



# TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA BILATERAL PROCESS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

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## Did you know:

- Inherent Rights are granted through creation.
- There is 23 First Nations in Alberta that belong to Treaty 8; there is 39 First Nations in total that belong to Treaty 8.
- According to Statistics Canada in 2006, the First Nation population increased 45 percent since 1996, and has passed the 1 million mark. The Aboriginal population is the fastest growing population in Canada.

## From the Director's Desk

with Marlene Poitras

On behalf of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's Bilateral Process, I am pleased to introduce the spring 2009 newsletter. We feel that providing updates and communicating with Treaty 8 membership is important in obtaining your support on moving the Bilateral Process forward. From this point forward, the Bilateral Process will be providing you with quarterly updates via our newsletter.

Since my appointment to the position of Director, Bilateral Process, in November 2008, I have been very busy familiarizing myself with the status of the Bilateral Process and preparing for both the year end and the new fiscal year.

I am very pleased with the turnout and positive feedback that we received on the "Bilateral and the Nation" workshop that was recently held. Our conference participants affirmed that the Bilateral Process must be built on the spirit of the Treaty and Nation Building. They also confirmed that we are

moving in the right direction. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elders, Leaders, Women and Youth Council members for your participation and the excellent feedback that you provided.

I would also like to thank the Bilateral staff: Paula Giroux, Gwen Crichton, Sharlene Alook, Michelle Voyageur, and our Chief Negotiator, Jerry Paulette, for their hard work and commitment to the Bilateral Process. I would especially like to thank Dustin Twin for his dedication to our Elders and for the work he did on our Treaty agenda. Dustin will be leaving his position on April 10, 2009 and will be dearly missed by everyone at Treaty 8.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and in the future should your First Nation want to provide any information for the readership, please send in your articles to Michelle Voyageur at our office.

**Marlene Poitras, Director**

## Treaty Promises

One of the Treaty No. 8 Promises, as understood and remembered by the Elders, was that Treaty people would be exempt from war participation.

Regardless, these veterans enlisted and served for Canada.

For a list of the 21 Treaty Promises see page 12.

Can you think of some of the Treaty Promises on this list?



*Leo Goulet, George D. Auger, Elizear Whitehead  
Absent in this photo is Veteran Peter Willier*

## Treaty Relations/Elders Coordinator Update

with Dustin Twin

The Elders council consists of two Elders from each of the 23 nations. They are selected by Chief & Council or by their local Elders council. The council was formed in 2001 and they meet quarterly. The Elders council appoints members to hold Education, Livelihood and Health portfolios.

The Council discuss their understanding of the Treaty as told to them by their grandparents.

The current council is comprised of:

- Marie Celestine Adam, Athabasca Chipewyan
- Albert Kasoney, Beaver
- Rita Auger & George Yellowknee, Bigstone Cree
- David Janvier, Chipewyan Prairie
- Victor Chonkolay, Dene' Tha
- To be announced, Driftpile
- Nora Testawich-Gray & Harry Lawrence, Duncan's
- To be announced, Little Red River
- To be announced, Lubicon Lake
- Selena Harpe & Margaret McDonald, Fort McKay
- Violet Clarke & Harriet Janvier, Fort McMurray
- Ruth Gladue, Horse Lake
- Harry & Rose Laboucan, Kapawe'no First Nation
- Felix Noskey, Loon River
- Theresa Tuccaro, Mikisew Cree
- To be announced, Sawridge Band
- Mary Kappo, Sturgeon Lake
- Gabe Sepp, Smiths Landing
- Bernard Badger, Sucker Creek
- Gordon Courtorielle & Rod Twin, Swan River
- Alfred & Therese Meneen, Tallcree
- Danny Laboucan, Whitefish
- Archie Cardinal & Jo Whitehead SR., Woodland Cree

The Elders remind us that the Bilateral Process must be Treaty based and that the process must respect the Treaty promises.

Their input into the process is vital, as the Elders provide their wisdom and memories of the Treaty process and promises that were made.

