



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA



2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT

SOVEREIGN NATIONS IN TREATY NO. 8

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



ALBERTA

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Beaver First Nation
Bigstone Cree Nation
Chipewyan Prairie First Nation
Dene Tha' First Nation
Driftpile Cree Nation
Duncan's First Nation
Fort McKay First Nation
Fort McMurray First Nation
Horse Lake First Nation
Kapawe'no First Nation
Little Red River Cree Nation
Loon River First Nation
Lubicon Lake Band
Mikisew Cree First Nation
Peerless Trout First Nation
Sawridge First Nation
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Sucker Creek First Nation
Swan River First Nation
Tallcree Tribal Government
Tthebatthie Denesūliné First Nation
Whitefish Lake First Nation
Woodland Cree First Nation

SASKATCHEWAN

Black Lake First Nation
Clearwater River Dene First Nation
Fond du Lac First Nation

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Blueberry River First Nations
Doig River First Nation
Fort Nelson First Nation
Halfway River First Nation
McLeod Lake Indian Band
Prophet River First Nation
Saulteau First Nations
West Moberly First Nations

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Deninu K'ue First Nation
Kátł'odeeche First Nation
Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
Salt River First Nation
Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Dettah
Yellowknives Dene First Nation – Ndilo

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026

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MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND CHIEF



It is my honour to present the 2025–2026 Annual Report of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta.

This past year has shown us that the work of protecting Treaty has never been more important. Across Treaty 8 Territory, our Chiefs, Elders, leadership, and Nations have stood together on issues that directly affect our lands, waters, resources, and the future of our people. Whether defending our Treaty rights, calling for meaningful consultation, advancing housing and health initiatives, or creating new opportunities for our Nations, we have remained guided by the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8.

When our ancestors entered into Treaty, they did so with the understanding that it would be a lasting relationship built on mutual respect, peace, and shared prosperity. Those promises continue to guide our work today, and they remind us of our responsibility to protect Treaty for the generations who will come after us.

Over the past year, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta has continued important advocacy work on behalf of our member Nations. We have collaborated alongside our Chiefs to protect our constitutional rights, advance First Nations-led solutions in housing, health, water, and economic development, and remind governments that decisions affecting our Nations cannot be made without us. We have continued building relationships with governments, industry, and other external partners, always guided by the priorities established by our Chiefs.



Trevor Mercredi
Grand Chief

None of this happens without the dedication of many people. I want to thank our Elders for their guidance, our Chiefs and Council for their leadership, our staff for their hard work, and our member Nations for their continued trust and support. Treaty is more than a historical document. It is a sacred relationship that continues to guide our decisions and our responsibilities to one another.

As we look ahead, I am confident in the future of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. We know there are unprecedented challenges ahead, but we also know the strength of our Nations. Together, we will continue protecting our rights, creating opportunities for our people, and ensuring the voices of Treaty 8 First Nations are heard and respected wherever decisions are made that affect our lands, waters, resources, and way of life.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this work over the past year. I look forward to continuing this work together as we honour our ancestors, support our Nations, and build a stronger future for the next generation.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF



The past year reminded us that our Inherent and Treaty rights cannot be taken for granted.

Much of our work this year was spent responding to legislation and proposals that affected our Nations without proper consultation. Time and again, we found ourselves reminding governments of something that should never have to be repeated: Treaty came first, and the obligations that flow from Treaty remain today.

The discussion around Alberta separation brought those issues into sharp focus. There was a lot of dishonest rhetoric but very little discussion about the Treaty relationship or the constitutional obligations owed to First Nations. Alberta cannot move down that path unilaterally. Any attempt to do so without First Nations would be a breach of Treaty and I was glad that we were here to remind government of that fact.

One of the most disappointing realities this year was that First Nations once again found ourselves reacting to decisions after they had already been made. As I have said before, instead of governments just creating these pieces of legislation that affect us, it is vital that governments come to us. That is a path forward. That is how Treaty is intended to work, through respect, dialogue, and partnership.



Sheldon Sunshine
Deputy Grand Chief

Despite these challenges, I am proud of how our Chiefs and our Nations responded. We stood together and we worked with Treaty partners across Alberta. We defended our rights in the courts, in government meetings, and in the public eye, because protecting Treaty is not a choice; it is our responsibility.

This annual report reflects far more than the challenges of the past year. It highlights the continued work we are doing in housing, health, water, emergency management, economic development, and governance. Those initiatives are all part of the same responsibility: building stronger Nations while ensuring our rights are respected.

The work is far from over, but neither is our resolve. We will continue to remind governments of their obligation to honour our shared understanding of the commitments made under Treaty No. 8. There is a path forward, but it begins with respect for those obligations made to Treaty No. 8 Nations.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Building Relationships, Strengthening Governance, and Advancing Treaty 8 Priorities

As I reflect on my first year serving as Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, I am filled with gratitude for the trust, support, and guidance I have received from the Chiefs, Council members, Elders, staff, and community members across Treaty 8 Territory.

It has been an honour to serve an organization that plays such an important role in advancing the interests, rights, and aspirations of Treaty 8 First Nations. Throughout this past year, I have had the privilege of meeting many members, leaders, technicians, and partners from across our territory. These conversations have strengthened my appreciation for the diversity, resilience, and shared vision that exists throughout Treaty 8.

As someone serving Treaty 8 in my first year as CAO, I have also gained a deeper appreciation for the rich cultures, languages, traditions, protocols, and ceremonies that continue to guide our Nations. I have been honoured to participate in cultural gatherings, ceremonies, prayers, and community events throughout the territory. These experiences have reinforced that the work of Treaty 8 is not solely about governance and administration, it is about honouring our ancestors, respecting the teachings of our Elders, and ensuring future generations inherit strong Nations grounded in their cultures and Treaty rights.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Chiefs for their leadership, direction, and commitment to ensuring Treaty 8 remains a strong and effective advocate for our Nations. I am equally grateful to our Elders,

whose wisdom, teachings, and guidance continue to shape our decisions and remind us of our responsibilities to both our

ancestors and future generations. The protocols and ceremonies that continue to be shared across Treaty 8 provide an important foundation for our work and help keep us connected to our values and responsibilities as Treaty people.



Jamie Koe
Chief Administrative Officer

A Year of Progress and Engagement

The 2025–26 fiscal year was one of significant activity and growth for Treaty 8. Together, we advanced important work in several key areas, including governance modernization, Treaty rights protection, natural resource discussions, health and social policy advocacy, emergency management, housing initiatives, and economic development opportunities.

Among the highlights of the year were:

- Advancing the Wedgewood Housing Development in Edmonton, including securing key municipal approvals and townhouse-style housing market affordable housing project. The development represents an important step toward expanding Treaty 8's housing portfolio, creating long-term revenue generation opportunities, and supporting the housing needs of current and future generations of Treaty 8 members.
- Hosting Treaty 8 Chiefs Summits, bringing leadership together to discuss governance, priorities, economic opportunities, and strategic planning for the future.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CON'T.

- Continuing advocacy on major federal and provincial legislative initiatives affecting Treaty rights, consultation obligations, resource development, and Indigenous self-determination.
- Supporting Treaty 8 Nations in discussions regarding major project development, resource revenue sharing, economic participation, and long-term prosperity for our communities.
- Strengthening relationships with federal, provincial, municipal, and Indigenous partners through ongoing engagement and representation at numerous meetings, conferences, and forums throughout the year.
- Strengthening Treaty 8's organizational capacity and professional presence, including relocating to new office space designed to better support staff collaboration and productivity, the addition of fleet vehicles to improve operational efficiency and service delivery, and the continued enhancement of Treaty 8's professional branding and communications.
These investments help position the organization for future growth while ensuring staff have the tools and resources needed to effectively support Chiefs, Councils, and member Nations.
- Advancing housing and infrastructure initiatives designed to create opportunities for Treaty 8 members and support community growth including Nikihk Housing and seeking land opportunities in Treaty 8 for additional market/affordable housing.
- Enhancing internal organizational systems, financial management practices, and administrative processes to better support the work directed by Chiefs.

Throughout the year, Treaty 8 leadership played a prominent role in discussions concerning Treaty implementation, consultation and accommodation, natural resource management, environmental stewardship, constitutional matters, and the protection of Treaty rights. These discussions reinforced the importance of a strong and unified Treaty 8 voice in matters affecting our Nations and our territory.

Thank You to Our Staff

I would also like to recognize and thank the dedicated staff of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. The accomplishments outlined in this report would not have been possible without your professionalism, commitment, and hard work. Our team consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to serving the Chiefs, Council, and Treaty 8 First Nations. Whether supporting meetings, advancing policy work, delivering programs, coordinating events, managing finances, or responding to emerging issues, our staff continue to go above and beyond in support of the organization.

