



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.



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October 26, 2016

Honourable Shannon Phillips
Minister of Environment and Parks
Minister Responsible for the Climate Change Office
208 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5K 2B6

Dear Minister:

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta are very much concerned with the consequences of climate change and the actions of Canada and Alberta. Our Treaty Rights to hunt, trap, fish, and harvest are being infringed. Our way of life is being attacked in a manner that breaches the spirit and intent of Treaty No.8.

We believe the October 27, 2016 meeting must be utilized as a valuable and timely opportunity to begin the first of a series of important dialogues to address the many challenging issues we face at a local, regional, and national level. However, it must be very clearly understood that this meeting alone does not satisfy any reasonable standards of nation-to-nation dialogue. Many more meaningful consultations must happen at our First Nations that include our councils and our citizens.

With this in mind, we are planning our talks to be an action-oriented dialogue where we can discuss issues and develop strategies to respectfully advance our agenda towards the fulfillment of our Treaty relationship collectively.

The list of possible priorities in our discussions includes but is not limited to:

- Reclamation and clean-up of Reserve lands and territory
- Treaty rights protection to clean air, lands, water, plants, and animals
- Healthy Treaty 8 community members through food security measures
- Education on renewable energy opportunities
- Transitional employment opportunities in renewable energy market
- Support for housing retrofits and new efficiency regulations
- Review of existing legislation with intent to change those provisions which do not support transition and reduction of carbon emissions
- Parallel process to include First Nations input on land, water ,and air issues
- Dedicated impact funds to alleviate transition in First Nations
- Local and regional environmental impacts of climate change (water quantity and biodiversity)

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It must be understood that these are not new concerns with our First Nations. Our Elders have long spoken against the destruction of Mother Earth. It is not our greed that developed a mentality of oil dependence. It is not our systems that developed a regulator process that only approves and never controls excessive development.

Our First Nations have unanimously rejected the Alberta Consultation Policy and the imposition of the flawed regulatory process, including land use plans created to accelerate oil and gas development in Treaty No. 8 territory.

Our First Nations have advocated for the recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, not just in words but also in actions. Our First Nations children suffered in the residential schools and are victimized again when calls to action are ignored.

Before Alberta was a province, our people assisted the new-comers to survive in our shared environment. We understand that we must preserve as much as possible for the next generation and the next after them. We will continue to be of this land, we do not have another place to go, and we will survive.

In the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8



Chief Rupert Meneen
Grand Chief
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

cc: Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada
Hon. Richard Feehan, Minister, Indigenous Relations – Alberta
Treaty No. 6 Chiefs (Alberta)
Treaty No. 7 Chiefs
Treaty No. 8 Chiefs (Alberta)