### Treaty Principles

In 2006, the Elders Council adopted Treaty Principles on Education, Health, and Livelihood, which were acknowledged by the Treaty 8 Executive Board. These are living Treaty principles.

#### Treaty 8 First Nations Elder Council, Treaty Principles

The Elders of Treaty 8 Alberta representing our First Nations Elder councils have gathered in Edmonton, Alberta to establish the Treaty principles as told to us by our ancestors.

Our Grand Fathers entered into Treaty with the Crown and agreed to share our land, respect each other and honour the Treaty.

The Treaty 8 members have honoured the Treaty and continue to honour our Treaty today.

### Treaty Principles

*As told to us by our Great Grand Fathers, Grand Fathers and Grand Mothers*

**Education:** "...For our children to be ever increasing in knowledge...as anyone else in society."

*Our Children to be Educated. Education is a life long process; our children must be educated to survive in the future*

**Health:** "...doctors and medicines will be provided..."

*To build a healthy society and healthy communities. To guide newborns and children to be come healthy adults.*

**Livelihood:** "...We will not interfere with your way life..."

*The right to hunt, fish and gather must be upheld.*

*We must develop Treaty 8 people to be skilled for long term employment and for economic opportunities that arise in Treaty 8 Territory.*

*As landowners of the land, we must find a balance between economic development and protecting the environment for generations to come.*

*MOVED BY ELDER FRANCIS WILLIER-Sucker Creek First Nation*

*SECOND BY ALBERT KASONEY-Beaver First Nation*

# Inherent Right to Self—Determination

Explanations of each of the Chapters are basic. The actual chapters are more detailed. There may be additional chapters added to the Agreement-in-Principle (AIP) as the need arises

**Chapter 1:** Deals with definitions needed to be included in the agreement

## **Chapter 4: Citizenship or Membership**

Include all aspects of First Nations membership

## **Chapter 7: Child Youth and Family**

Deals with all jurisdictional aspects of child, youth and family within Treaty 8 (AB) First Nations

## **Chapter 9: Health**

Addresses includes all jurisdictional aspects of health within Treaty 8 First Nations.

## **Chapter 11: Fiscal Arrangements**

Sets out the parameters of the funding system for Treaty 8

## **Chapter 13: Own Source Revenue**

This chapter is about First Nations generating own source revenue from other sources such as the province, private sectors etc.

## **Chapter 14: Dispute Resolutions**

This chapter will outline the processes needed to resolve a dispute between parties of this agreement

## **Chapter 2: General Provisions**

This chapter has clauses that explain a specific implication, condition, effect or requirement in the agreement

## **Chapter 5: Treaty 8 First Nations Governance**

The mandate, harmonization and other aspects of the Treaty 8 First Nation governance.

## **Chapter 3: Relationship of Laws**

Addresses harmonization of laws and the Jurisdictional (Law) relationship between First Nations, Province and Federal Governments

## **Chapter 6: Treaty 8 Governance**

Outlines the relationship of the First Nation Governance and proposed Treaty 8 Governance

## **Chapter 8: Education**

Includes all jurisdictional aspects of education within Treaty 8 First Nations

## **Chapter 10: Treaty 8 Lands**

This chapter deals with jurisdiction over Treaty 8 lands

## **Chapter 12: Taxation**

Deals with Treaty 8 First Nations Tax system that is intended to benefit First Nations

## **Chapter 15: Intergovernmental Relationship**

This is a chapter that highlights the relationship between Treaty 8 Governance, First Nation governance and all other governments

## **Chapter 17: Implementation**

This chapter will highlight how this Inherent Right to Self-determination will be put into action in Treaty 8 Alberta

Agreement

In

Principle

## Practical Measures: Livelihood

### Role of Livelihood department:

- To operate as a unified and collective organization that shall promote, preserve, and ensure the protection and implementation of the true Spirit and Intent of the Treaty No. 8 (through facilitation, coordination & to advocate)
- To provide support, information, and networking opportunities for member First Nations
- To ensure transparency, accountability, responsibility and inclusivity
- To ensure the collective voice of member First Nations is heard locally, regionally and nationally