As a new CAO, I greatly appreciated the support, patience, and knowledge shared by our team throughout my first year. The strength of our organization is built upon the dedication of the people who work every day to advance Treaty 8 priorities. Thank you for your willingness to embrace change, support one another, and remain focused on delivering results for our Nations.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the 2026–27 fiscal year, Treaty 8 is well positioned to build on the momentum of the past year. Our focus will remain on strengthening governance, advancing Treaty implementation, protecting Treaty rights, increasing participation in economic opportunities, supporting member Nations,

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CON'T.

and ensuring Treaty 8 continues to be a respected and influential voice on behalf of our Nations.

We will continue working collaboratively with Chiefs, Elders, Nations, governments, industry partners, and stakeholders to pursue opportunities that create lasting benefits for our communities while safeguarding the rights, traditions, and responsibilities affirmed through Treaty.

As we move forward, it is important that we continue to balance innovation with tradition, embracing new opportunities

while remaining guided by the cultural teachings, protocols, ceremonies, and values that have sustained our Nations since time immemorial.

While challenges remain, I am optimistic about the future. The strength of Treaty 8 lies in its people, its leadership, its cultures, and the enduring spirit of Treaty that continues to guide us forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. I look forward to continuing this important work together in the years ahead.



Candace Daychief
Executive Assistant



Reberta Auger
Receptionist



Laureen Bobrownik
Administrative Assistant



Chris Lamouche
Building Maintainer

TREATY 8

COUNCIL OF CHIEFS



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta
Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi

Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation
Chief Allan Adam

Horse Lake First Nation
Chief Dallas Ferguson

Beaver First Nation
Chief Gary Kipling

Peerless Trout First Nation
Chief Gilbert Okemow

Fort McKay First Nation
Chief Raymond Powder

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Deputy Grand Chief Sheldon Sunshine

Mikisew Cree First Nation
Chief Billy Joe Tuccaro

Sawridge First Nation
Chief Isaac Twinn

Bigstone Cree Nation
Chief Silas Yellowknee

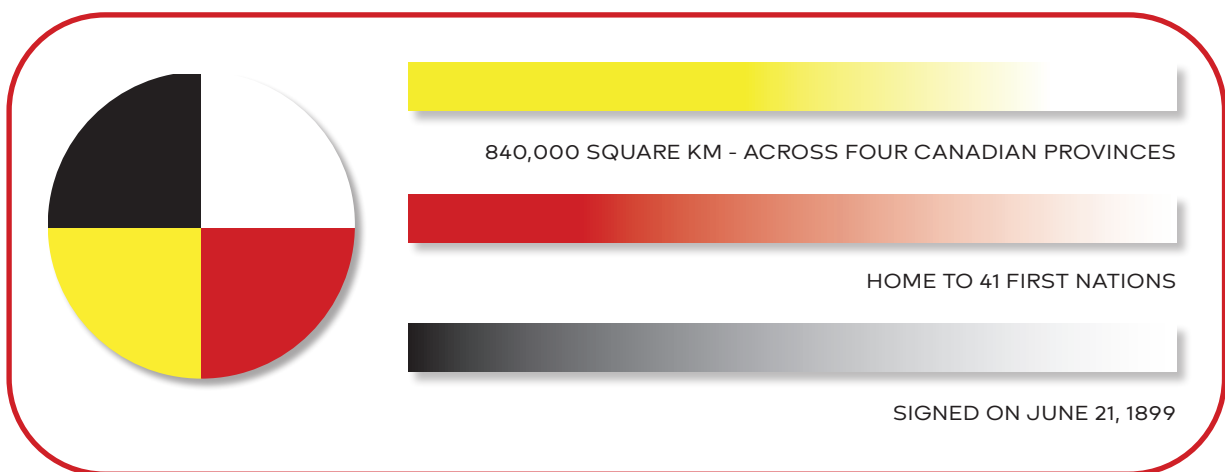
Tthebatthie Denesuliné Nation
Karen Youngman



TREATY 8

BY THE NUMBERS

Treaty No. 8 covers approximately **840,000 square kilometres** across **four** Canadian provinces and territories, is home to **41** First Nations, **22** of which are Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta member Nations and remains the largest numbered Treaty in Canada more than **127** years after it was signed on **June 21, 1899**.



MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WALK AND DAY OF AWARENESS



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta organized our annual Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Walk and Day of Awareness on May 4, 2026.



TREATIES 6, 7, AND 8 JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE



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.

CULTURAL GATHERING WITH PREMIER KINOW

Treaty Chiefs met with Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew for a cultural gathering this past May. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta thanked Premier Kinew for taking the time and for following protocol to meet with the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Chiefs when he was visiting the Treaty Territory.



2025 TREATY 8 GOLF TOURNAMENT

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was pleased to host our annual golf tournament at Cougar Creek Golf Resort on September 12, 2025. The tournament featured 33 teams of four and was superhero themed. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed a round of golf with us!



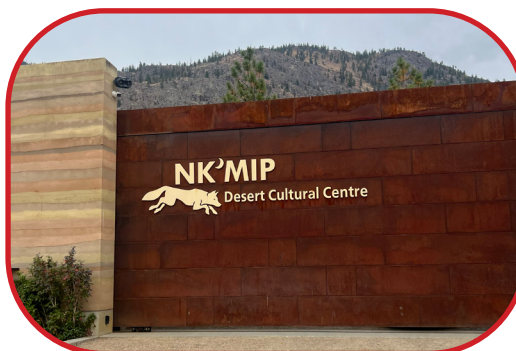
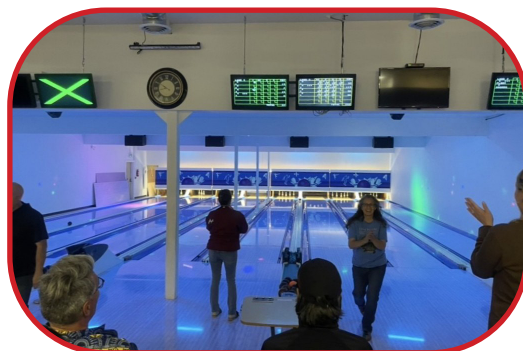
NEW SUB-OFFICE LOCATION



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta moved offices in December 2025 to accommodate the organization's current and future growth. Our new Edmonton sub-office is located at 10457 184 Street NW and includes sufficient meeting space that we can use to advance Treaty 8's organizational goals.

STAFF RETREAT

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta staff and Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi took part in a four-day staff retreat in Osoyoos from October 20 to 24, 2025. The retreat included an organizational overview for staff as well as focus groups and team building workshops.



TREATY CHIEFS AT PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Following the historic, unanimous vote of non-confidence in the provincial government by the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AOTC), the Official Opposition of Alberta brought forward its own motion of non-confidence in March, with Treaty 8 Chiefs present to witness the response to our direct request made this past February.



MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS RELATIONS MINISTER ON PROPOSED PIPELINE

Chiefs from Treaty 8 First Nations met with the Minister of Indigenous Relations, Hon. Rajan Sawhney, and representatives of the Government of Alberta on January 10 for a preliminary discussion regarding a proposed Northwest Coast Oil Pipeline. Chiefs outlined clear conditions for any future discussions, including a Treaty 8-led consultation process, environmental safeguards, meaningful revenue-sharing, and enforceable commitments to protect Treaty rights, lands, and resources.



ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS PASS VOTE OF NON-CONFIDENCE IN UCP GOVERNMENT

The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AOTC) of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 unanimously passed a vote of non-confidence in the UCP Government of Alberta on February 26, prompted by the Danielle Smith government's refusal to respond appropriately to the current political atmosphere on our Treaty territories. The vote took place in a duly convened meeting on Treaty No. 6 Territory, at The Venue at River Cree Resort, Enoch, Alberta.

First Nations have no trust or confidence in the Government of Alberta and the United Conservative Party (UCP) due to their continued failure to meet Treaty-based constitutional and governance responsibilities. The UCP has acted repeatedly with a lack of critical

understanding and respect for those responsibilities, demonstrating their inability to responsibly and respectfully govern the province of Alberta. A responsible government requires independent democratic oversight and a transparent legislative process. The UCP has obstructed and failed to meet these basic requirements to govern.

The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8 called on members of the current Government of Alberta, New Democratic Party (NDP) and independent Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to officially and expeditiously declare in the Alberta Legislative Assembly, a Vote of Non-Confidence in this current government.

"The UCP has repeatedly demonstrated to all Treaty people that it does not have the capacity to responsibly navigate the political instability resulting from the chaos Danielle Smith has created. The growing climate of division and separation is a direct result of its failure to respect Treaty Rights, constitutional obligations, and the foundational relationship between First Nations and the Crown. Alberta deserves leadership grounded in accountability, stability, and respect for Treaty."

