



Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STATEMENT FROM CHIEFS OF THE SOVEREIGN NATIONS OF TREATY NO. 8

TREATY 8 NATIONS OPPOSE ALBERTA'S LONG-TERM APPROACH TO COAL DEVELOPMENT

November 10, 2021 (Treaty No. 8 Territory) – The Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 Chiefs oppose Alberta's long-term approach to coal development including Alberta's existing, active, and proposed coal mining in Treaty No. 8 Territory.

Alberta's coal mining and coal-fired power plants on *either* slope of the Rockies has an immediate and cumulative threat to all watersheds, fish, wildlife, and plant species, and is destroying the healthy ecosystems in Treaty No. 8 Territory. This impacts our livelihoods, and our Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights to hunt, fish, trap, gather, and harvest medicines.

"Alberta did not receive consent from the Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 on coal development in Treaty 8 Territory", said Deputy Grand Chief Ramona Horseman. "Alberta must follow the laws of Treaty No. 8 lands and resources. Our Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights will not be defined or regulated by Alberta".

Grand Chief Noskey states "The Supreme Court of British Columbia ruled on June 30, 2021, *Yahey v. British Columbia*, that the cumulative effects of industrial development in our traditional territories infringes upon our Treaty Rights and our way of life. This now case law aligns with our mandate is to protect, promote, bring to life, implement, and sustain the true spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8. as long as the sun shines, grass grows, water flows, and such a time as Yidah should reverse."

The Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 hold Inherent Rights and Treaty Rights in relation to lands and waters in Treaty No.8 recognized and affirmed under Canadian law. The Sovereign Nations are responsible under our laws for ensuring the Treaty 8 Territory remain healthy and protected for current and future generations to pursue our livelihood.

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