



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Ever wonder what Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta does? Check the last page!
- We have a brand new online look!
- Ever wanted to know more about your Elders? Come to page 4 and see!

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Chiefs Take Their Message to Ottawa

On January 11, 2013, a delegation of Treaty 8 Chiefs, along with Grand Chief Roland Twinn, went to Ottawa to meet with the Prime Minister. Across the country, First Nations have been protesting and staging flash mob Round Dances. These protests and the hunger strike of Chief Theresa Spence, Chief of the northern Ontario community of Attawapiskat, forced the Prime Minister to set up a meeting with Chiefs from across Canada.

Controversy erupted however when the Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, was called upon to meet with all the Chiefs and to have the Governor General present at the meeting. When this was not met many of the Chiefs from across Canada, led by the Manitoba Chiefs, pledged to boy-

cott the meeting.

The delegation of Treaty 8 Chiefs that went to Ottawa decided to continue with the meeting so



It was cold and snowy in Ottawa when the Treaty 8 Chiefs went to meet the Prime Minister.

they could present their plan to the Prime Minister. "We, our delegation of Chiefs, have travelled across Canada to improve

the lives of our people. To start that improvement we need to have discussions. This was the message the Chiefs sent me here to deliver, to give the Prime Minister a plan to set up an ongoing formal dialogue with the Chiefs of Treaty 8." said Grand Chief Twinn.

The Grand Chief was very clear that issues involving Treaty Relations would require all the Chiefs to be a part of the discussion and that Treaty would not be a part of the meeting with the Prime Minister, instead they would be giving the Prime Minister an invitation to come to Treaty 8 territory and meet with the Chiefs.

Check Out Our New Online Look!

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is proud to announce a new look for our website! It is much more modern, easier to navigate and sharper looking than ever before. Come check us out at

www.treaty8.ca

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

is now on Facebook!

Want to know what's going on within your Treaty area but don't want to have to search around to find the information? Find us on Facebook under "Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta". Get the latest news of what's happening

in Treaty 8 delivered straight to your news feed simply by liking us!

Updates about events, Treaty 8 in the news and more are waiting for you there!

Health

NIHB Navigator Here to Help!



Here to help you access the benefits you need to stay healthy!

Have you been denied benefits under the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program? Could you use some assistance in filing an appeal or finding out what your options are?

What benefits are covered by the NIHB Program?

Eligible benefit areas include:

- Drugs
- Medical Supplies and Equipment

- Dental Care
- Eye and Vision Care
- Short-Term Crisis Counselling
- Medical Transportation

If you feel that your claim has been unfairly denied, our office is here to assist. A NIHB Navigator position exists at our office to help Treaty 8 members with questions, concerns or appeals to the NIHB pro-

gram.

Our advocate has handled and assisted with many claims on behalf of our members. If you or someone you know needs some support through the process please contact:

Roxanne Tootoosis

NIHB Navigator

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Phone: 1-888-TREATY-8

Email: rtootoosis@treaty8.org

Help grow the next generation of Doctors, Nurses and other Medical Professionals within Treaty 8!

Health Warrior Scholarships

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is proud to let you know about the Francis Meneen & Francis Willier Health Warrior Memorial Scholarships.

These scholarships are provided to encourage and assist Treaty 8 First Nation members in the pursuit of post-secondary studies in the Health field. Treaty 8 recognizes the vision, excellence and

achievement throughout the scholastic journeys of Treaty 8 students enrolled in a post-secondary Health Careers program.

Jarett Wanihadie, Horse Lake First Nation, is receiving the 2012 Francis Meneen Health Warrior Memorial Scholarships for University Level Studies. Jarett wants to be a physician and is currently complet-

ing a Bachelor of Psychology.

Fredelle Auger, Bigstone Cree Nation, is receiving the 2012 Francis Willier Health Warrior Memorial Scholarships for College/Technical Level Studies. Fredelle wants to be a LPN Nurse and is currently completing the Practical Nurse program.

AHHRI Training Coming Soon



Are you committed to lifelong learning? We can help!

If you are a staff member working in a First Nation health centre, we have some exciting upcoming training opportunities.

Training is targeted at Community Based Workers and Health Managers and is of-

fered through the Aboriginal Health Human Resource Initiative (AHHRI).

The training programs are free of charge to any health staff working in a First Nation health centre!

Keep your eye out for this brand new training program

this year and make sure that you keep checking our website to find the latest news!

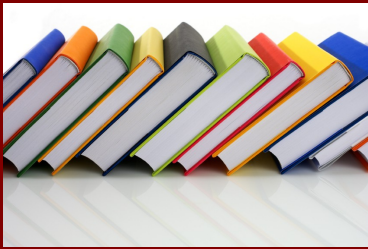
www.treaty8.ca/health

Or contact:

Francesca Kiyawasew,
780.444.9366

Education

First Nation Student Success Program Is In Full Swing!