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Grand Chief
Trevor Mercredi.

"This UCP government has created conditions in Alberta that are unsafe for First Nations Peoples – promoting ignorance and intolerance along with its support for the separatist agenda is leading to outright racism. Danielle Smith's government is acting as an embassy for the worst we've seen from south of the border, and it's time to say no. No one wants the future this government is taking us into."

Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations Grand Chief
and Sunchild First Nation Chief Joey Pete.

"The Blackfoot Confederacy continues to oppose efforts to promote Alberta separation from Canada, and cannot support a government that encourages this. We stand with other Treaty Nations in firm opposition to all efforts to undermine and erode the foundations of our Treaty Relationship. Our Treaties are with the Crown and are sacred. Our Rights are non-negotiable."

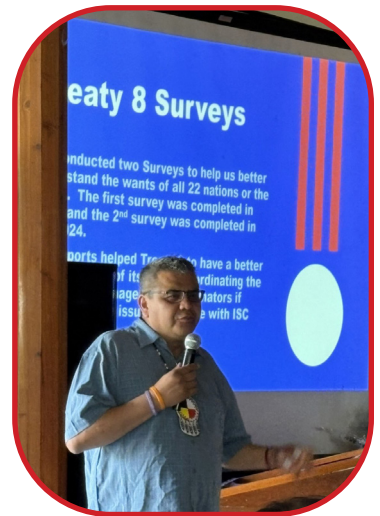
– Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs

"All Chiefs of Alberta have united at the AOTC gathering to take swift action against Premier Danielle Smith and her unconstitutional exercise to separate Alberta from the Crown through a unanimous vote of non-confidence. All Chiefs are well aware of and respect the lifelong covenant that contributed to the establishment of Canada through our Treaties – as long as the sun shines, grass grows, and the rivers flow, we remain connected as neighbors and partners with all humans on this land."

Xakiji Suh Xakiji (Chief Ellery Starlight), Treaty 7 Chiefs
Association.

LAST YEAR'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Treaty 8 First Nation of Alberta would like to thank Fort McKay First Nation for hosting last year's Honouring our Treaty Gathering and Annual General Meeting July 29-30, 2025.



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was proud to honour **Darlene Plamondon** in celebration of her retirement after more than 21 years of dedicated service to the organization.

LETTER FROM TREATY 8 TO KING CHARLES III

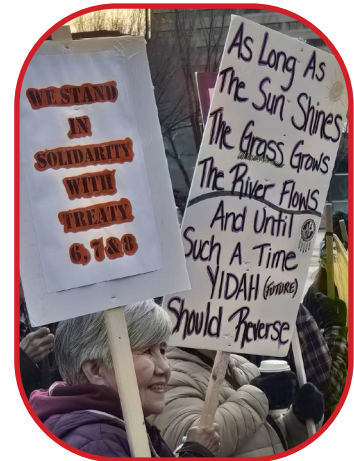
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi signed a handwritten letter addressed to His Majesty King Charles III, extending a formal invitation to meet with the Chiefs of Treaty 8 Nations.

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.



STAND WITH FIRST NATIONS RALLY

Treaty 8 Chiefs and staff were out in full force on April 8 to support the Treaty 8 member Nations that launched court cases against the Alberta separation referendum question. The Stand With First Nations rally took place at Churchill Square in Edmonton on Treaty 6 Territory.



TREATY 8 HEALTH AUTHORITY

The health team has diligently worked to meet the initiatives, projects and overall health areas to continue to advocate, promote and support Treaty 8 members within our territory in Alberta. Each team member has brought their own insights and continued dedication to health to make what we do together for Treaty 8 and Treaty Right to Health.

Health Governance

In March 2025, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Chiefs in attendance met with Terry Antenello, Biamonte LLP for discussion on Treaty 8 Health Authority, Bylaws and to reaffirm Board Members. However, a lack of quorum to proceed hindered processes to date. Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continues to realign its efforts and advocate for the protection of all Treaty Rights.

Simultaneously, discussions continued with the fifth meeting hosted by Treaty 8 of the Alberta Region Health Chief Governance Committee table on November 19, 2025. Background information: In October 2024, the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs met and enacted the following motion:

- **M#07/2024/10/10:** The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs of Treaty No.6, Treaty No.7 & Treaty No. 8 did meet in a duly convened Fall Sitting with a quorum of Nations attending in person at the DoubleTree Inn & Conference Center and via zoom. Moved that the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) hereby enact the 2019 Motion M#2/2019/06/11 and appoint the existing HCOM Chiefs as part of the Chiefs Task Force along with others as appointed by each Treaty Area.
 - That the Chiefs Task Force will work with each Treaty Area including the Blackfoot Treaty to look at all options including but not limited to Treaty based funding.



Shelly Gladue
Director of Health Authority



Flory Enzenauer
Health Executive
Admin Assistant

- That a Special Chiefs Assembly on the next steps for HCOM be held in 6 months with a report to the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs as to what progress has been made.
- **M#2/2019/06/11:** Chiefs of Treaty No.6, Treaty No.7 and Treaty No.8 (Alberta) did meet in a duly convened Assembly of the issue on Treaty Right to Health. Health Co-management was tabled before the Chiefs for discussion and directive; therefore, it was Moved that the Health Co-management (HCOM) Agreement be renegotiated with the Minister of Indigenous Services Canada; and that a Chiefs Task Force be established with appointments from Treaty No.6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No.8 (Alberta). Further that appointed Technicians from Treaty No.6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 (Alberta) review the existing HCOM agreement to prepare a final report and recommendations for a new agreement to the Chiefs Task Force to support their negotiations for Treaty based funding on health.

The Chiefs Task Force is to report back to the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs at the Winter Sitting on the status of renegotiations for the HCOM Agreement. ISC AB Region provided government partnership support of initiative with having REO Rhonda Laboucan and a few staff to provide additional administrative support and funding for this process. This is an initiative that will not include HCOM Secretariat.

TREATY 8 HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

Treaty 8 Chief Representation

- Chief Sheldon Sunshine
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
- Chief Ivan Sawan
Loon River Cree Nation
- Chief Andy Alook
Bigstone Cree Nation
(No longer a representative)
- Chief Rupert Meneen
Tall Cree First Nation
- Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Treaty 8 Technicians

Jamie Koe, CAO (transitioned from
Melissa Gillis, Interim CAO)

Shelly Gladue
Health Authority Director, T8HA

Ann Nipshank
Indigenous Health Equity Fund Coordinator

Flory Enzenauer
Executive Health Administrative Assistant

Rayeil Chua
Health Policy Analyst



Shelly Janvier
IELCC Coordinator

Treaty 8 Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care (IELCC)

Treaty 8 Indigenous
Early Learning and Child
Care (IELCC) continued
to strengthen culturally
grounded early learning
and child care programs,
expand training

opportunities, and advance long-term
planning for Treaty 8 Nations throughout
2025–26.

A major focus of the year was the Treaty
8 IELCC Strategic Planning Meeting, held
March 5–6, 2026, in Edmonton on Treaty 6
Territory. The gathering brought together
representatives from IELCC, ISETS, federal
and provincial governments, and Treaty 8
members to explore what a future Treaty

8 IELCC governance structure could look
like. Discussions included Treaty-based
funding, provincial legislation, and the
long-term direction of IELCC in Treaty 8.
Recommendations included establishing
a Treaty 8 IELCC working group with
representation from each Nation,
developing a Treaty 8 licensing and best
practices framework, creating a Treaty
8-level administrative team, and improving
information sharing through leadership
packages, briefing notes, and regular
updates.

The successful partnership with NorQuest
College continued for its third year. Originally
launched in 2023, the program was designed
for staff already working in Treaty 8 Head
Start and child care programs, and reflects
the unique languages, cultures, locations, and
circumstances of Treaty 8 Nations. The 2025–
26 year included both a one-year certificate
program and a two-year diploma program,
with approximately 40 expected graduates.
This will bring our total to nearly 100 students
who have completed the Treaty 8–NorQuest
program and returned to their communities
to teach, support, and nurture young children.

The annual graduation celebration remains a
highlight, bringing together students, families,
leadership, and partners to recognize the
important role Early Learning and Child Care
educators play in their communities. The
program also received significant recognition
when its longtime instructor received
the Jaye Fredrickson Award for Teaching
Excellence, NorQuest College's highest
teaching honour.

Treaty 8 IELCC also submitted a proposal to
the Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care
(Level 1) course was co-developed to provide
Treaty 8 members with another pathway
into the child care field. Work is underway
with the Province of Alberta to have the
course recognized as equivalent to the
provincial online option. Following provincial
funding cuts that affected a previous service
provider, Treaty 8 established a new working
relationship with Kids Included through the
Access, Support and Participation Program.

