

MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8
FIRST NATIONS
OF ALBERTA

MAY 14, 2026

SUPPORTING TREATY 8 MEMBER FIRST NATIONS IN OTTAWA



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi stood alongside Mikisew Cree First Nation leadership in Ottawa in support of growing calls for transparency, accountability, and action regarding alarming cancer rates in Fort Chipewyan and downstream impacts from industrial development in Treaty 8 territory.

Mikisew Cree First Nation Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro released preliminary findings from a community-led health study showing cancer rates in Fort Chipewyan are significantly higher than the provincial average.

The Nation has raised serious concerns that Alberta Health Services has not yet released more recent cancer data that could help determine whether contamination from upstream industrial activity, including the 2022 Imperial Oil tailings spill, has contributed to worsening health outcomes in the region.

Grand Chief Mercredi attended the press conference in support of Mikisew Cree First Nation and to reaffirm that the health of Treaty people, the protection of water, and the wellbeing of future generations must never be treated as secondary to industrial or economic interests.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continues to support Mikisew Cree First Nation and calls for full transparency, meaningful environmental monitoring, stronger protections for downstream communities, and respect for the voices of First Nations who have been raising concerns about cumulative impacts on their lands and waters for decades.

IN THIS MONTH'S UPDATE:

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King Charles
III

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TREATY 8 INVITATION TO THE KING



In April, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi signed a handwritten letter addressed to His Majesty King Charles III, extending a formal invitation to meet with the Chiefs of Treaty 8 Nations. In the true spirit and intent of Treaty, this invitation honours that original relationship and demonstrates the importance of engaging directly with the Imperial Crown during this time of unprecedented challenges to Treaty rights. The letter is on its way to King Charles III at Buckingham Palace in London, England.

TREATY 8 STAFF AT HORSE LAKE CAREER FAIR

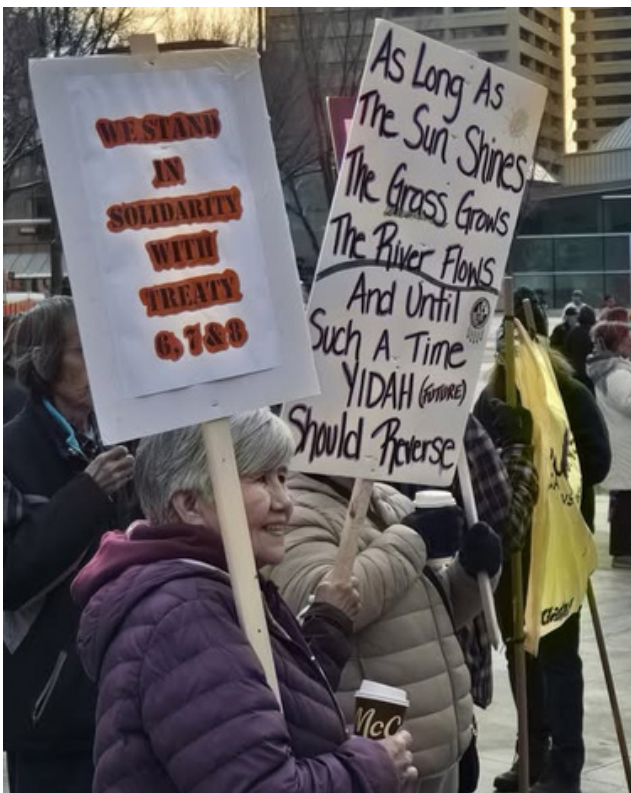
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta staff attended the Career Fair and Exploration Day hosted by Horse Lake First Nation on April 22.

The event brought together employers, training organizations, and community members to explore career, education, and workforce development opportunities across the region.

Treaty 8 staff were pleased to connect with attendees and share information about the opportunities offered by Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.



STAND WITH FIRST NATIONS RALLY



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA STAFF WERE PROUD TO STAND WITH FIRST NATIONS AT A RALLY ON APRIL 8 IN SUPPORT OF SEVERAL TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS TAKING ALBERTA TO COURT TO STOP A SEPARATION REFERENDUM THAT WOULD VIOLATE TREATY RIGHTS PROTECTED BY THE CONSTITUTION.

TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA

HONOURING OUR
TREATY GATHERING
&
ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING

July 28 - 30, 2026

Woodland Cree First Nation

HOSTED BY:



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS IN ALBERTA REJECT BILL C-21

The Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta unequivocally reject Bill C-21 and call on the Government of Canada to immediately withdraw and stop this legislation.

Bill C-21 must not proceed. It has been advanced without the consultation, involvement, or consent of Treaty First Nations, despite having clear and direct implications for our lands, rights, and jurisdiction.

