relations Coordinator for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. Best of Luck Dusty!**

Main Number: (780) 442-4290  
 Address: 10358 – 172 Street, Edmonton, Alberta  
 Fax Number: (780) 442-4294 or 443-2777  
 Email: [telehealth@treaty8.org](mailto:telehealth@treaty8.org)

***“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven Generations”  
 -Iroquois Nation Maxim***

## Practical Measures: Livelihood

### Activities:

Your Livelihood Department Staff continue to be very busy on 'livelihood related' functions. These functions include (but are not limited) to the following:

### Consultation

- Treaty 8 First Nations Consultation Policy and Guidelines (2005-2006)- (Copies available and have been provided to several GOA and industry reps)
- Coordinated and facilitated Traditional Use Studies (TUS) regional session on December 15 & 16, 2009 at Slave Lake, AB
- Coordinated and facilitated Duty to Consult Conference on March 30 & 31, 2009 at Slave Lake, AB
- Land Use Framework (LUF)- T8 in conjunction with T6 and T7 drafted a Resolution to reject the final LUF
- **Resolution R007/2009.02.13** was passed at the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs on February 13, 2009 at Calgary, AB
- Ideas Group (aka Trilateral Meetings)-Participate, liaison, monitor and review processes and develop working relationship
- T6, T7, T8 First Nations Consultation Workshop- The Consultation

Coordinating Group (T6, T7, T8 Reps) are planning and hosting the workshop on July 29, 30 & 31, 2009 at Edmonton Marriott River Cree Resort

- Jasper National Park Consultation Liaison, monitor and review of consultation policy
- Alberta Archaeological Consultation - Liaison, monitor and review of consultation policy

### Environment

- Hired an Environment Manager - January 2009 - full time position. Joseph Jobin comes with extensive knowledge and experience
- Protocol Sub-Agreement- Draft Protocol Sub Agreement is under review.
- Alberta Water Council (AWC)- Participate as an observer
- Alberta Environment (AENV)- Liaison, monitoring and review of environment policy
- Regional Advisory Council (RAC)- Information gathering on final Land Use Framework and regional planning
- Athabasca IG- Participates with the working group on formation of Athabasca Water Council
- AB/BC Bilateral Water Management

Negotiations-Under review and providing comment on process of consultation

- Athabasca Water Keepers Liaison and participates as per Resolution (AoTC)
- Technical Services Advisory Group (TSAG)- Communicate and liaison with TSAG
- Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources (GOC)- Provide, comment and information on federal policy

The protection of water in the Treaty 8 area continues to be a priority for the Environment office and the whole Livelihood department. A safe and secure supply of water is essential to the health and well-being of our People. Our way of life is based on healthy water and the nourishing benefits it brings to the forests and wetlands in which we hunt, trap, harvest and continue to practice our traditional way of life.

### Economic Development

- Christian Labour Association of Canada (CLAC) conference
- Invitation extended to JR Giroux to participate in the CLAC Conference Planning Committee; with involvement promote T8FNA's interests and matters, influence

## Livelihood Department cont.....

Conference Agenda and networking; conference to be held in September

- Key items on the Agenda include Crown's Duty to Consult can lead to successful negotiations; Traditional Land and Modern Land Use Concepts, Accommodation or Impact Benefits Agreements, Planning for Success, plus more.
- NEWCO project development- Ongoing coordination and facilitation of the Task Force meetings
- First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP)- Participate in discussions on future direction on the FNFP;

INAC funding will continue

- Sustainable Forest Management Network-SFMN is non-functional as of March 31, 2009
- INAC Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development-New unilateral process introduced by INAC HQ; participating in the stance of the process of engaging with First Nations
- Economic / Resource Development Regional Session-Coordination & facilitation of the Regional session was held on January 29 & 30, 2009 at Grande Prairie, AB

- Treaty 8 Alberta Trapper's Association project development

-Direction provided by the Treaty 8 Elders to establish a Treaty 8 Alberta Trappers Association

-Direction provided to set up a meeting with Treaty 8 trappers to discuss the Trappers Association- Supported by the Executive Board

-Lack of financial capacity continues to delay the process from moving forward

For additional or follow up information, please contact any one of the Livelihood Department Staff.

## Regional Chiefs Meet with Premier Stelmach

One year ago a historical Protocol Agreement on Government to Government Relations was signed that formalizes relations between the Alberta Government and Alberta First Nations Treaty 6, 7 and 8.

On May 20th, 2009, the annual First Protocol Agreement meeting between Premier Ed Stelmach, the Minister of Aboriginal Relations Gene Zwozdesky, and the Grand Chiefs of Treaty 6, 7 and 8 took place at the Government House in Edmonton, Alberta.