TREATY 8

HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

The program provides professional learning and on-site coaching focused on social-emotional learning, cultural recognition, trauma-informed care, and other professional practices. Treaty 8 continues to work closely with the provider to ensure services reflect the needs and realities of Treaty 8 Nations.

Throughout the year, IELCC Coordinator Shelly Janvier remained engaged with the federal IELCC Secretariat, the National Expert Working Group on First Nations ELCC, the Alberta Leaders Caucus, and other regional and national partners. Regular visits to Treaty 8 Head Start and childcare centres helped maintain strong connections with our member while supporting the sharing of information, resources, and professional development opportunities. Treaty 8 IELCC was also represented at many gatherings and forums, ensuring that Treaty 8 perspectives continue to inform the future of Indigenous Early Learning and Child Care.



Jackie Yellowknee
NIHB Navigator

NIHB Navigator

The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Navigator, Jackie Yellowknee, acts as the liaison and advocate to serve members in the Treaty 8 territory with NIHB issues while also providing information and communication.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta is an advocacy body that does not make decisions about which benefits are covered; however, the NIHB Navigator networks and liaises with regional and national health staff, NIHB providers, and health care professionals. NIHB is administered through policy from headquarters in Ottawa.

Information and educational tools are made available for the eligible benefit areas and how to address denials and appeals. The NIHB Navigator also assists in accessing and

navigating the policy by improving awareness of the NIHB Program to clients and service providers through presentations and one-on-one communication. Jackie visits the communities and local agencies to raise awareness of the NIHB program and her role.

Common Navigation Requests:

- Assisting members transitioning from British Columbia's health system by supporting the transfer from a BC health care card to the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan (AHCIP).
- Advocating for expanded NIHB coverage of supplementary health services, including massage therapy, chiropractic care, acupuncture, and physiotherapy.
- Supporting members requiring replacement hearing aids, eyeglasses, and dentures by assisting with case-by-case NIHB coverage requests.
- Assisting members in accessing medical equipment and supplies, including wheelchairs and wheelchair repairs.
- Providing information and navigation support for home care services, while helping members understand available options, as these services are not covered under NIHB.



Rayeill Chua
Health Policy Analyst

Health Policy Analyst

Our Health Policy Analyst continues to work on monitoring, identifying, and providing guidance on health-related issues for Treaty 8 members.

By working closely with First Nations leadership, regional health technicians, and federal/provincial governments, the policy analyst is better able to advocate for improved health outcomes for the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and Treaty Health Authority of Alberta.

TREATY 8 HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

NATAWIIHOWIN / HEALING / NA TSE JIH



Glenda Simon
Client Navigator, Team Lead



Lindsay Laboucan
Patient Navigator



Marilyn Lamouche
Client Advocate

This important anti-racism in health care initiative began in May 2025 with the recruitment of staff to support its development and implementation. Initial hiring was completed, with staff starting in July and August 2025.

Once the team was in place, work focused on developing the necessary policies, procedures, and documentation, including privacy measures to protect Treaty 8 members.

Staff also completed the training required to ensure alignment with their roles and responsibilities. The initiative was officially launched in February 2026. Treaty 8 Health will continue to support and advocate for our members through this important work.

The Anti-Racism Initiative was developed through the guidance of Elders' Principles and cultural teachings. The program, Natawiihowin / Healing / Na tse jih, was created to support Treaty 8 members through a compassionate and guided journey of advocacy, healing, and healthcare navigation. This program commenced February 09, 2026, and it was built from ground up.

In addition to healthcare navigation, the program provides advocacy services to ensure that clients and patients feel heard, understood, and supported throughout their healthcare experiences. The initiative acknowledges the existence of systemic racism within the healthcare system and is committed to helping Treaty 8 members

access culturally safe, respectful, and equitable care.

We believe that Treaty 8 members deserve culturally safe healthcare and meaningful support at every stage of their healing journey including the LGBTQIA. If a member has ever felt uncertain, unheard, or unsupported while accessing healthcare services, our team is here to walk alongside them with compassion, respect, and care. The program assists Treaty 8 members by:

Providing Healthcare Navigation Support

We help members understand and access healthcare services, appointments, referrals, treatment options, and community resources. Navigating the healthcare system can be overwhelming, and our team is available to guide members every step of the way.

Offering Advocacy and a Strong Voice

We advocate alongside members to ensure they feel heard, respected, and supported while accessing healthcare services. If a member experiences racism, discrimination, or feels dismissed within the healthcare system, our team works to promote culturally safe and respectful care.

Supporting Emotional, Mental, Spiritual, and Cultural Wellbeing

Healing extends beyond physical health. Guided by Elders' teachings and traditional values, the program recognizes the importance of emotional, mental, spiritual, and cultural wellness as essential components of healing.

TREATY 8

HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

Building Trust and Reducing Fear in Healthcare Settings

Many Indigenous people have experienced harm and systemic racism within healthcare environments. This initiative helps members feel safer, more confident, and less isolated while accessing healthcare services.

Connecting Members to Resources and Community Supports

We assist members in accessing healthcare programs, cultural supports, and other community resources that contribute to overall wellness and healing.

Ensuring Cultural Safety and Respect

The program works to ensure that Treaty 8 members' voices, identities, traditions, and cultural practices are respected and honoured throughout their healthcare experiences.

Reporting Period Outcomes Natawihowin / Healing / Na tse jih Community Connections

During the reporting period, the project provided meaningful support to Treaty 8 members by increasing awareness of available health resources and improving access to culturally safe healthcare navigation services.

Presentations delivered throughout Treaty 8 increased awareness of available health programs and support services, helping

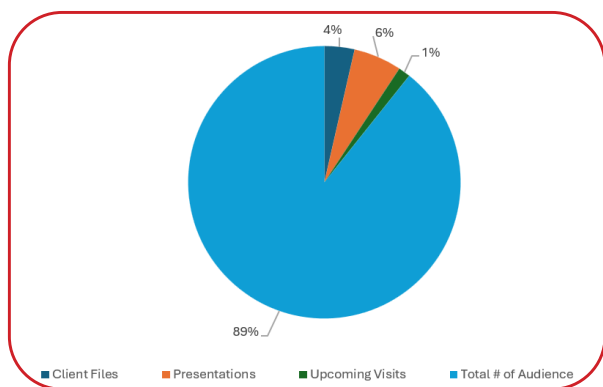
individuals and families better understand how to access healthcare, community resources, and available supports.

The program team consists entirely of Treaty 8 members, including two Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and one Social Worker. Their professional expertise, combined with their lived understanding of Treaty 8 history, culture, and community realities, allows them to provide compassionate, culturally informed support. Their knowledge of Alberta's healthcare system and available health resources has also helped clients access appropriate services more efficiently.

To strengthen navigation services, the team participated in hospital tours to become familiar with the locations of departments and healthcare services. This knowledge has enhanced their ability to confidently guide patients and families through healthcare facilities, reducing stress, confusion, and delays during appointments and hospital visits.

The project has also created a welcoming and supportive environment for patients and families through its "warm hand" approach. Rather than simply referring individuals to services, staff walk alongside members throughout their healthcare journey, providing guidance with compassion, respect, and without judgment. Patients and families have consistently reported feeling heard, supported, and effectively advocated for during challenging healthcare experiences.

Overall, the program has increased members' confidence in navigating complex healthcare systems, strengthened advocacy for culturally safe care, and fostered more positive relationships between Treaty 8 members and healthcare providers.



TREATY 8 HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

HEALTH CO-MANAGEMENT (HCOM)



Lynn Muskwa
HCOM Admin Assistant

Health Co-Management (HCOM) was formed to be a proactive mechanism to address health issues for First Nation communities in Alberta. The main goal for Health Co-Management, was to increase the participation of First

Nations in assessing, planning and managing programs and services that are funded or offered by Indigenous Services Canada in Alberta Region. It is also to increase First Nations and Inuit control over health service delivery and to build multi-party and tri-lateral tables to advance health services and co-decide on issues such as how and where monies will be used in various capital projects throughout Alberta. It's also to improve coordination, collaboration, and integration of existing Federal and Provincial funded Health Care Services.

There is joint representation on both the Co-Management Committee and the various Subcommittees.

There are 6 Subcommittees within Health Co-Management:

- 1) Children and Youth Subcommittee
- 2) Mental Health and Addictions Subcommittee
- 3) Non-Insured Health Benefits Subcommittee
- 4) Operations and Support Subcommittee
- 5) Health Prevention Programs Subcommittee
- 6) Health Protection Subcommittee

Each subcommittee has two Representatives from each Treaty Area in Alberta, and each has a vote for any decisions pertaining to funding. They participate in quarterly meetings throughout the year, and discuss a variety of topics, including discretionary funding, new funding, program updates, engaging with partners in health and federal announcements. They also have the ability to make decisions on funding up to \$250K and make recommendations to the Co-Management Committee for everything that is over \$250K.

