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## *Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 Recognize September 30<sup>th</sup> as Orange Shirt Day

**September 22, 2021 (Treaty 8 Territory)** – We, the Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 honor our survivors and heroes on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We affirm Orange Shirt Day in remembrance of the resiliency and strength of our survivors and people who have suffered from the genocide and atrocities inflicted upon them.

Although Canada has declared September 30<sup>th</sup> as National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and is now a federal statutory holiday, there cannot be reconciliation without action. This would involve full access to the Truth, and the release of all related documents, as well as provisions for full supports in the mental health and healing of our survivors and those who have suffered the intergeneration trauma stemming from the Indian Residential Schools.

It is also very disrespectful that the Government of Alberta will not recognize September 30<sup>th</sup> as a statutory holiday when they played a key role in the operation of Indian residential day schools. It shows the lack of respect and does not reflect “*a path to reconciliation*” as outlined in their August 2018 publication. There cannot be reconciliation without restitution.

We are still here, Treaty 8 Strong!

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### **About Treaty 8 First Nations [Alberta]:**

On June 21, 1899, the eighth treaty between the Indians of North America and the Queen of England was signed. The signatories of Treaty 8 agreed to its terms for reasons of peace and friendship – ensuring what they thought would be a partnership. Treaty 8 was the most comprehensive treaty, encompassing a land mass of approximately 840,000 kilometers, and is home to 39 First Nation communities. Treaty territory covers the areas of Northern Alberta, Northwestern Saskatchewan, Northeastern British Columbia, and the Southwest portion of the Northwest Territories.

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, the rivers flow and until such time as yidah should reverse”