



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

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, and the waters flow.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Grand Chief Agrees with Office of the Child and Youth Advocate Alberta Report

Edmonton, Alberta – July 20, 2016 – Chief Richard Kappo, Grand Chief of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta (T8FNA) adds his voice to emphasize and support the recommendations contained in the “*Voices for Change*” special report released by the Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA).

Following an extensive engagement process regarding the overrepresentation of Aboriginal young people in the child welfare system, the OCYA special report made a set of recommendations that the T8FNA fully supports. Grand Chief Kappo noted that, “*many of these recommendations are the exact solutions the Alberta Treaty 8 Chiefs and the Directors of the Delegated First Nation Agencies on reserve have said for many years. It has long been a contention of T8FNA that the provincial child welfare system and the federal funding methods actually encouraged and enabled removing children from their families and communities.*”

“*There has been a change in government in this country and we are very hopeful about a new relationship, but in many ways much has remained the same. The old government was content to set up policies that hurt our children , families and communities and we are still feeling the effects of these policies.*” states Deputy Grand Chief Rupert Meneen, “*The new government has made a commitment to implementing UNDRIP and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 94 Calls to Action to strengthen the relationship processes. We agree with those actions and recognize the need to do so but we need to see a solid commitment on the part of Alberta and Canada.*”

Grand Chief Kappo also commented “*The Chiefs of Treaty 8 (Alberta) are committed to working with our Federal and Provincial partners to correct previous wrongs and work to close discriminatory gaps and practices. We are ready to start working together so that, we don’t lose any more of our children.*”

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