The Health Co-Management Administrative Assistant's role is to attend all six Subcommittee Meetings, Working Group Meetings, and Co-Chair Meeting pertaining to Health Co-Management. As well, participates in workshops, forums, treaty days, open houses and conferences to share information and provide updates and briefing notes to our Treaty 8 Health Directors and our Health Co-Management Committee Chiefs, to keep them informed on important topics, draft motions and action items that are discussed at the subcommittee meetings.

On October 1, 2024 the Health Co-Management (HCOM) Secretariat transitioned to the Blackfoot Confederacy. The role of the Health Secretariat is to support the work of the Committee and Subcommittees, and provides administrative support, organize meetings, ensures internal processes function well, and provides meeting materials for each subcommittee, along with agenda items and meeting minutes prior to next quarterly meeting for each of the six subcommittees. They also facilitate liaison with external stakeholders and is supposed to provide training to members as required.

TREATY 8

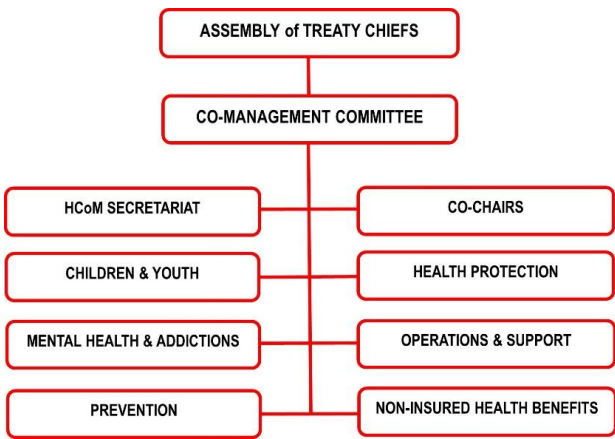
HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

The **Co-Chair Committee** provides input and recommendations, and reports to the Health Co-Management (HCOM) Committee Chiefs. They increase communication between the subcommittees within Health Co-Management.

The **Health Co-Management Committee** consists of two Chiefs from each Treaty area. Their role is to develop and implement a strategic plan. They jointly assess, analyse and plan with respect to issues within their mandate. They are informed of new developments, issues, laws, regulations and policy that many impact or affect the health of all members from Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8. They advocate and regularly engage with Chiefs of Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8. They make decisions based on recommendations and/or advice from the six subcommittees and give direction for follow-up action. Provide overall guidance and leadership for the Co-Management Structure, including dispute resolutions, and ensuring that decision-making and

operations respect the guiding principles. The Health Co-Management Committee reports to the **Assembly of All Chiefs (AoTC)** for all matters that require all Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 Chiefs to make any decisions that need further discussions and to finalize motions for future funding.

Health Co-Management Structure



INDIGENOUS HEALTH EQUITY FUND

The Indigenous Health Equity Fund is a federal initiative launched in 2024–2025 to support Indigenous-led approaches to health care across Canada, including communities within Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories in Alberta.

The fund aims to address the unique challenges Indigenous Peoples face in accessing fair, equitable, and culturally safe health services. It supports self-determination in health care and recognizes the diverse needs of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities. Under the Alberta Funding Envelope, the funding structure is \$2 billion over 10 years, approximately \$200 million annually through two main components; distinctions-based funding – supports long-term health priorities such as primary care, health infrastructure,

public health, and mental wellness. It offers flexibility for communities to define and address their own health needs.



Ann Nipshank
IHEF Coordinator

The other is the targeted initiative projects that may include, improving culturally safe health service delivery, integrating Indigenous knowledge, values, and cultural practices into health care, addressing priorities such as women's health, 2SLGBTQIA and health services.

- Community Engagements: 2024-2025:
The IHEF Coordinator travelled

TREATY 8 HEALTH AUTHORITY CONT'D.

to nineteen Treaty 8 First Nations communities. The purpose of the engagement is to meet with the Health Directors and provide up to date information on the IHEF initiative. To begin discussions on the planning for the next IHEF funding formula and allocations for year 3 (2026-2027).

- IHEF Summit: June 11, 2025, was held at the Double Tree by Hilton, Edmonton, AB. The Treaty 8 health directors were invited to participate and discuss the IHEF Indigenous Health Equity Fund 10-year allocation.

We had presentations by ISC, Micheal Oostendorp: Step by Step, Making Sense of the Federal Funding System. ISC representatives, Dane Degenstein

and Ibrahim Agyemang provided a presentation on the IHEF funding examples of the Modified Berger Formulas, and funding allocations for year 3-10. We also had IHEF project presentations from Elen Moyo, Peerless Trout First Nation, and Tanis Willier from Sucker Creek First Nation.

- Throughout the fiscal year, the Treaty 8 Health Authority engaged Treaty 8 Health Directors through Zoom meetings, in-person meetings, and IHEF summits. Their feedback and recommendations informed a collective, Year 3 recommendation, which was, submitted to Health Co-Management (HCOM) for a final decision.

The IHEF initiative continues until 2033/2034 fiscal year.

TREATY 8 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta would like to thank all the Elders for all their prayers and guidance throughout the year as well as the Treaty 8 Chiefs for having the foresight to create an Emergency Management Coordinator position for our members.

Building a Treaty 8 Emergency Management Network

During the 2025-26 fiscal year, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continued to strengthen its emergency management capacity while advancing a long-term vision of First Nations-led emergency management across Treaty 8 Territory.

A key milestone was the establishment of the Treaty 8 Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC) Table, bringing together Emergency Management Coordinators from

22 Treaty 8 Nations. The table provides a forum for coordinators to share experiences, identify common challenges, exchange best practices, and work collaboratively to improve emergency preparedness and response.

The initiative also provides Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta with valuable information to better understand how emergency management programs are being delivered, identify gaps in service, and advocate for improvements with Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), and other partners.



John Alook
Emergency Management
Coordinator

TREATY 8

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT CONT'D.

Advancing First Nations-Led Emergency Management

Treaty 8 continued to participate in discussions regarding the future of emergency management in Alberta. Existing bilateral agreements between Indigenous Services Canada and the Government of Alberta, including agreements governing emergency management services and wildfire response, remain in place through March 31, 2026.

Throughout the year, we participated in engagement opportunities related to the development of a future multilateral agreement that will help define the roles and responsibilities of governments and First Nations in emergency management.

Treaty 8 also identified the importance of ensuring Treaty 8 Chiefs, Directors of Emergency Management, and Emergency Management Coordinators have meaningful opportunities to provide direct input into these discussions. This work will continue in the coming year through dedicated engagement sessions focused on the priorities of Treaty 8 Nations.

Strengthening Emergency Response Capacity

Building on work initiated in 2024–25, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta entered into a one-year Interim Master Service Agreement with Fire & Flood Emergency Services Ltd. The agreement provides Treaty 8 Nations with access to emergency management support services during the 2026 wildfire season and other emergency

events, including emergency planning, flood mitigation, wildfire response, rescue services, spill response, training, and technical expertise.

The interim agreement also serves as a foundation for exploring the development of a long-term, First Nations-led emergency management agency that would build capacity across Treaty 8 Territory and provide coordinated support to member Nations during emergencies.

Looking Ahead

Key priorities for 2026–27 include:

- Continuing to expand and strengthen the Treaty 8 Emergency Management Coordinator Table.
- Supporting engagement on the development of a multilateral emergency management agreement.
- Advancing planning for a Treaty 8-led emergency management and disaster response agency.
- Conducting site visits to all Treaty 8 Nations to assess emergency management capacity, collect operational data, and identify opportunities for future training, planning, and support.

These initiatives will continue to strengthen emergency preparedness while supporting our long-term vision of a coordinated, First Nations-led emergency management system that reflects the unique needs and priorities of Treaty 8 Nations.

