

MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8
FIRST NATIONS
OF ALBERTA

APRIL 15, 2026

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NRTA

Treaty 8 First Nations Chiefs, leadership, Elders, youth, and allies gathered in Maskekosihk, Enoch Cree Nation, in Treaty No. 6 territory to discuss the constitutional future of the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements (NRTA).

The event, titled "Unfinished Business: A National Assembly of Treaty Chiefs on the Constitutional Future of the NRTA," hosted by Kehewin Cree Nation (Treaty No. 6), resulted in a unified demand for immediate action to address Canada's decades-long refusal to uphold its legal obligations under Treaty, as well as its ongoing failure to address the arbitrary and controversial NRTA.

In 1930, Canada violated the Treaties made by the Crown by enacting the Natural Resources Transfer Agreements, three separate Acts of Parliament that transferred jurisdiction over natural resource administration to the provincial governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

"The Governments of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba continue to act in blatant disregard of the legal and inherent authority of Treaty Nations over our lands," said Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi. "These actions undermine the very foundations of Canada. Treaty jurisdiction and sovereignty are not negotiable."

"No nation-building projects are possible without full Treaty recognition and a clear action plan on the NRTA," said Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation Chief Allan Adam.

Despite Treaty leaders' expressed rejection of the NRTA in 1927, it has been used to deny First Nations jurisdiction over the benefits of natural resource extraction. It has also detrimentally affected the exercise of Treaty rights to hunt, fish, and trap, while contributing to significant environmental impacts across Treaty territories.

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TREATY 8 CHIEFS SUMMIT RECAP

Leadership, including Chiefs, Council Members and Elders from across the First Nations of Treaty 8 in Alberta gathered for a Summit, held March 11-13 at the Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton on Treaty 6 territory.

While each Treaty 8 First Nation maintains its own autonomy, governance, and decision-making authority, leadership came together to discuss matters of shared importance and to coordinate collective strategies to uphold Treaty No. 8 and protect the lands, waters, and resources within Treaty territory.

The summit included discussions on advancing the spirit and intent of Treaty No. 8, protection of our children, updates from Indigenous Services Canada Minister Mandy Gull-Masty, legal strategy discussions, strengthening First Nations-led policing, addressing Alberta separation concerns, federal and provincial strategic priorities, and advancing the Treaty 8 Polytechnic including strategic partnerships to expand accessible post-secondary opportunities for Treaty 8 youth.

Throughout the summit, Chiefs strongly emphasized that Treaty 8 First Nations must be meaningfully involved in every aspect of decision-making related to the lands and resources within their territories.

The Treaty 8 Chiefs stand united in defending the Treaty, protecting the lands and resources within our territory, and ensuring a stronger future for the next generation.



FIRST NATIONS ALL-HAZARDS FORUM

The First Nations All-Hazards Forum, held March 26 and 27 in Edmonton on Treaty 6 territory, brought together leadership, Directors of Emergency Management, Directors of Health, and regional partners from Treaties 6, 7, and 8 to advance coordinated, Nation-led approaches to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.

Throughout the forum, there was a clear and shared understanding that First Nations are facing increasingly complex and overlapping emergencies, including wildfires, the opioid crisis, mental health challenges, and broader community safety events. These realities are felt across Treaty 8 territory and require responses that reflect the lived experiences of our First Nations.

Participants heard directly from those on the front lines, including experiences from the First Nations Emergency Management Coordinator Pilot Project, as well as insights on wildfire preparedness, evacuation planning, and environmental considerations in recovery.

Discussions also highlighted the growing importance of land-based knowledge and ensuring that response efforts uphold long-term stewardship responsibilities.

A major focus of the forum included identifying ongoing gaps, particularly in social recovery and mental health supports during and after emergencies. There was a strong call for culturally appropriate, community-led services that reflect the realities of Treaty 8 Nations.

TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA

HONOURING OUR
TREATY GATHERING
&
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

July 28 - 30, 2026

Woodland Cree First Nation

HOSTED BY:



TREATY CHIEFS AT THE LEGISLATURE FOR OPPOSITION'S MOTION OF NON-CONFIDENCE



FOLLOWING THE ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS' HISTORIC, UNANIMOUS VOTE OF NON-CONFIDENCE IN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION BROUGHT FORWARD ITS OWN MOTION OF NON-CONFIDENCE, WITH TREATY 8 CHIEFS PRESENT TO WITNESS THE RESPONSE TO OUR DIRECT REQUEST MADE THIS PAST APRIL.

TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING UPDATE

The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta board met for its monthly meeting to review key organizational priorities and ongoing initiatives, with discussions focused on housing, governance, and long-term strategic development.

An update was provided on the Wedgewood Housing Initiative, including progress to date and the next steps for the project. Leadership reviewed the proposed approach and approved moving forward with Landmark Homes as the design-builder.

This marks an important step in advancing housing solutions that respond to the needs of Treaty 8 First Nations and support long-term community development.

Leadership also discussed the need to undertake a comprehensive organizational review of Treaty 8 First Nations.

The review is intended to assess current structures, identify opportunities for improvement, and ensure the organization is well-positioned to effectively support member First Nations and deliver on our mandate. There was shared recognition of the importance of strong governance, clear roles, and sustainable operational capacity moving forward.

In addition, discussions were held regarding the future of the Treaty 8 Polytechnic. The board considered opportunities to continue advancing the institution as a key initiative supporting education, training, and economic development for Treaty 8 members.

The importance of building partnerships and expanding access to post-secondary opportunities for Treaty 8 youth was emphasized throughout the discussion.

The March meeting provided an opportunity to align on next steps and reinforce a collective commitment to advancing priorities that support the long-term strength and self-determination of Treaty 8 First Nations.

TAR SANDS TAILINGS CRISIS MEETING

Leadership, experts, and partners gathered March 25 and 26, at River Cree Resort & Casino on Enoch Cree Nation to address the growing risks associated with tar sands tailings and the protection of water across Treaty 8 territory.

Hosted by Mikisew Cree First Nation and Keepers of the Water, the forum focused on the urgent need to safeguard water, uphold Treaty rights, and address the cumulative impacts of industrial development on human and environmental health.

Discussions brought together perspectives from leadership, Elders, researchers, and frontline practitioners, covering topics such as tailings risks, water treatment solutions, community-based monitoring, and legal and policy developments.

The gathering reinforced the importance of coordinated, Nation-led approaches to protecting water for current and future generations.

MEET OUR TEAM

CHRIS LAMOUCHE, BUILDING MAINTAINER



It's hard to get any work done without the lights on. Fortunately, that's where Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's new Building Maintainer, Chris Lamouche, comes in.

Whether it's managing the organization's general maintenance, or keeping facilities in top shape, Chris brings more than a quarter century of hands-on experience in electrical work, building operations, and community infrastructure.

"I've always preferred to work with my hands," he explains. "I like that this kind of work keeps me in shape and keeps me mobile. Even when I'm at home, I like to be chopping wood or out in the garden."

Despite his passion for physical work, Chris has always strived to diversify his skills when it comes to his career. He has held a range of roles across First Nations and Métis organizations, including as Economic Development Manager for the Lubicon Lake Band, Housing Coordinator with Kee Tas Kee Now Education Authority, and as a Business Planning Implementation Coordinator for the Métis Settlements General Council. These experiences have strengthened his ability to manage projects and coordinate with contractors.

Chris, who was born on Treaty 8 territory in High Prairie and is a member of Lubicon Lake Band, also holds electrical trades training, a 4th Class Power Engineering Certificate, and is currently working toward completing Water and Wastewater training.

Fluent in Cree, Chris remains deeply connected to his culture and community. Chris has used his bilingual skills to translate stories from his Elders for the next generation.

In his spare time, Chris is in his element on the golf course, a sport that is much easier on his body than the 4 decades he spent playing hockey as a goaltender.

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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