Through this partnership, and in a cooperative manner, the goal is to discuss issues of both parties.



*George D. Calliou, Darlene Plamondon, Premier Ed Stelmach, Chief Rose Laboucan, Chief Arthur Noskey, Chief Vern Janvier, Minister of Aboriginal Relations Gene Zwozdesky*

## Citizens Engagements

with Paula Giroux

Prior to this year (2008-09), we have been engaging with First Nation membership throughout Treaty 8 (AB). This year 2008/ 2009 the Bilateral Process Team took the opportunity to meet the Chief and Council members in Treaty 8. Due to the funding restrictions, we were unable to meet each individual First Nation leadership therefore we arrange to engage them via Tribal Councils.

It is through all the Citizen Engagements that that Treaty 8 (AB) mem-



*Chief Gordon Auger, Bigstone*

cluding a meaningful Agreement in Principle (AIP). The Agreement in Principle is an important step in moving towards self-determination for our nation. In the interest of keeping other membership involved, we invited the Treaty 8 Women's Advisory Council and the Youth Advisory Council to these engagements. We will be combining all the comments in a document that will be distributed at a later time within Treaty 8 (AB) for your viewing. For your

information, the Women's council members are: Athabasca Chipewyan, **Marie Adam**; Bigstone, **Virginia Cardinal**; Beaver, **Roxanne Lizotte**; Dene Tha', **Jeanne Chonkolay**; Driftpile, **Tina Bellerose**; Duncan's, **Nora Gray**; Fort McKay, **Margaret McDonald**; Fort McMurray, **Violet Clarke**;

### Learn Cree

Tawaw	Welcome
Pihtokwe	Come in
Tansi	Hi, how are you?
Namoya, nantaw	Fine. Not bad.
Kiya maka	And how are you?
Peyakwan	I'm fine too.
Api!	Sit down!
Nihiyawi!	Speak Cree!
Nihiyaw	Cree

Horse Lake, **Arlene Larocque**; Kapawe'no, **Terri-Lynn Halcrow**; Mikisew Cree, **Chris Simpson**; Sawridge, **Winona Twin**; Sturgeon Lake, **Philomene Kappo**; Sucker Creek, **Peggy Cole**; Swan River, **Josephine Twin**; Tallcree, **Ruth Meneen**; Whitefish Lake, **Madeline Jagodzinsky**; Woodland Cree, **Kathleen La-**



*Citizen Engagement with ACFN and Mikisew Cree*

bers and leadership provide input into the Bilateral Process. We were able to engage with all the 5 Tribal Councils including Bigstone Cree Nation. We were fortunate enough to engage with two individual First Nations, Loon River First Nation and Smith's Landing First Nation. The Bilateral Process needs the support, assessments, directives and sanction from the leadership of Treaty 8 (AB) in con-



*Citizens Engagement with Bigstone*



## First Nations Governance Sub-Table Established

All of the Chiefs from Treaty 8 (Alberta) were invited to participate on the newly formed First Nations Governance Sub-table (FNGST). The primary objectives of the sub-table will be to:

- Determine the interests of First Nations in moving forward with a Treaty 8 Self Government Agreement;
- Determine the division of powers including jurisdictions and authority of member First Nations, Tribal Councils and Treaty 8 Alberta in a Self Government

Agreement; and

- Draft Chapter 5 – First Nations Governance and Chapter 6 – Treaty 8 Governance, of the Agreement in Principle (“AIP”) for the Treaty 8 Alberta Chiefs consideration and ratification.
- Provide feedback on Constitutional Development initiatives at the First Nations level.
- Promote a team approach in moving the Nation Building agenda forward within Treaty 8.

The First Nations Governance Sub-

table shall meet every month for two days starting in May 2009.

If you would like more information about this sub-table, please contact Marlene Poitras, Director Bilateral Process at 780.444.9366.



## Citizens Engagement cont.....

**boucan.** The Youth Council Members are: Athabasca Chipewyan, **Jericho Mercredi**; Bigstone, **Janita Noskiye**; Dene Tha', **Molly Chisakay**; Driftpile, **Gary Dean Giroux**; Duncan's, **Rachel Testawich**, Fort McMurray, **Robyn Faichney**; Horse Lake, **Lyndsai Larocque**; Kapawe'no, **Darcy Halcrow**; Sturgeon, **Jordon Goodswimmer**; Sucker Creek, **Jillian Badger**; Swan River, **Stacey Twin**; Tallcree, **Sheena Meeneen**; Whitefish Lake, **Craig Laboucan**; Woodland Cree, **Cody Laboucan**.