TREATY 8

WATER AND WASTEWATER PROJECT

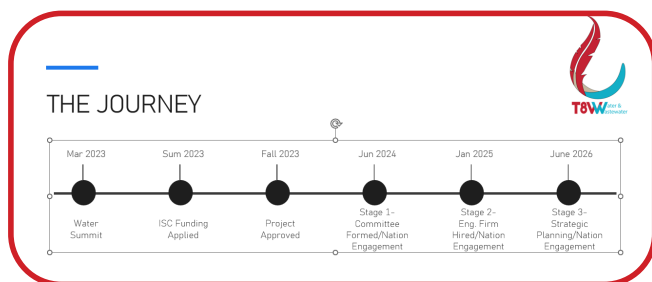


Daryl Auger
Tech. Health
Advisory Coordinator

Since the initial 2023 Treaty 8 Water Summit, the Treaty 8 Water & Wastewater Project has continued to advance a long-term vision of establishing a First Nations-led Water & Wastewater Authority. Guided by direction from Treaty 8 Chiefs, the project is examining

governance models, assessing community infrastructure needs, and identifying long-term approaches to protecting source water and supporting sustainable water and wastewater services across Treaty 8 territory.

During 2025–2026, the project focused on Stage 2 by continuing Nation engagement, completing technical assessments, and gathering the information needed to evaluate the feasibility of a future authority.



Key Accomplishments

This year marked an important step forward as the project continued evaluating the feasibility of a First Nations-led Water & Wastewater Authority. Work focused on gathering information about infrastructure deficits, funding gaps, governance models, and source water protection needs across participating Treaty 8 Nations. The project also continued reviewing existing governance structures across Canada to better understand how a future Treaty 8 authority could be structured to reflect the priorities of participating Nations.

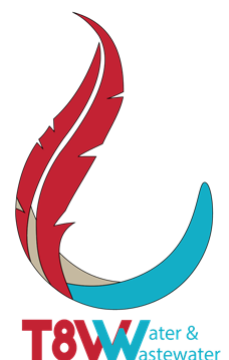
The Steering Advisory Committee continued providing oversight throughout the project, bringing together leadership, technicians, Elders, Knowledge Keepers, and youth to help guide decision-making. Building on the successful completion of Stage 1, which included establishing the Committee, adopting Terms of Reference, creating sub-committees, and fully deploying project funding, the initiative remains focused on developing a strong foundation for future governance and long-term planning.

Looking Ahead

As the project begins Stage 3 (2026–2027), the focus will shift toward strategic planning and developing a business planning model to support the future of the initiative. This next phase will confirm a strategic planning process and timeline while continuing discussions with Nations about the governance structures needed to ensure the work continues beyond the life of the current project funding.

The project will also continue exploring what a First Nations-led Water & Wastewater Authority will look like by considering how it would be owned, governed, and held accountable to Treaty 8 Nations. Building on three years of relationship-building, governance design, and technical study, Stage 3 represents the transition from planning toward establishing a long-term vision that can guide water and wastewater services for future generations.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta issued a call for submissions this year to develop a new logo for the Treaty 8 Water & Wastewater Project. The winning logo (seen here) was created by Treaty 8 member Teaghan Bratrud.



TREATY 8 HOUSING



Jillian Ames
Manager of
Housing Supports

Housing was a major area of growth for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta during the 2025–26 fiscal year, with significant progress made toward expanding housing opportunities and strengthening organizational capacity.

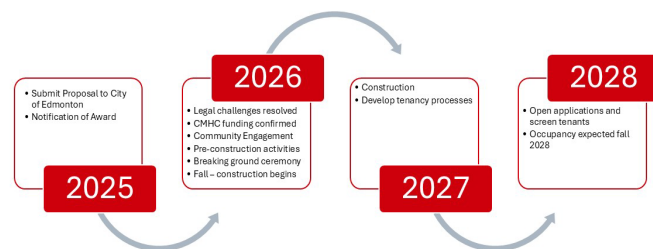
In April 2025, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta was selected as the successful applicant for the Wedgewood Heights Surplus School Site. That June, the organization signed a Letter of Intent with the City of Edmonton to work collaboratively on the development of housing for Treaty 8 Nation members living in the city.

Nikihk Housing Association, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's joint venture with the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations, was released from receivership, returning 96 housing units to First Nations control. Our Director of Finance, Dale Mountian, took on the role as Treasurer of Nikihk Housing Association, where he was instrumental in restoring the organization's financial stability, including bringing its audited financial statements back into good standing.

This past December, Jillian Ames joined Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta as our Housing Initiatives Program Manager. Her primary responsibility is overseeing the development and implementation of the Reaching Home Program, which will support Treaty 8 members experiencing or at risk of homelessness, both on- and off-reserve. The progress achieved during the 2025–26

fiscal year establishes a strong foundation expected in the years ahead.

Wedgewood Heights Affordable Housing Project



Though there was considerable delay due to legal issues between the community and the City of Edmonton, we have moved quickly to make up for lost time. At the Public Hearing on February 17, 2026, our CAO, Jamie Koe, presented at Edmonton City Hall, with Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi and Tallcree First Nation Chief Rupert Meneen providing supporting comments.

Ultimately, the City maintained its decision to sell the land to Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta for \$1 to develop the affordable housing project.

Since then, work has taken place to satisfy the conditions of the Land Sales Agreement, including soils testing and geotechnical analysis of the site, hiring a consultant to lead the mandated public engagement, and building a relationship with the Wedgewood Homeowners Association. This resulted in signing a Memorandum of Understanding to work together in good faith before shovels are in the ground, during construction, and through the lifespan of the project. Construction is expected to begin fall 2026, and tenants moving in late 2028.

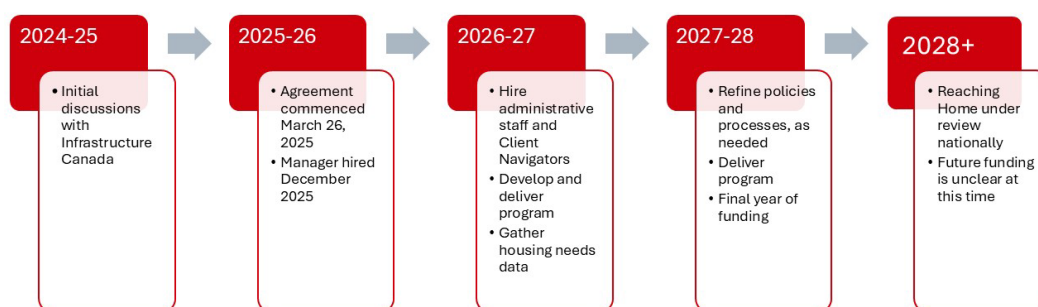
TREATY 8

HOUSING CONT'D.

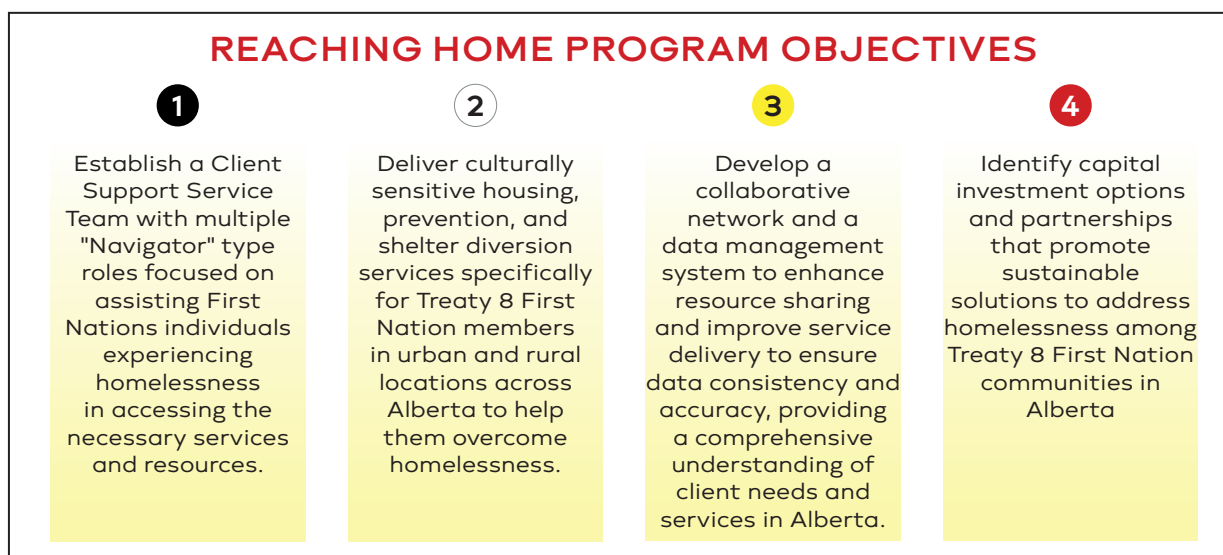
Reaching Home Program

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continued preparations for the launch of the Reaching Home Program, funded through the Distinctions-based Approaches and Modern Treaty Holder Stream. The program provides dedicated funding to address the unique needs of Indigenous individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

Funding has been secured for the 2024–2028 program period, with the majority allocated to emergency housing assistance and supports for individuals and families facing immediate housing crises. During the year, Treaty 8 provided emergency assistance to two households, including one family fleeing domestic violence and another displaced by an apartment fire.



