



Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
STATEMENT FROM TREATY No. 8 CHIEFS

TREATY 8 PEOPLES IN CANADA ASK FOR A CONCRETE PLAN OF ACTION FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

September 1, 2021 (Treaty 8 Territory) - We, the Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8, call on federal leaders to provide a firm action plan outlining how Indigenous issues will be addressed after the September 20th election.

This election is acting as a distraction to the real issues facing Indigenous Peoples. We are tired of hearing the same rhetoric at every federal election. Party leaders attempt to solicit votes from Indigenous Peoples with promises that are never acted upon, much like the Treaty promises. The government needs to stop making empty promises and legitimize our Nationhood.

Our current government has taken no strong actions towards reconciliation which has disintegrated our trust immensely. We now seek answers. We now seek action. Concrete, comprehensive, transparent action. Specifically, how will Party leaders address restitution, amendments to the *Indian Act*, residential schools, First Nation Child and Family Services, issues of housing, safe drinking water and the 1997 2% cap on annual funding? Why has this issue not been addressed in any of the candidate's political platforms? Why are we not acknowledged and recognized as the First Peoples on this land now called Canada? To feel unheard continues our trauma and perpetuates the continued disregard of who we are as a people.

We call upon the new government to immediately outline what changes they plan to make and how they plan to right the systematic, legislated atrocities that have been inflicted upon our People for centuries. We remind the new government that their continued paternalistic systems do not and will not work in addressing the continued genocidal termination legislation policies. For our nations and our lands to heal and prosper, we must work in partnership as originally intended when we entered Treaty.

We continue to feel the pain of the atrocities done to our People under the guise of Canada's legislation, the *Indian Act* and residential schools. Every day our People and communities deal with the complex, long-lasting effects of inter-generational trauma. We will no longer stand by as the federal government avoids accountability in their role of genocide and the deliberate, systemic mass murders of our People.

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"



Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8

The search for our children continues. The highest concentration of residential schools in Canada were in Treaty 8 territory. Of the 25 residential schools in Alberta, 11 were in Treaty 8. The federal government has deflected, shifted blame, and refused to acknowledge their responsibility in creating, funding, and facilitating this program of genocide. There is no trust in the levels of government and churches to assist us.

We will continue to recognize Orange Shirt Day. September 30 will be used to commemorate the residential school experience and to deeply honour the healing journey of survivors and their families. This day will remain sacred as we give space to survivors to tell their stories and to ensure this will never be repeated to our children.

“The ways of life, identities, well-being and very existence of Indigenous People are threatened by the continuing effects of colonization and national policies, regulations and laws that attempt to force them to assimilate into the cultures of majoritarian societies. A fundamental historical basis and legal precedent for these policies and laws is the “Doctrine of Discovery”, the idea that Christians enjoy a moral and legal right based solely on their religious identity to invade and seize indigenous lands and to dominate Indigenous Peoples.”

Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery and its enduring impact on Indigenous peoples WCC executive committee 14-17 February 2012 Bossy, Switzerland.

-30-

Media Contact:

Arthur Noskey
Grand Chief
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Sovereign Nations of Treaty No. 8 Chiefs

About Treaty 8 First Nations of 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”