The First Nations Student Success Program (FNSSP) is a federally funded program that is designed to address some of the problem areas in our Band Operated Schools and lead to better outcomes for our students!

In order to better reflect our goals, objectives and ancestry we have decided the program should be called Mamawi/linhgah which is loosely translated to *together* in both Cree and Dene.

This program is a step in the right direction to fulfilling the Education Commission's mandate of exploring a First Nation Comprehensive Education System.

There is a pressing need to create a First Nation Education System of the highest quality that is structured within a holistic framework

that considers the mind, body, emotion and spirit as integral to understanding how to teach our children.

To deliver this quality to the membership of Treaty No. 8, we have put together a team of Specialists, Psychologists and Speech Therapists whose focus is to understand and increase our children's success in the areas of literacy and numeracy while creating strategies that increase the Student Retention Rates at our schools.

In Provincial Achievement Testing, First Nations participation rates (those taking the tests) in grade 9 were only 53.3% compared to Alberta students.

The FNSSP Team Is In Your Communities

To tackle the reasons why our children seem to have less success than provincial students, the Mamawi/linhgah team will be working directly with schools in your communities.

You will see them around on a regular basis and they are always available to answer any questions you may have about the program!

Our specialists will be able to assess our children to find out both their strengths and weaknesses as students, so we can help them to improve where they need it and continue to support them where they are great. We will also be looking to work with the schools to help develop a new outlook on Education for students, teachers and even parents.

Our Team's Goals:

- We want to increase student literacy
- We want to increase student numeracy
- We want to bring students back to school and keep them in school
- We want to increase graduation rates

Treaty No. 8 Holds 1st Annual Education Symposium

On November 13-14, 2012, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was proud to host an Education Symposium entitled "Understanding First Nations Uniqueness". The goal of the Symposium was to bring together Educators, Administrators and others from all across Treaty 8 territory and gather together to share knowledge and best practices on educating our children.

The event was well attended and featured a host of guest speakers including an appearance by the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo!

He spoke passionately about First Nations education and talked about the great things he was seeing coming out of Treaty 8 and this Symposium.

In all, it gave a great opportunity from all our communities to discuss how we can improve education within Treaty 8 while taking into account the uniqueness of our culture, spirit and heritage of our First Nation roots.



National Chief Shawn A-in-Chut Atleo and Chief Rose Laboucan

Pictures From...





Treaty 8!



“We need to teach people the old ways of hunting, trapping and skinning. If we don’t train our kids they will be poor when the oil is gone...”

Treaty 8 is creating it’s own book to educate others about Treaty 8 and help challenge and eliminate stereotypes

Treaty Relations

Meet A Treaty 8 Elder

In Treaty 8, we have some of the best Elders in the world. We want to introduce you to some of these amazing individuals and share a little more about them with you.

Name: Joe Whitehead Sr.

Nickname: Muskwa

Age: 85

Born: Loon River

Lives: Cadotte Lake

Children: 11

Grandchildren: 53

Great Grandchildren: 67

Bio: Elder Joe, or Muskwa as everyone calls him, is an amazing man who has seen a lot in his life. His nickname, Muskwa, is Cree for Bear and it is easy to see why for while he is always listening to others,

when he does speak, everyone listens. He has spent much of his time on the land and has been trapping since he was 8 years old. When asked about whether he still practices any First Nation cultural traditions Muskwa told us that he does but he is always learning new things.

Elder Muskwa sat on many First Nation Boards and Committees in his time and says that he likes to help the band.

When asked about whether he has any hobbies the Elder tells us “training the kids in how to survive in the bush, making fire, hunting and not getting lost in the woods.” Elder Muskwa has a great talent for humour as well and often causes entire meetings to burst out laughing with his lighter side.

When asked if the Elder had a message he wanted to give to the people of Treaty 8, he had this to say.

“I would like the people to listen so that they would have respect like the old days. We have too many modern things that are not good, drugs and other things. In the old days there was a lot more respect for things. We need to teach people the old ways of hunting, trapping and skinning. If we don’t train our kids they will be poor when the oil is gone and then what will be left for that next generation? Even if the oil is gone the trees, herbs and animals will still be around and so we need to pass this knowledge down to the next generation”

Treaty 8 Is Writing A Book

Treaty 8 has a lot of history, with a great many traditions, experiences and knowledge that needs to be shared with our next generation and beyond. To do this, the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, guided by the Chiefs and Elders of Treaty 8, are producing a “Treaty 8” book.

We have not yet started on writing and are simply creating the outline of what exactly

should be included in the book.