REACHING HOME PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



Looking Ahead

The Reaching Home Program is anticipated to launch in summer 2026.

This past year, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta submitted our 2026–27 Annual Implementation Plan to Housing,

Infrastructure and Communities Canada and will continue preparing for full program implementation while completing the 2025–26 Annual Report. As the program expands, Treaty 8 will continue working to improve access to housing supports for Treaty 8 members living both on- and off-reserve.

TREATY 8 COMMUNICATIONS



The Communications Department was established during the 2025–26 fiscal year to support the continued growth of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and strengthen communications with our member Nations, governments, partners, and the public.

A major milestone during the year was the launch of the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Month in Review, a monthly e-newsletter developed for Chiefs and Council. The publication provides timely updates on the work being undertaken across the organization, highlighting departmental initiatives, advocacy efforts, key meetings, events, and organizational accomplishments. By bringing together updates from every department into a single publication, the Month in Review has strengthened internal communications, improved information sharing, and helped ensure leadership remains informed of the organization's ongoing work and priorities.

One of the most significant accomplishments during the year was the development and launch of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's new website. The redesigned platform modernizes the organization's digital presence while providing members with easier access to news, program information, employment opportunities, governance resources, publications, and event information.

Built with improved navigation, accessibility, and long-term growth in mind, the new website serves as

a central communications hub for the organization and will continue to expand as additional resources and online services are introduced.

Looking Ahead

As the organizational needs of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta continue to grow, Communications will remain focused on strengthening the organization's digital presence and expanding opportunities to engage with members and the public. Priorities for the coming year include increasing activity across additional social media platforms, enhancing our digital communications, and continuing to develop the organization's website as the primary source for news, programs, publications, and resources. Once the website is fully established, the department will shift its focus toward launching a new, external monthly e-newsletter with a public-facing approach in 2027, providing Treaty 8 members and external audiences with regular updates on Treaty 8 initiatives, advocacy efforts and positions, events, and organizational accomplishments.



Jordan Wilkins
Communications Officer



TREATY 8 FINANCE



Dale Mountain
Director of Finance



Doreen Drygeese
Senior Finance Officer



Crystal Bernard
Finance Officer

Financial Stewardship, Accountability and Organizational Growth

The 2025–2026 fiscal year was a year of significant progress for the Finance Department, strengthening Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's financial management, governance, and organizational capacity.

Throughout the year, the department remained committed to prudent financial stewardship, ensuring resources were managed responsibly, funding obligations were met, and financial systems supported the successful delivery of programs and services to member Nations.

Highlights

- **Strengthened Financial Leadership** – Successfully recruited a Director of Finance to provide strategic financial leadership, strengthen governance, and enhance organizational capacity.
- **Successful Office Move and Transition** – Led the financial and administrative transition to Treaty 8's new Edmonton sub-office located on 184 Street NW, positioning Treaty 8 First Nations Alberta for growth.
- **Strong Stewardship of Funding** – Managed funding agreements from federal, provincial, and other funding partners while ensuring compliance, accountability, timely reporting, and effective financial oversight. Worked collaboratively with program managers to ensure funding was available to achieve approved program

objectives and deliver meaningful outcomes for Treaty 8 member Nations.

- **Positive Financial Results** – Maintained sound financial management practices that resulted in a year-end operating surplus while supporting the organization's long-term financial sustainability.
- **Clean External Audit** – Successfully completed the annual external audit with a clean audit opinion, demonstrating strong governance, effective internal controls, and responsible financial management.
- **ISC Low Risk Assessment** – Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta received an overall Low Risk rating through Indigenous Services Canada's 2025–2026 General Assessment, recognizing the organization's strong governance, financial management, program administration, and accountability.

Looking Ahead

The Finance Department remains committed to strengthening governance, enhancing financial accountability, continuously improving financial systems and reporting, and providing the financial leadership necessary to support the priorities of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. Through responsible stewardship and strategic financial management, the department will continue to support the successful delivery of programs and services that benefit Treaty 8 member Nations.



TREATY 8

LIVELIHOOD AND LAND USE PLANNING



Kevin Ahkimmachie
Director of Livelihood



Cody Sharphead
Director of Land Use Planning

As Directors of Livelihood and Land Use Planning, we work closely with the Chief Administrative Officer, Grand Chief, and the 22 Lands Departments across Treaty 8 to support the priorities, interests, and long-term vision of the Treaty 8 Nations. Our role is to uphold and advance the rights, promises, and True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8, ensuring these principles are reflected in the initiatives, policies, and programs that support our communities and traditional territories. We are pleased to provide an update on the progress of the following key initiatives.

Treaty 8 Keetaskeenow Nahendeh Pimatisihowin (KNP) Framework

We will continue our work with Treaty 8 Lands Technicians on the development and advancement of the Keetaskeenow Nahendeh Pimatisihowin (KNP) Framework. Over the past year, we have worked collaboratively with Ecojustice to incorporate components of the Water Law section into the framework, ensuring that Indigenous laws, values, responsibilities, and teachings related to water stewardship are meaningfully reflected within this body of work.

During the pandemic years, monthly virtual meetings were held via Zoom, typically on the second Wednesday of each month. Attendance averaged approximately 5–15 Lands Technicians, depending on availability. These sessions provided ongoing

opportunities to share Indigenous Knowledge, refine the framework, and address emerging priorities related to Treaty 8 land use planning, environmental stewardship, and climate resilience.

Building on this successful approach, we continue to convene virtual meetings to ensure Lands Technicians have ongoing opportunities to provide input, guidance, and technical expertise toward the continued development of the Keetaskeenow Nahendeh Pimatisihowin Framework.



Through this work, we support the continued practice, protection, and preservation of traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, gathering, and other land-based activities through the integration of Indigenous Knowledge, Elder teachings, community experiences, and scientific research. This collaborative approach strengthens informed decision-making while honouring our responsibilities as caretakers of the land and upholding the rights, responsibilities, and traditions passed down through generations.

The safeguarding of our waters, forests, wildlife, and biodiversity remains a central priority. Protecting these interconnected ecosystems is essential to maintaining the health and well-being of our lands and communities while ensuring that these resources remain available for future generations. By bringing together Indigenous perspectives and western science, the KNP Framework supports long-term environmental sustainability, strengthens

TREATY 8

LIVELIHOOD AND LAND USE PLANNING CONT'D.

climate resilience, and advances Indigenous-led approaches to land stewardship.

Moving forward, we plan to increase in-person meetings of the Livelihood Working Group to strengthen relationships, foster collaboration, and deepen our collective efforts related to Treaty 8 land use planning and climate change adaptation. These gatherings will provide valuable opportunities for knowledge sharing, community engagement, and the continued development of strategies that support Indigenous livelihoods, cultural continuity, and the protection of our traditional territories for present and future generations.



Treaty 8 Moose Study – University of Alberta (Arramat Project) – Final Update (December 2025)

The Treaty 8 Moose Study, supported through the Arramat Project and undertaken in partnership with the University of Alberta, was completed in August 2025. This Indigenous-led research initiative brought together Indigenous Knowledge Systems and western science to better understand the impacts of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) on moose populations, and the resulting implications for Treaty 8 First Nations' lands, harvesting practices, and cultural wellbeing. The study was grounded in the priorities of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta and supported through the Arramat Project. It ensured that Elders, Knowledge Holders, and land users guided all stages of the work,

with a focus on how CWD may be affecting traditional food systems, cultural continuity, and land-based livelihoods across Treaty 8 Territory.

Background: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Treaty 8 Territory

Chronic Wasting Disease is a progressive and fatal prion disease affecting cervids such as moose, deer, elk, and caribou. It causes severe neurological degeneration and is transmitted both through direct animal-to-animal contact and indirectly through contaminated environments, including soil, water, and vegetation.

Key concerns identified throughout Treaty 8 Territory include:

- Ongoing risks to moose and deer populations, which remain central to Indigenous food security, cultural practices, and land-based economies.
- While no confirmed human cases have been recorded, communities continue to apply a precautionary approach due to concerns related to other prion diseases, including bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).
- Potential disruption to predator-prey relationships and broader ecosystem balance.
- Increasing impacts on traditional harvesting, ceremonial practices, and intergenerational knowledge transfer tied to hunting and land use.

Community Engagement and Knowledge Sharing

The study was guided by continuous community engagement to ensure Indigenous perspectives, values, and priorities remained central throughout the research process.

Engagement activities included:

- Presentations and dialogue with the Elders Advisory Council (November 13–14, 2025)
- Updated Final Presentation with the Elders Advisory Council (March 2–4, 2026)

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LIVELIHOOD AND LAND USE PLANNING CONT'D.