### Livelihood Activities:

On behalf of Treaty 8 (AB), as a whole, Livelihood remains focused on its efforts (under the direction of Chiefs Livelihood Committee (CLC) and Consultation Technical Team (CTT) to ensure recognition and respect of our Treaty rights with the following initiatives:

- Consultation
  - GOA Consultation Policy & Guidelines Framework (under review)
  - Treaty 8's input into the GOA's policy was guided by Treaty-based principles
  - Treaty 8 Consultation Policy was approved February 2005 and Guidelines (2005) Framework
  - On September 2006, the Alberta Chiefs rejected the GOA's Consultation Policy and Guidelines mainly because

it did not reflect much of our concerns and recommendations

-Livelihood continues to lobby with GOC to provide much needed capacity at the First Nation, Tribal Council and T8FNA levels to effectively address the land management and resource development issues and matters in our traditional territories.

- Traditional Use Studies
  - TUS Workshop was held at the Sawridge Inn & Conference Centre in Slave Lake on December 15-18, 2008.
  - GOA funding for TUS is ending March 31, 2009
  - Land Use Framework – The final Land Use Framework was printed December 2008.
- Environment
  - Joint workplan is under development that will outline a joint approach to addressing each priority issue.
  - Environment Protocol Agreement between Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and Alberta Environment. An important aspect for an Environment Protocol Agreement is the establishment and maintenance of a relationship between the Minister of Environment and each member First Nations Chiefs of Alberta through regular meetings to discuss and identify priority environmental issues.
  - BC/AB Bilateral Water Man-

agement Negotiation Process. Depending on the interests of both parties the bilateral water management agreement will address water management issues including water consumption, in-stream flow needs, water quality, aquatic ecosystem health, ground water, flood and ice management for trans-boundary streams and aquifers.

### Economic Development:

- Strategic Economic Development Initiative (Lead Chiefs: Chief Roland Twinn, Chief James Ahnassay, 1 vacant). The main intent is to jointly work with both governments and industry and to discuss what real actions will help member First Nations and Tribal Councils to achieve their economic development priorities.
- T8FNA Corporation – Lead Chief Roland Twinn. The Treaty 8 Alberta Chiefs have been discussing this concept for a long time. The concept certainly has come in many shapes, forms, and text. At the end of the day, however, the intent continues to be the same. That is...to work together toward business/economic opportunities that will benefit their membership and communities.
- TFNA Livelihood Dept. personnel and the T8FNA CEO continue to work closely with Chief Twinn on T8 Corporation development:
  - Unanimous Shareholders

## Livelihood Department cont.....

- Agreement
- Confidentiality Agreement
- PowerPoint Presentation
- Meeting Minutes and other administrative duties

i.e., Resolutions, Consultation Policy and Guideline (T8FNA), Economic Development programming info (CEDP; CEOP), other information as requested



*Livelihood Team: Nora Alook, Darryel Sowan, John R. Giroux, Joseph Jobin*

- Sustainable Forestry Management Network (SFMN) – focuses on forestry
- Canadian Boreal Initiative – Jim Webb is a CBI Council Member and attends meetings on behalf of T8

### Chief & Deputy Chief of Livelihood:

- Interim Chief Dion Horseman
- Deputy Chief James Ahnassay

### Chiefs Livelihood Committee (CLC) (aka Chiefs Consultation Policy Committee-CCPC):

- Chief Arthur Noskey
- Chief Roxanne Marcel
- Chief Richard Kappo
- (vacant position)
- (vacant position)

### Consultation Technical Team (CTT):

- Roy Vermillion – ATC
- Ken Hempel – WCTC
- Allen Willier – LSLIRC
- Jim Webb – NPTC
- Al Rollins - KTC
- Lillian Anderson – Bigstone Cree Nation

### Livelihood Personnel:

- Darryel Sowan, Director of Livelihood Cell: 780.718.2433
- John R. Giroux, Economic Development Cell: 780.554.2004
- Joseph Jobin, Environment Manager Cell: 780.499.4888
- Nora Alook, Admin & Research Coordinator Cell: 780.490.8544

- T8FNA Trapper's Association
- Treaty 8 Executive Board passed a motion at their October 2008 meeting to support an Elder's Resolution to establish a Treaty 8 Alberta Trappers Association. At another meeting, the Elders requested a 2 – day meeting to organize the Trappers Association – Livelihood department to take a lead on this.
- INAC Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development.

