



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA BILATERAL PROCESS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2009

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Did you know:

- Inherent Rights are granted through creation.
- There is 23 First Nations in Alberta that belong to Treaty 8; there is 39 First Nations in total that belong to Treaty 8.
- According to Statistics Canada in 2006, the First Nation population increased 45 percent since 1996, and has passed the 1 million mark. The Aboriginal population is the fastest growing population in Canada.

From the Director's Desk

with Marlene Poitras

On behalf of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's Bilateral Process, I am pleased to introduce the spring 2009 newsletter. We feel that providing updates and communicating with Treaty 8 membership is important in obtaining your support on moving the Bilateral Process forward. From this point forward, the Bilateral Process will be providing you with quarterly updates via our newsletter.

Since my appointment to the position of Director, Bilateral Process, in November 2008, I have been very busy familiarizing myself with the status of the Bilateral Process and preparing for both the year end and the new fiscal year.

I am very pleased with the turnout and positive feedback that we received on the "Bilateral and the Nation" workshop that was recently held. Our conference participants affirmed that the Bilateral Process must be built on the spirit of the Treaty and Nation Building. They also confirmed that we are

moving in the right direction. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elders, Leaders, Women and Youth Council members for your participation and the excellent feedback that you provided.

I would also like to thank the Bilateral staff: Paula Giroux, Gwen Crichton, Sharlene Alook, Michelle Voyageur, and our Chief Negotiator, Jerry Paulette, for their hard work and commitment to the Bilateral Process. I would especially like to thank Dustin Twin for his dedication to our Elders and for the work he did on our Treaty agenda. Dustin will be leaving his position on April 10, 2009 and will be dearly missed by everyone at Treaty 8.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and in the future should your First Nation want to provide any information for the readership, please send in your articles to Michelle Voyageur at our office.

Marlene Poitras, Director

Treaty Promises

One of the Treaty No. 8 Promises, as understood and remembered by the Elders, was that Treaty people would be exempt from war participation.

Regardless, these veterans enlisted and served for Canada.

For a list of the 21 Treaty Promises see page 12.

Can you think of some of the Treaty Promises on this list?



*Leo Goulet, George D. Auger, Elizear Whitehead
Absent in this photo is Veteran Peter Willier*