The Bilateral Process has developed a poster for distribution. If you would like a copy of this poster please contact the Treaty 8 sub-office at 780.444.9366.

If you would like us to come and make a presentation about the Bilateral Process then please contact Paula Giroux at the Treaty 8 sub-office

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta will be having a booth at the Capital EX celebration in Edmonton, July 17-26. If you would like more information about this process then stop in and see us! Hope to see you there.

## Constitution Tool kit

The Bilateral Process has developed a constitution tool kit that can be used to assist Nations in developing their own constitutions.

A Constitution is a set of written, unwritten rules and principles that govern decision making in a political community. (*Gogg, P. (1992). Constitutional Law of Canada. (3rd ed.)*)

As part of the Federal Self-Government Policy, there is a requirement that First Nations develop a Constitution. **We are in the process of finalizing the toolkit; it should be available shortly.**

## Bannock With Raisins

Raisins are healthy for us. Add raisins to bannock to make it even more nutritious.

2 Cups	White Flour	1–In a medium sized bowl, mix together the first 4 ingredients (flour, baking powder and sugar). Stir together well.
1/2 Cup	Whole Wheat Flour	
5 tsp	Baking Powder	2–Use a fork to mix in the 3 tablespoons of margarine
1 tsp	Sugar	
3 tsp	Margarine	3–In another bowl mix the next 3 ingredients (egg, water and raisin). Blend together well.
1	Egg	
1 Cup	Water	4–Mix wet ingredients with dry ingredients and knead with hands for 10 seconds.
1 Cup	Raisins	
From MJOS Healthy Communities Cookbook. Copies of the book are available by calling 780.926.3446.		5–Pour into lightly greased pan.
		6– Bake at 350OF. For 30 minutes

# Can you find the Treaty Rights?

r t s u n n l n s i u i s e t i  
d e a s o i m h g e r y c l d c  
e u t w i u w n s b l i h p i r  
c n l r t e i p g d u d o g g a  
p n i l a p s a n t e l o h n t  
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g l g u r i o s l a r e n i m o  
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- Word Search**
- Barter
  - Bullets
  - Doctors
  - Education
  - Exempt Taxation
  - Farming
  - Fishing
  - Gardening
  - Haying
  - Hunting
  - Land
  - Medicine
  - Minerals
  - Policing
  - Rations
  - Schools
  - Seeds
  - Subsurface Rights
  - Tents
  - Trapping
  - War Participation

## The History of Treaty Day

Treaty Day is an annual gathering where Treaty annuities are distributed by a representative of the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. These types of meetings are attended by hundreds of First Nation people.

Originally, ordinary people were given \$15 a year for entering into the Treaty with the Queen, but that amount was reduced to \$5 a year and that is where it has stayed. Canada told the people that the \$10 difference would be put aside and saved to assist the people with health care, education, ect.

The \$5 payment is seen by the First Nation people as a symbol of the Treaty commitment.



# The Education Department Wishes all of the Students a Happy and Safe Summer!

## Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta-Vision & Mandate

Adopted by a Quorum of Treaty 8 (Alberta) Chiefs on June 15, 2009

### Vision

Our Land, Our People, Our Ways, And The True Spirit And Intent Of Treaty No. 8 are Respected And Honoured.

### Mandate

To Protect, Promote, Bring To Life, Implement, And Sustain The True Spirit And Intent Of Treaty No. 8 As Long As The Sun Shines, The Grass Grows And The Waters Flow.

*For Information - These Following Words Were Part Of The Dene Treaty Negotiations But Were Left Out Of The Treaty and As Long As The Rotation Of The Big Dipper Does Not Reverse "*

### values/Guiding Principles

- Life
- Respect For Each Other
- Respect For, And Being Part Of, The Land
- Our Ability To Use Our Language



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**T8FNA**  
**Welcomes Alice Sawan**  
**to the team!**



**She is a Best  
Practical Technician**

# Treaty No. 8 Rights

**“As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow...”**

1. Schools/Education
2. Doctors
3. Hospitals/Medicine
4. Hunting, Fishing, Trapping and Gathering Rights Retained
5. Indians Retain Minerals
6. Sub-Surface Rights Retained
7. Land Acquired by Queen was Only 6” Surface Rights
8. Exempt from Taxation
9. Land Purchased from Farming did not Include Forests
10. Rations Provided
11. Policing
12. Legal Representation
13. Exempt from War Participation
14. No Indian Shall Hang by Rope
15. Right to Barter
16. Canvas for Tents
17. Bullets were Supplied
18. Cattle/Horse Provided
19. Farm and Haying Equipment
20. Gardening Tools/Seed
21. In case of hunger, all gates shall be opened