

# MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8  
FIRST NATIONS  
OF ALBERTA

FEBRUARY 4, 2026

## JANUARY BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The Treaty 8 Executive Board met for its regularly-scheduled meeting on January 29, 2026, to review key political, legal, and organizational matters impacting Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

A significant portion of the meeting was dedicated to an update on ongoing legal challenges related to the potential Alberta independence referendum.

The Board discussed implications for Treaty 8 rights, jurisdiction, and constitutional protections, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding Treaty and inherent Rights in any future political processes.

The Board also received a progress update on the bilateral workplan with the Government of Canada.

An update on Treaty 8 annuities was presented,

outlining current efforts and next steps.

Treaty 8's response to Alberta's proposed Pipeline Technical Team was also reviewed.

The Board discussed the importance of meaningful First Nations participation, recognition of Treaty rights, and ensuring that technical and regulatory processes respect Indigenous knowledge, land use, and decision-making authority.

Additionally, the Board received an update on Treaty 8 legal counsel, including current legal support needs, ensuring that Treaty 8 remains well-positioned to respond to evolving legal matters.

Lastly, departmental reports were presented and reviewed, providing updates on activities and operational performance.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2026.

### IN THIS MONTH'S UPDATE:

**Treaties  
6,7,8 Stand  
Together  
Against  
Separation**

**Treaty 8  
Chief  
Summit In  
March**

**New Deputy  
Grand Chief  
Announced**

**AOTC  
Feb. 24 - 26.**

**Several  
Chiefs Meet  
Over  
Proposed  
Pipeline**

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# CHIEFS FROM TREATIES 6,7,8 HOLD JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE AT TREATY 8 OFFICE

Chiefs from Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, and Treaty No. 8 held a joint press conference at the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta office in Edmonton on Jan. 29, 2026, to publicly oppose the Government of Alberta's approval of a separation petition and to affirm the inherent, constitutional, and Treaty-based foundations of their Nations' rights.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta express our full and unequivocal support for the legal action brought by Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Siksika Nation, Piikani Nation, and the Blood Tribe to challenge Alberta's decision, which directly undermines Treaty Rights, constitutional order, and the rule of law.

We also recognize and support Mikisew Cree First Nation, which has confirmed it will be filing its own legal challenge.



## NEXT TREATY 8 CHIEFS' SUMMIT

A Treaty 8 Chiefs' Summit on governance and strategic planning will be held on March 12-13, 2026, in Edmonton, bringing Chiefs together to align on priorities, strengthen governance frameworks, and set strategic direction for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta moving forward.

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## NEW DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF ANNOUNCED

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was pleased to announce the appointment of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Chief Sheldon Sunshine as our new Deputy Grand Chief, effective December 16, 2025.

## REMEMBERING CHIEF RODERICK WILLIER



GRAND CHIEF TREVOR MERCREDI AND CHIEF RODERICK WILLIER CELEBRATE THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY 8.

We honour the life and leadership of past Sucker Creek First Nation Chief Roderick Willier, a true Treaty Warrior who dedicated his life to advancing and protecting Treaty No. 8.

Chief Willier always led first in ceremony, allowing it to guide his decisions and the work set before him by our ancestors. Our deepest condolences are extended to his family, loved ones, and Sucker Creek First Nation.

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 6



Treaty No. 8



# ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS

HOSTED BY: CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS

Date:

**FEBRUARY  
24-26, 2026**

Location:

**THE VENUE AT THE RIVER CREE  
ENOCH CREE NATION  
TREATY NO. 6 TERRITORY**

Register:



**REGISTRATION: [WWW.TREATYSIX.ORG/EVENT-LISTING](http://WWW.TREATYSIX.ORG/EVENT-LISTING)**

[www.treatysix.org/event-listing](http://www.treatysix.org/event-listing)

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# TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS SET CLEAR CONDITIONS FOR ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS ON PROPOSED PIPELINE

Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta met with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, Hon. Rajan Sawhney, and representatives of the Government of Alberta on January 14, 2026, for a preliminary discussion regarding a proposed Northwest Coast Oil Pipeline.

