

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta



5th Annual Report
2002 - 2003

Presented to the
Chiefs of Treaty 8 (Alberta)
June 12, 2003
Edmonton, Alberta



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

HEAD OFFICE:

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Box 366 Fort Chipewyan AB T0P 1B0
Ph: (780) 697-3730
Fx: (780) 697-3500

SUB OFFICE:

c/o 18178 - 102 Ave
Santa Fe Plaza, Edmonton, AB T5S 1S7
Ph (780) 444-9366
Fx (780) 484-1465

June 12, 2003

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA:

On behalf of the Executive Board, please accept the **Annual Report** as the record of activities and accomplishments of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta for the 2002-2003 fiscal year.

As you are aware, this has been a challenging year financially for our organization, however with your continued support and dedication to the organization we have managed to overcome these challenges as you will see this outlined in our annual audit.

The Executive Board would like to thank each First Nation and Tribal Council for all their assistance both politically and financially to ensure that the work that was required still took place. We managed to have numerous Chiefs' Meeting and Executive meeting, averaging one per month since October 2002.

We would like to thank Chief Clyde Goodswimmer, former Grand Chief, for his contributions to the organization and we look forward to the continued work that needs to be undertaken to ensure that "Treaty No. 8" is honored and protected.

We would also like to thank all former employees for their contribution and dedication to the organization as well.

We look forward to the start of next fiscal year on a positive note. There will be number of challenges that we must face collectively such as the Benoit Case, Bilateral Process and other Treaty related issues. We will be successful in our many challenges through cooperation and dedication to our members and communities.

Again, we thank you all for your support in the past year and look forward to working with you into the next fiscal year.

In the Spirit of Unity,

Grand Chief Archie Cyprien

Grand Chief Frank Halcrow



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the Office of Grand Chief

A Year In Review

- Administration	Page 1
- Bylaws	Page 1
- ByElection	Page 2
- Budget Overview	Page 2

Initiative Highlights

- Benoit Case	Page 5
- Bilateral Process	Page 6
- First Nations Governance: Standing Committee Presentation	Page 10
- Education	Page 11
- Economic Development / Livelihood	Page 17
- Elders Gathering	Page 9
- Housing	Page 19
- Justice	Page 21
- Social Development	Page 26

Addendum

- Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Bylaws November 8/02	
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A YEAR IN REVIEW

This annual report is intended to provide to the membership of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta an overview of the activities, challenges and successes of the Treaty 8 organization over the past fiscal year.

The report is divided into sections that cover off each of the activity areas. The first area is administration.

ADMINISTRATION

The Executive of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta were faced with a serious challenge this past year. By September it became apparent that significant changes were going to have to occur quickly in order to protect the organization. The Executive called for an All Chiefs meeting in Slave Lake on October 9/10 to inform the full membership on the issues facing the organization and to seek their input on solutions. The following is a synopsis of the actions taken.

1. The Grand Chief resigned and the Vice-Chief assumed the role until elections could be held.
2. All spending was suspended pending confirmation of revenue and the approval of a management plan that would insure that the organization would survive and that all commitments would be honoured.
3. An interim Executive Director was appointed, in conjunction with the Tribal Council Executive Directors, to develop the plan and to provide the administrative leadership to ensure that the plan was followed.

BYLAWS

One of the significant issues identified at the October 9/10 All Chiefs meeting was the need to review the Bylaws of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and to revise sections of these Bylaws. A Special Meeting for the purpose of reviewing and revising the Bi-Laws was called for November 9 in Edmonton. A significant amount of preparation for this meeting had to occur and the Treaty 8 staff have to acknowledge and thank the staff from both the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council and the Athabasca Tribal Council for their valuable assistance in this regard. The Chiefs met