

MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8
SOVEREIGN
NATIONS

AUGUST 13, 2026

TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS



TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS

On July 30, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta officially became Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations following unanimous approval by the Chiefs at the 2026 Honouring Our Treaty Gathering and Annual General Meeting.

The new name more accurately reflects who we are as an organization and reinforces the sovereignty held by every First Nation throughout Treaty No. 8 Territory. Treaty No. 8 was entered into with the Imperial Crown before Alberta was created, and our Nations have always maintained their sovereignty, rights and responsibilities under Treaty.

The change also responds to an unprecedented political climate in Alberta that continues to place Treaty rights under threat. Adopting the name Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations sends a clear message that our Nations remain united in protecting Treaty, our people, and future generations.

"Our Nations were sovereign long before the creation of Alberta, and no government has the authority to diminish our Treaty rights," said Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi. "This name reflects who we have always been: sovereign Nations united by Treaty No. 8."

While our name has changed, our commitment remains the same: to uphold the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 and advance the priorities of the Treaty 8 Nations.

IN THIS MONTH'S UPDATE:

2026 AGM &
Honouring
Our Treaty
Gathering

Deputy
Grand Chief
Re-elected

Anti-Racism
Health
Initiative

Dene Nation
Water MOU

Jordan's
Principle
Engagement
Session

2026 HONOURING OUR TREATY GATHERING



TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS HELD OUR 2026 HONOURING OUR TREATY GATHERING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT WOODLAND CREE FIRST NATION FROM JULY 28-30. A BIG THANK YOU TO WOODLAND CREE FIRST NATION FOR HELPING MAKE THIS YEAR'S EVENT A SUCCESS. THE 2027 GATHERING AND AGM WILL BE HELD AT BIGSTONE CREE NATION.

SLCN CHIEF SHELDON SUNSHINE RE-ELECTED AS DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF



The Chiefs of Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations re-elected Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Chief Sheldon Sunshine as Deputy Grand Chief during the 2026 Honouring Our Treaty Gathering and Annual General Meeting.

Deputy Grand Chief Sunshine will continue working alongside Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi and the Treaty 8 Chiefs to advance the shared priorities of the Treaty 8 Nations and uphold the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8.

When Chief Sunshine was first elected Deputy Grand Chief in 2025, he committed to serving an initial nine-month term. With Treaty rights facing significant political and legislative challenges, he believes the momentum created during that time must continue over the next year.

"I'm honoured and grateful to the Chiefs of Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations for placing their faith in me once again," said Deputy Grand Chief Sunshine. "The challenges before us are significant, and we must continue the momentum we have created."

Chief Sunshine also recognized the support of his Council at Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, whose members have taken on additional responsibilities during his time as Deputy Grand Chief.

"I want to thank my Council for the commendable job they have done," he said. "Their support has allowed me to carry out this work on behalf of the Treaty 8 Nations."

Looking ahead, Deputy Grand Chief Sunshine remains committed to demonstrating the collective power Treaty No. 8 holds when the Nations stand together.

TREATY 8 JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE ENGAGEMENT SESSION



TREATY 8 STAFF AND MEMBERS GATHERED AT THE KEE TAS KEE NOW TRIBAL COUNCIL SUB-OFFICE IN EDMONTON ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY FOR A JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE ENGAGEMENT SESSION ON JULY 24.

CAREGIVERS, FAMILIES, AND INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE APPLIED FOR JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE SERVICES SHARED THEIR EXPERIENCES AND FEEDBACK TO SUPPORT HEALTH CO-MANAGEMENT'S EVALUATION OF HOW JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED ACROSS TREATY 8.

DENE NATION WATER MOU



DURING THE 2026 HONOURING OUR TREATY GATHERING, TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS AND THE DENE NATION SIGNED A HISTORIC MOU ESTABLISHING A FORMAL PARTNERSHIP TO PROTECT, PRESERVE AND STEWARD THE WATERS THAT CONNECT OUR TERRITORIES.

THE AGREEMENT RECOGNIZES WATER AS A LIVING AND SPIRITUAL RELATIVE AND AFFIRMS OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY TO CARE FOR IT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANCESTRAL LAWS, INHERENT AND TREATY RIGHTS, AND INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE.

Nâtawihowin Healing Nà tsé jíh



**Do you feel understood and
supported in your care and culture
within the health system?**

Navigation & Advocacy Initiative

Toll-Free: 1 (888) 873 - 2898

or

(780) 444 - 9366

10457 184 Street NW, Edmonton, AB



**TREATY 8
SOVEREIGN
NATIONS**

MEET OUR TEAM

DARYL AUGER, TECH. HEALTH ADVISORY COORDINATOR



Daryl Auger is a man of many interests and talents, both in his personal and professional lives.

As the Technical Health Advisory Coordinator with Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations, Daryl's work is largely focused on water and wastewater, a field he has known for decades. Inspired by an uncle, Daryl studied to become a Water and Wastewater Technician at NAIT. Following graduation, he went on to work for his home Nation, Bigstone Cree Nation, and spent several years with a municipal district while adding occupational health and safety to his ever-growing skill set.

Today, Daryl works directly with our member Nations to better understand their water and wastewater infrastructure, identify gaps, and advocate for the support and improvements they require. His work includes gathering information, contributing to reports, and helping ensure the experiences and priorities of Nations are accurately represented.

"I like the fact that I get to go out and meet directly with people from the Nations, whether they are Elders, technicians or members of leadership," says Daryl. "It is all about interacting with people and understanding the major needs from our Nations' perspectives."

While his technical role keeps him busy, it represents only one of the many hats Daryl wears at Treaty 8.

Anyone who has attended a Treaty 8 gathering or meeting has likely also seen—or at least heard—the results of Daryl's additional talents. He regularly oversees the audiovisual setup at Treaty 8 events, ensuring microphones, sound systems, videos, presentations and other technical equipment operate smoothly.

Much like his interest in water management, Daryl's passion for audiovisual work stems from his youth and from growing up in a musical family.

Daryl's interest in technology and systems extends well beyond his professional responsibilities. Mechanically inclined from an early age (he remembers taking his toys apart as a child to understand exactly how they worked) Daryl has continued to hone those skills and is currently restoring a 1972 Dodge Charger.

Outside of work, Daryl enjoys building and operating remote-controlled vehicles, an interest he has combined with his passion for 3D printing. He and his grandson recently spent over 100 hours printing a remote-controlled Ski-Doo that they could operate together.

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



TREATY 8
SOVEREIGN
NATIONS

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 25579, RPO West Drive Thru
Edmonton, AB, T5T 7E7

SUB OFFICE

10457 184 Street NW, Edmonton, AB
T5S 1G1 (780) 444-9366