This represents a fundamental breach of the Honour of the Crown and Canada's constitutional obligations under section 35. Treaty No. 8 is a sacred Nation-to-Nation agreement between our Nations and the Imperial Crown.

It is not subject to reinterpretation or expansion through federal legislation. Any attempt within Bill C-21 to reference, include, or rely upon Treaty in a way that implicates Treaty 8 lands is unacceptable. Treaty 8 lands are not available for redefinition, overlap, or shared jurisdiction without our explicit consent.

Bill C-21 is intended to address matters related to the Red River Métis, whose historical and geographic context is rooted in southern Manitoba. It must remain limited to that region.

There is no legal, historical, or Treaty-based basis for this legislation to extend into Treaty No. 8 territory.

Bill C-21 creates dangerous uncertainty by failing to clearly define territorial scope, opening the door to expansive claims of jurisdiction over Treaty lands that may conflict with the existing and constitutionally protected rights of Treaty First Nations.

This approach risks creating overlapping authorities in areas such as land management, economic development, environmental stewardship, and resource use undermining certainty and setting the stage for prolonged legal conflict.

We are deeply concerned that this legislation establishes a hierarchy of rights, where the federal government seeks to advance one form of Indigenous recognition at the expense of Treaty First Nations.

No agreement or legislation can supersede Treaty. As well no law can create layers of jurisdiction over Treaty lands that diminish or infringe upon the rights of Treaty 8 Nations.

We recognize and respect the inherent rights of Métis peoples, including their pursuit of self-government. However, those rights must not be advanced in a manner that encroaches upon Treaty First Nations lands or undermines Treaty relationships. Treaty rights are foundational, and they must be upheld, not displaced.

The Crown has a legal duty to consult and obtain consent from Treaty First Nations where our rights may be impacted. That has not occurred. Proceeding with Bill C-21 in its current form is a step backward for reconciliation and will only create division, uncertainty, and conflict.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stand firm:

- Treaty lands cannot and will not be included, implied, or claimed under this legislation;
- Our Treaty and inherent rights cannot be diminished, shared, or overridden;
- Any legislation addressing Red River Métis rights must be clearly and expressly limited to their proper geographic and historical context;
- Any discussion impacting Treaty must be Nation-to-Nation, with Treaty 8 First Nations at the table from the outset.

We call on Canada to immediately withdraw Bill C-21. Should this legislation continue to advance, Treaty 8 First Nations will be prepared to take all necessary steps to defend our rights, including legal action.

NORQUEST COLLEGE - TREATY 8

Please join us in celebrating Treaty 8 IELCC
Graduating Classes of

2026

Early Learning and Childcare
Diploma and Certificate Graduates
Edmonton Inn and Conference Center
11834 Kingsway Ave
Edmonton

June 9, 2026

6:30 to 10:00

Grande Entry

Celebration - Banquet

RSVP; Shelly Janvier

sjanvier@treaty8.org



MEET OUR TEAM

SHELLY JANVIER, IELCC COORDINATOR



For families across Treaty 8 territory, access to culturally grounded early learning and child care programs can make a lasting difference for children and parents; however, there are unique challenges that First Nations must navigate that can hinder this crucial support system.

Helping lead that work is Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC) Coordinator, Shelly Janvier.

In this role, Shelly works closely with First Nations Head Start programs and daycares throughout Treaty 8 territory, regularly travelling to member Nations to better understand their needs, concerns, and priorities. Shelly joined Treaty 8 on just a six-month contract to assess the needs of our member Nations. That was four years ago.

"Well, I can't retire yet because there is still so much work to do," Shelly explains. "We have come a long way, but there is still a long way to go."

One of Shelly's main focuses has been strengthening educational opportunities for child care workers and early childhood educators within Treaty 8 First Nations.

Through a unique partnership with NorQuest College, Shelly helped support the development of a custom two-year diploma program designed specifically for the early learning needs of Treaty 8. Seeing those programs successfully implemented has been one of the most rewarding parts of her work.

Earlier in her career, Shelly was a kindergarten teacher and later spent 10 years working for an organization whose mandate was to assist Nations within the Athabasca Tribal Council to establish Head Start programs. Today, she continues advocating for First Nations-led approaches to early learning and hopes to see the creation of First Nations daycare licensing standards to better reflect the realities of our member Nations, many of which cannot meet the provincial standards required for the additional funding available to licensed organizations.

In her spare time, Shelly enjoys yoga and reading; however much like her professional life, Shelly's personal life revolves around caring for the next generation, including her six children, 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

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



**TREATY 8
FIRST NATIONS
OF ALBERTA**

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