### Benefits for Member First Nations:

- Appropriate and acceptable processes are in place for the First Nations
- Access to resource material,

- Unity, Accord, Harmony, Strength, Voice

### T8FNA Memberships / Affiliations (To promote and advance T8FNA's interests and matters):

- First Nations Forestry Program (FNFP) – focuses on capacity building with the forestry sector
- Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) – focuses on wildlife
- Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) – focuses on ec dev
- Canadian Indigenous Business Association (CIBA) – focuses on ec dev
- Circle for Aboriginal Relations (CFAR) – focuses on ec dev

## Practical Measures: Education

The Education Commission is comprised of the Education Directors from the 5 Tribal Councils, Bigstone and Little Red River. Monthly meetings are held to discuss education issues within the 16 Band Operated schools.

Some of the activities that the education department was involved in the 3rd quarter of 2008 was:

September 24, 2008 – Treaty 6, 7 & 8 Education Rally with approximately 500 people taking part.

On February 14 & 15, 2008, at a meeting in Slave Lake, the Elders were asked “What is it that we, as the Treaty 8 Education Commission, should remember and what is it that we should consider as we go through the process of building an educational system for our children and for future generations?” The Elders responded with principles to incorporate into the education system. These principles have since been made into posters and will be distributed to all the band operated schools and band offices in Treaty 8.

### Welcome Esther Giroux!

*A big welcome to Esther Giroux who has joined Treaty 8 Education as Education Projects Manager– April 2009*

Esther Giroux comes from Swan River First Nation in northwestern

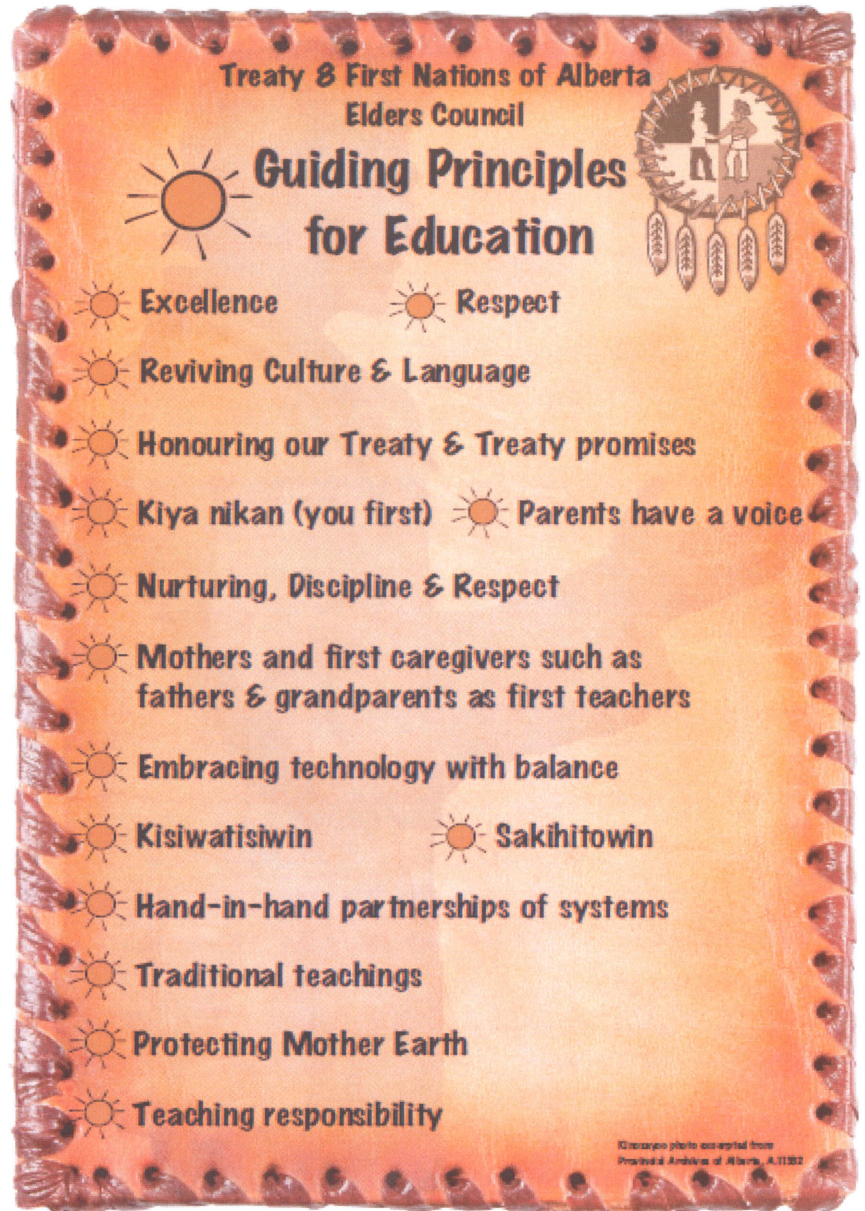
Alberta. She has been involved in Education since 1983 when she received her B.Ed. She is a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother

who believes that Education is a



*Esther Giroux*

life long process and that we need to learn from two worlds; the traditional teachings of our ancestors and academically from today’s academic institutions. Esther is very proud to be working in her new position and looks forward to meeting you.



Graphic photo accepted from Provincial Archives of Alberta, A11302

### Good Luck on your new job Darcy!

Darcy Jagodzinsky, Special Projects Manager, official last day was November 21, 2008. He is now working for Health Canada. Darcy is missed at Treaty 8, but we wish him all the best.

## Meet the Staff of the Bilateral Process

**Marlene Poitras**, Director Bilateral Process. Marlene is a member of the Mikisew Cree First Nation. Her role in the Bilateral Process is to oversee all aspect of the process and ensure that the Treaty is the foundation of any future agreement.

**Jerry Paulette**, Chief Negotiator. Jerry is a former Chief and he is a member of the Smith's Landing First Nation. His role in the Bilateral Process is to negotiate on our behalf, to ensure the spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8 is protected within the negotiations with the Government of Canada.

**Dustin Twin**, Bilateral Process Treaty Relations/Elder's Coordinator. Dustin is also a former chief and he is a member of the Swan River First Nation. His role is to ensure that the Elders are guiding this process, the Treaty is protected and implementation is based in the Treaty Relationship.

**Paula Giroux, B.Ed; M.Ed**, Bilateral Process Citizen Engagement Coordinator. Paula is a member of the Driftpile First Nation. Her role is to ensure that citizens/members of Treaty 8 are informed and that their input is included in the Bilateral Process.

**Gwen Crichton**, Bilateral Process Agreement-in-Principle Coordinator. Gwen is a member of the Bigstone Cree First Nation. Her role is to plan and coordinate the development of the AIP.

**Sharlene Alook**, Administrative Assistant. Sharlene is a member of the Bigstone Cree First Nation. Her role is to assist the Bilateral Process team.

**Michelle A. Voyageur**, Communications Technician. Michelle is a member of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. Her role is to prepare and deliver Bilateral Process communications.

## Citizen Engagements Update

with Paula Giroux

Citizen engagements are used to reciprocally share information with Treaty 8 First Nation members and gives them the opportunity to provide input into the Bilateral Process. After all this process belongs to you, a member of one of Treaty No. 8 First Nations.

The Treaty 8 Bilateral Process team has been travelling to Treaty 8 (AB) communities to share information and to receive feedback.

During 2008, we have visited 5 of the 6 Tribal Councils to meet with members including the Youth and Women Bilateral advisory representatives.

We value all the input that Treaty 8 community members provide to this process.