While we appreciate the Government of Alberta meeting with our leadership, Treaty 8 First Nations emphasized that our attendance at this meeting did not constitute support, endorsement, or consent for the project, nor was it to be interpreted as formal, constitutionally obligated consultation.

This meeting was strictly exploratory and limited to open discussion and information-gathering. Alberta's constitutional and Treaty consultation obligations regarding the Northwest Coast Pipeline remain unmet.

As with any decision affecting Treaty 8 Rights, we expect the Government of Alberta to engage in discussions with our leadership. This expectation extends beyond seeking approval for a specific project. We must be involved in all decisions or legislation that affect our historic lands.

The Treaty 8 Chiefs were clear with the Minister during the meeting, stating what must happen before any proposed pipeline discussion can move forward beyond an exploratory conversation.

Treaty 8 First Nations remain open to dialogue that is respectful, Rights-based, and consistent with the spirit and intent of the Treaty No. 8 that was signed over 125 years ago.

## MEETING WITH FOREVER CANADIAN GROUP OPPOSING SEPERATION

On January 8, 2026, Chiefs from Treaty No. 8 and Treaty No. 6 met with former Deputy Premier Thomas Lukaszuk and representatives of the Forever Canadian group to discuss the possibility of Alberta separation.

During the meeting, the Chiefs in attendance affirmed their shared goals with the Forever Canadian group and emphasized the importance of unity in opposing separation.

While no formal agreements were reached, there was a strong consensus regarding the seriousness of the issue and its potential negative impacts, not only on First Nations and Albertans, but on all of Canada.

## NEW TREATY 8.ORG WEBSITE DESIGN!



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta has a new webpage design, currently under construction.

Please be advised that many of the upcoming features are yet to be implemented.

This new webpage will modernize Treaty 8's online presence and include all our press releases, upcoming calendar events, and important informational resources for our First Nations members.

If you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented on our webpage, please email our CAO, Jamie Koe, at [cao@treaty8.org](mailto:cao@treaty8.org).

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# MEET OUR TEAM

## DALE MOUNTAIN, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE



Dale has over 35 years of financial experience most in senior leadership roles, having held titles of vice president and chief financial officer in the oil and gas sector, Indigenous government. Prior to joining Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, Dale was the Vice President of Finance and Operations at Athabasca University.

Wherever his career has taken him, Dale has stayed true to his roots. He was born in the Northwest Territories, but lived most of his life in rural Alberta and still enjoys the province's smaller communities. He is a proud member of Beaver Lake Cree First Nation, located on Treaty 6 territory, and his upbringing as a First Nations member has not only shaped him personally, but professionally, too.

"I've always been driven to break the stereotypes of what I am supposed to be able to accomplish," explains Dale. "I've really benefited from having some great professional mentors over the years, many of which were First Nations themselves. I hope that I can be as helpful guiding the next generation of professionals."

When Dale Mountain accepted his current position as Director of Finance for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta last October, he did so with the hope of combining his decades of financial experience with his passion for advancing First Nations Rights.

"What attracted me to this role was that it allows me to put my financial experience toward something that I've believed in my entire life," says Dale. "I'm proud of my First Nations background. The opportunity to progress First Nations Rights while also utilizing my existing skillset in not only finance, but particularly Indigenous government and administration, made this position a natural fit for me."

Dale's role as Director of Finance allows his leadership experience to shine through as he plays a crucial role in ensuring the organization's finances are planned well, tracked accurately, and reported honestly.

Outside of work, Dale enjoys being outdoors as much as possible. He has two sons and admits to having a massive "green thumb" when it comes to doing yard work around the house.

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AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE GRASS GROWS, THE RIVERS FLOW,  
AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YIDAH SHOULD REVERSE.



TREATY 8  
FIRST NATIONS  
OF ALBERTA

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