When pen is ready to be put to paper we will find an author from Treaty 8 to write the story. It is fitting that someone from Treaty 8 take on this important responsibility!

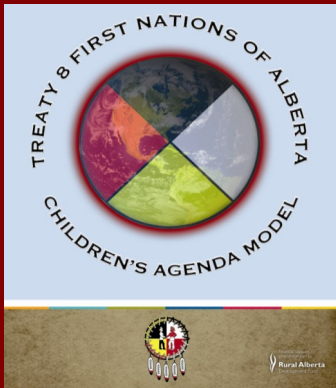
The final product will contain teachings on the traditional beliefs, languages, cultures, histories, technologies, economic activities, maps of lands,

resources and their uses in various seasons, place names and the record of histories they carry, social structures, governance structures and procedures, and the general way of life of the Treaty 8 peoples.

That’s quite a lot to cover but it should make for a great read!

Children's Agenda

Children's Agenda Model On It's Way!



10 years has passed since Children's Agenda began working to complete it's model and we are happy to report that it is on it's way! This model has been revised to include culturally relevant programming for children, youth and families.

We enjoyed working with a lot of the Nations over the last 10 years, our most recent best practice sites being Sucker Creek First Nation, Loon River First Nation and Bigstone Cree Nation. These best practice sites tested our Children's Agenda Model and have implemented programs at their Nations.

The Elder's have expressed, on many occasions, that they want to see parenting programs in their communities and have cultural programs reflected in their Nations traditions, values and beliefs. The Elder's

requested that these teachings are shared with everyone and we believe we have captured these teachings within our Children's Agenda model.

We want to say thank you to the Children's Programming Advisory Committee who have been our advisory board since 2003; their contribution in providing guidance, advice and direction have had a significant impact on the development of this final model. As well we want to say thank you, as the support we have re-

ceived from our Elders, Leaders and community members has made all of this work possible.

We are very pleased to share with you the new and revised Children's Agenda model. Look for this new book to be arriving at your First Nations Administrative offices soon!

If you have any questions, please contact us at Children's Agenda here at the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta office.

Upcoming Events

Honouring Our Treaty—Elders Gathering—Treaty 8 Annual General Assembly

Hosted by: Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council

Location: Atikameg, Alberta

Date: July 8, 2013—July 12, 2013

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is proud to announce an upcoming week long meeting in Whitefish Lake First Nation territory. This meeting is a great opportunity to meet with the Elders, hear about what has been going on within Treaty No. 8 and help us make sure we are on the right path. Come join us and get involved!

National Aboriginal Day—Riverboat Breakfast

Date: June 21, 2013

Location: 9734—98 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta

Start: 8:30 AM

Come and celebrate National Aboriginal Day with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. If you are in the Edmonton Area this June 21st join us for a great breakfast and a ride on the "Edmonton Queen" Riverboat! The event is open to families, free and always delivers a good meal and fun.



Phone: 1-888-TREATY-8

E-mail: gposein@treaty8.org

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

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is here to help!

Our organization does a number of things that help your communities and your First Nations. From providing advocacy and support to your Chiefs we do everything from developing proposals, providing political analysis and organizing gatherings and meetings.

We work hard to give Treaty 8 a greater collective voice by working with all the Nations to help them meet their goals, whatever they are. If you ever have any questions or concerns about us or want to see if we can help please contact us anytime at 1-888-TREATY-8!

Coming Together Against Violence

On April 9, 2013, in Edmonton, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) together with the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) hosted a National Forum on Community Safety and Ending Violence.

The forum brought together participants from Treaty 8, Alberta and from all over Canada to help build an inclusive National Action Plan to End Violence.

With a very high attendance, the conference featured prominent speakers from all walks of life, from Chiefs to Corrections Services Staff to Elders. Everyone spoke passionately about the difficulties, challenges, and in some cases hope that they had for creating a violence free future.

One of the highlights of the 2 day event was a presentation by Howard

Sapers, Correctional Investigator with the Government of Canada. He had some alarming numbers to share with the conference attendees, stating that "the incarceration rate for Aboriginal adults in Canada is estimated to be 10 times higher than the incarceration rate for non-Aboriginal adults." That "so far, this year, at the Edmonton Institution for Women 56% of the



The forum drew a diverse crowd of people from communities across Canada!

population was Aboriginal."

Mr. Sapers office has released a report *Spirit Matters: Aboriginal People and the Corrections and Conditional Release Act*, which outlines many of these problems and includes 10 recommendations to improve the situation.

The report hasn't generated much traction within the Government of Canada. With Mr. Sapers saying "each and every one of the recommendations is either disagreed with or the response is simply to reinforce what the CSC is already doing."

For a full look at the *Spirit Matters* report go online to:

www.oci-bec.gc.ca/