Another way that we have been engaging members is through community conferences. In March 2008



*Citizens Engagement, with Loon River/KTC*

the Bilateral Process participated in the Bilateral and the Community conference. At this conference we obtained a variety of valuable information to support the Bilateral Process.

If you are a community member

and would like more information about the Bilateral Process then please contact the Treaty 8 of Alberta office at 780-444-9366 or Toll Free at 1-888-Treaty8.

We look forward to seeing "you" at one of our sessions.

## Bilateral Process Negotiations Update

with Jerry Paulette

Since my appointment as the Chief Negotiator for the Treaty 8 Bilateral Process, I have spent much of my time reviewing key documents such as: the *Declaration Of Intent*, the *Framework Agreement for Treaty Discussions*, and the *Framework Agreement for Self-Government*. The Declaration Of Intent was signed in 1998 and the subsequent agreement on Self-Government was signed in 2003.

Although, the Treaty Discussion Framework Agreement was developed and initialed along side the Framework for Self-Government; Canada did not sign the Treaty Discussion Framework Agreement.

These documents are the fundamental directives to reach an agreement on the "Indian" understanding of the spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8. The Self-Government Framework Agreement and any subsequent negotiations in regards to Self-Government is to be guided by the relationship and spirit and intent of Treaty No 8.

Although, the Treaty Discussion Framework was not signed by Canada our negotiations team and the leadership continue to move forward on the premise of the provisions of the Treaty Discussion Framework Agreement.

The primary purpose of the Bilateral Process is to reach the "Indian" understanding of the spirit and intent of Treaty No 8. and the Treaty promises.

There is a lot of work needed to be done to reach an understanding of these promises amongst Treaty 8 First Nation members. For example, Education is a Treaty Right.

As a Treaty Right it needs to be defined by our own people. Not only does it need to be defined, but a consensus, amongst the First Nation people must be reached. We need these questions to be addressed by the technical and expert advise of our own people in the

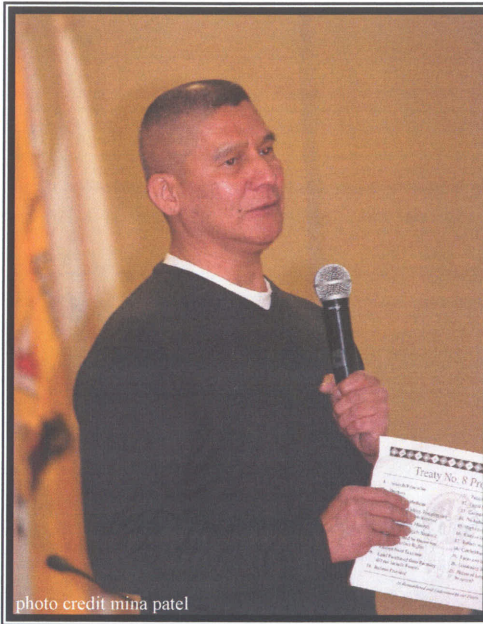


photo credit mina patel

*Jerry Paulette, Chief Negotiator  
Bilateral Process*

area of education.

Our Elders and Treaty thinkers need to confirm our collective view of our Treaty Right to education. Once this has been achieved then the leadership will need to adopt a political strategy to determine how we can move the Treaty Rights agenda forward.

Another issue is to determine if education can be negotiated within any Self-Government agreement or should this remain a Treaty Right agenda.

In the last 18 months we have been fortunate to visit some of the First

Nation communities to provide information on the Bilateral Process and hear concerns, questions and feedback from these respective members. We have recently engaged similar discussions with the respected leadership of Treaty 8 First Nation of Alberta.

Many of our membership and leadership have questions in relation to self-government. There are concerns that a self-government agreement may diminish Canada's fiduciary responsibility to our First Nations according to the spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8.

Our bilateral team has worked with Canada on provisions for an Agreement-In-Principal (AiP), but strategically we have kept this process to discussing minimal provisions on the interim, until we have a strong mandate for the respected First Nations of Treaty 8 that are prepared to negotiate a collective AiP for self-government that is consistent with the spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8.

