



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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Treaty 8 Chiefs Hopeful After Protocol Signing With Premier

Edmonton, Alberta – April 26, 2016 – Treaty 8 Chiefs met with Premier Notley today to sign a Protocol respecting future meetings between the Provincial Government and the Chiefs of Treaty No. 8. This meeting included the Premier, Ministers and Chiefs from across northern Alberta. The Chiefs have expressed their hopefulness after the meeting.

“The Premier has talked a lot in the media about wanting a new relationship with First Nations and from what we have seen today, she is being absolutely genuine,” states Chief Steve Courtoreille, Grand Chief with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta before adding, “we have serious issues with many of the policies in this province and it sounds like she is willing to step forward and take the lead with us on addressing them.”

Today’s meeting was meant to be a launching point for a series of meeting tables to address long standing issues raised by First Nation leadership. Nothing in the Protocol precludes individual First Nations from meeting with the government of Alberta. Nor does it create any legal rights or responsibilities.

“The Chiefs of Treaty 8 (Alberta) and the Premier, with her Cabinet, have made a commitment to consider action oriented solutions that can help our communities,” states Grand Chief Courtoreille before continuing, “We are both on the same page that these are changes that must be made so that everyone, First Nations and Albertans, live in prosperous, healthy communities.”

“Although Treaty 8 territory is the economic engine of Alberta and of Canada, many of the systems in place are largely operated without First Nations participation and these are the first steps to a new relationship,” states Chief Courtoreille.

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