The Inherent Right to Self-Government is a Right that belongs to each respective Treaty 8 First Nations. This mandate to work together on a collective Framework Agreement for Self-Government needs to come from these respective First Nation.

In the coming year we are hoping to work on the Treaty Promises to begin to define these respective Treaty Promises.

We also are proposing to continue the work on developing a strategy with a mandate to establish a collective Framework Agreement for Self-Government. This will require direction from the leadership.



## Treaty Based Bilateral Board (TBBB) Update

with Marlene Poitras

The TBBB governs the way that the Bilateral Process operates. It consists of four Chiefs and the Chief Executive Officers/Advisors from each Tribal Council/Regional Council and the Bigstone Cree First Nation.

The TBBB is responsible for overseeing the whole Bilateral Process and gives mandate to the Senior Negotiator, the Director of the Bilateral Process, and Legal Council.

On March 10, 2006, the Treaty Based Bilateral Board (TBBB) was established to replace the Chiefs Committee (which consisted of four Chiefs from the Executive Committee). Included on this new board is the CEO/CEA of all the Tribal Councils. Current Composition is as follows:

- Chief Arthur Noskey (Chief of BP)
- Al Rollins, CEO (KTC)
- Grand Chief Joe Whitehead (Ex-officio)
- Robert Moberly, CEO (Bigstone)
- Chief Vern Janvier (Chipewyan Prairie)
- Roy Vermillion, CEO (ATC)
- Chief Rose Laboucan (Driftpile)
- Allen Willier, CEA (LSLIRC)
- Chief James Ahnassay (Dene Tha')
- Jim Webb, CEO (NPTC)
- Ken Hampel, CEO (WCTC)

*“Our leaders, elders and community members must never forget this Treaty legacy.”*

Chief Ovide Mercredi

## Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) Update

with Gwen Muskwa

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, we worked on drafting the Agreement in Principle so that it can be translated in “plain language” for the benefit of all First Nations in Treaty 8. We also set up sub-tables for both Children’s Agenda and Education to specifically deal with AIP related issues.

To date we have worked on drafting the following chapters:

- Preamble
- Chapter 1 – Definitions
- Chapter 2 – General Provisions
- Chapter 3 – Relationship of Laws
- Chapter 4 – Membership
- Chapter 11 – Fiscal Arrangements

- Chapter 14 – Dispute Resolution
- Chapter 17 – Implementation

While we have drafts of these chapters, it is important to note that the next step is to take these to the leadership and membership of Treaty 8 for their feedback and input prior to proceeding with the negotiations of these chapters.

The approach for 2009-2010 will be more focused on Chapters 5 and 6. The plan is to establish a sub-table to deal with Chapters 5 and 6 consisting of members directly from the First Nations. As we will be dealing with developing the chapters on Education and Children’s Agenda. This approach will provide a clear mandate to the negotiators on how Treaty 8 proceeds

with negotiating a final Agreement in Principle.

We need input from the Leadership and the members to assist in the development of these chapters. Once these two chapters on structures, powers and jurisdiction are further developed it will provide clear direction on how we move forward with the negotiations of the AIP overall.

We look forward to receiving your input into the AiP process at one of our Citizen’s Engagements.

**Chief Arthur Noskey  
is the Chief of the  
Bilateral Process**

## Practical Measures: Children's Agenda

We have welcomed new staff members and are extremely confident in the delivery of our Children's Agenda Framework.

### Meet the Staff

**Anne Nipshank** has been with the Children's Agenda from June 2007 and has been working on Community Engagements and Community Forums with Treaty 8 First Nations as well. She is the New Children's Agenda Manager.



**Tamara Elm** former Children's

Agenda Manager is currently on secondment with Health Canada.

**Cheryl Kozy** is the Best Practice Site Technician for Dene'Tha First Nation and will be visiting First Nation communities in upcoming forums.



**Mina Patel** is our new Research Coordinator. Her duties and responsibilities will include the gathering of information on health determinants targeting ages from 0-6 years. She will also participate in relationship building



with the Stollery, Children's Northern Network and the University of Calgary.

**Cara Laboucane** is a new addition to Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta as the Best Practice Site Technician for Sturgeon Lake and Lesser Slave Lake.



We are currently in the process of organizing our next community engagements and community forums. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

If you have any questions about the Children's Agenda, please call 780.444.9633.



Jerry Paulette, Marlene Poitras, Paula Giroux, Dustin Twin, Sharlene Alook, Michelle Voyageur, Gwen Muskwa

## Bilateral Process Overview

with George D. Calliou

To the future generations—the current young people, all people of Treaty 8; Elders, Chiefs and Councils of Treaty 8 it is my pleasure to provide a short overview of the Bilateral Process.

The Bilateral Process is a joint process between Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and the Government of Canada that was formally agreed upon through the Declaration of intent. This process began on June 22, 1998.

The Bilateral Process is driven using a “practical” approach. Priority issues were determined from a se-

ries of discussions with Elders, citizens of Treaty 8 and Chiefs. The priority issues identified were: Health (Children’s Agenda), Education, Livelihood and Governance. These became the practical measures of the Bilateral Process. Currently the Practical Measures of the Bilateral Process are Health, Children’s Agenda, Livelihood and Education.

The Citizen Engagement process remains a major priority for the Bilateral Process. These meetings ensure that related information reaches our Treaty 8 citizens and

allows for feedback to be received. The Chiefs are informed about the Bilateral Process through the Treaty Based Bilateral Board (TBBB), the Executive Board and various Chief’s gatherings.

The importance of the Bilateral Process’ work would be significantly lessened and be potentially meaning less if not for the gifts of the Elders. The Elders bring the important reminder that our existence did not begin at the signing of Treaty No. 8; hence, the very important perspective of INHERENT RIGHT.

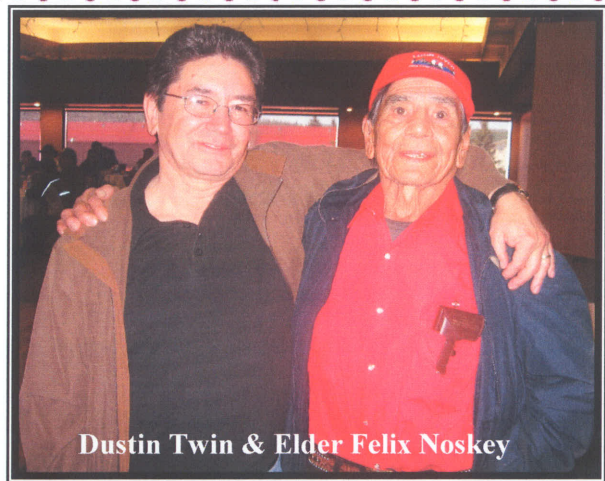
## Elder Council Meetings

The Elders Council meets to discuss Treaty issues that Treaty 8 members are experiencing.

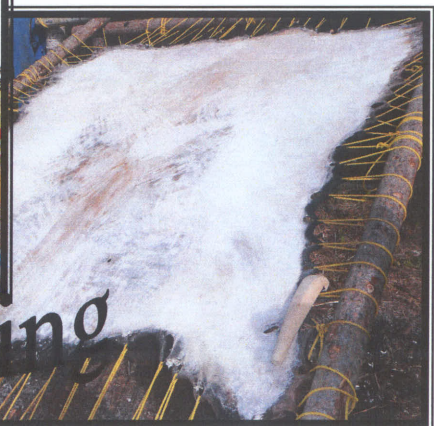
The Elders are instrumental to the Bilateral Process as they provide historical overviews of the Treaty and the Treaty Promises.

Each year an Elder and Youth gathering is held. This year the gathering will

be hosted by the Dene’ Tha First Nation in Bush’e River. It is at these meetings that the Elders teach spiritual ceremonies to the youth. Also it gives the Elders an opportunity to meet and share their communities concerns.



Dustin Twin & Elder Felix Noskey



# Bigstone Gathering



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# Contact Us

## Bilateral Process Team

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780-444-9366

# Treaty No. 8 Promises

**“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