These engagements were instrumental in shaping the research approach, validating findings through Indigenous Knowledge, and ensuring that cultural protocols, community priorities, and land-based experiences informed all stages of the study.

Next Steps

With the research phase concluding in August 2025, the Treaty 8 Livelihood and Land Use Planning team is preparing a final report that integrates both scientific analysis and Indigenous Knowledge perspectives. Following completion and submission of the report, the team intends to seek additional funding to expand monitoring efforts, strengthen community-based research, and further assess the long-term impacts of CWD across Treaty 8 Territory.

This work continues to advance Indigenous-led stewardship, land-based governance, and the protection of wildlife, food systems, and cultural continuity for present and future generations.

Treaty 8 Species at Risk (SaR) – Grizzly Bear Management Plan Review and Species at Risk Advocacy

During the reporting period, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta reviewed and provided comprehensive feedback on the draft Management Plan for the Grizzly Bear, Western Population in Canada. The review emphasized the importance of meaningful nation-to-nation consultation, the recognition of Indigenous rights, and the integration of Indigenous Knowledge into all aspects of grizzly bear conservation and recovery planning.

Treaty 8 identified several significant threats to grizzly bear populations, including habitat loss and fragmentation resulting from agriculture, forestry, industrial development, roads, recreational activities, climate change, and emerging resource projects such as oil

and gas development, lithium extraction, Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), and hydroelectric developments. Concerns were raised regarding the cumulative impacts of these activities on wildlife habitat, ecosystem health, biodiversity, and the exercise of Treaty rights.

Recommendations submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) included strengthening Indigenous participation in decision-making processes, expanding Indigenous-led stewardship and monitoring programs, protecting critical habitat and wildlife corridors, improving research and population monitoring in northern Alberta, and ensuring Indigenous Knowledge is incorporated alongside western science. Treaty 8 also advocated for increased funding and long-term support for Indigenous-led conservation initiatives and meaningful engagement in species-at-risk planning.



As part of this work, Treaty 8 facilitated Indigenous Knowledge engagement sessions with Elders to gather traditional teachings, Natural Laws, stories, land-based knowledge, and perspectives on environmental stewardship and species conservation. These discussions contributed valuable insights

toward grizzly bear recovery planning and the continued development of Indigenous-led conservation approaches.

Key Indigenous Knowledge Engagement Activities

- November 13–14, 2025, Edmonton, Alberta Presentations and dialogue with the Elders Advisory Council (November 13–14, 2025)
- March 2–4, 2026, Edmonton, Alberta.

These ongoing initiatives strengthen the connection between Indigenous Knowledge and contemporary conservation planning, ensuring a balanced, culturally respectful,

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LIVELIHOOD AND LAND USE PLANNING CONT'D.

and sustainable approach to land stewardship and species recovery. In addition to grizzly bears, Treaty 8 highlighted concerns regarding other species at risk within Treaty Territory, including woodland caribou, wood bison, wolverine, American badger, greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, Sprague's pipit, long-toed salamander, and Canadian toad.

Treaty 8 remains committed to advancing Indigenous-led conservation, protecting biodiversity, and promoting collaborative stewardship approaches that uphold Treaty rights, support healthy ecosystems, and ensure the long-term sustainability of wildlife, traditional land-use practices, and future generations.

Dene Nation – Treaty 8 Water MOU / Water Treaty Update (as of March 2026)

In August 2024, representatives of the Dene Nation, including George Mackenzie, and the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, led by Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi, initiated discussions toward a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) focused on the protection, preservation, and collaborative stewardship of water in accordance with Indigenous rights, Treaty responsibilities, and the principles of respect, reciprocity, and nation-to-nation collaboration.



In October 2024, Director Kevin Ahkimnachie attended a Government of the Northwest Territories water workshop in Yellowknife, where further dialogue occurred with Dene Nation representative Gerry Cheezie regarding the emerging MOU framework

and broader Indigenous water governance priorities. Following this engagement, a draft MOU provided by the Dene Nation was received in early November 2024, formally initiating the drafting process grounded in Indigenous-led water stewardship principles. The Treaty 8 technical team completed an internal review of the draft and returned a revised MOU that included several amendments and additional provisions, including 11 proposed commitments aimed at strengthening shared governance, accountability, Indigenous jurisdiction, and coordinated advocacy with federal and provincial governments on water protection. By December 2025, the Dene Nation responded to the proposed amendments. In March 2026, both Nations met in person, with additional virtual sessions supported by Ecojustice, to continue refining outstanding items and advancing a shared path forward. During these discussions, the Dene Nation expressed interest in moving beyond an MOU framework toward the development of a formal Dene–Treaty 8 Water Treaty, reflecting a long-term, rights-based approach to water protection, stewardship, and Indigenous water governance.

In response, Treaty 8 committed to preparing an initial draft of the proposed Dene–Treaty 8 Water Treaty during the summer of 2025. Throughout late 2025 and into 2026, technical teams from both Nations continued ongoing collaboration through in-person and virtual meetings, with support from Ecojustice, to refine priorities, align legal and technical considerations, and advance drafting work rooted in Indigenous law, Treaty obligations, and environmental stewardship responsibilities.

As of March 2026, the process remains ongoing. The draft Water Treaty is still under active development and review, with continued collaboration between technical teams to refine language, governance structures, and shared commitments.

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LIVELIHOOD AND LAND USE PLANNING CONT'D.

Preparations are also underway in anticipation of the Water Summit scheduled for fall 2026 in the Northwest Territories, which is expected to serve as a key milestone in advancing Indigenous-led water governance and Treaty implementation. Ongoing dialogue between the Dene Nation and Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta remains essential to ensuring the evolving Dene–Treaty 8 Water Treaty reflects shared Indigenous values, strengthens water governance grounded in Treaty rights, and supports the long-term health and sustainability of lands and waters for present and future generations.

Jasper National Park – Healing, Reconciliation, and Shared Stewardship
Treaty 8 continues to support healing, reconciliation, and collaborative stewardship through its participation on the Jasper Indigenous Forum, where Treaty 8 holds two seats alongside First Nations and Metis partners with longstanding cultural and historical connections to Jasper National Park. The Forum provides an important venue for advancing Indigenous involvement in land stewardship, conservation, cultural revitalization, and the recognition of Indigenous histories within the park.

Key Updates and Outcomes

- Continued collaboration between Indigenous Nations, Metis communities, and Parks Canada to advance healing, reconciliation, and shared stewardship within Jasper National Park.
- Ongoing recognition of the historical and cultural connections Indigenous Peoples have maintained with the Jasper region since time immemorial.
- Post-wildfire recovery efforts focused on public safety, landscape stabilization, infrastructure assessments, and long-term rebuilding planning.
- Development of working groups and economic development opportunities to

support Indigenous participation in Jasper's recovery and rebuilding initiatives.

- Support for the Caribou Recovery Program through Indigenous Knowledge, ceremonies, stewardship activities, and participation in the Caribou Relations Group.
- Progress at the Conservation Breeding Centre, including successful calf births and plans for future caribou releases to support species recovery.
- Implementation of Parks Canada's 2025–2030 Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy, including vegetation management, ecological restoration, and prescribed burning projects to reduce wildfire risk and improve ecosystem health.
- Advancement of the Cultural Use Area to support traditional practices, ceremonies, cultural gatherings, and land-based learning opportunities.
- Infrastructure improvements completed within the Cultural Use Area, including tipi storage, water systems, food storage facilities, and waste management supports.
- Indigenous businesses and community partners contributed to site improvements and cultural infrastructure development.
- Planning underway for a new Indigenous Exhibit that will highlight Indigenous histories, cultures, and enduring connections to Jasper National Park.
- Cultural Use Area construction is expected to be completed by Winter 2026, with full community access anticipated in Spring 2027.

The Forum concluded with a closing circle and prayer, reaffirming a shared commitment to recovery, conservation, and stewardship guided by Indigenous Knowledge, cultural values, and respectful partnerships. Treaty 8 remains committed to ensuring Indigenous voices, rights, and responsibilities continue to be reflected in the future management and stewardship of Jasper National Park.

TREATY 8 TREATY RELATIONS



"To us, there is nothing more important than our Treaties, our lands and the well being of our future generations"
Citizen's Plus, 1970.

As Director of Treaty Relations, this report outlines the key activities, policy developments and strategic directions pursued from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Just getting back to work after a 3-month stress leave, the ancestors were calling me back to work. I have always been guided by our Elders and with that, have a deep passion for the Protection and Promotion of Treaty No. 8. Every ceremony, meeting, and Treaty discussion brings us closer to greater clarity, coordination, and unity as we work together to Protect and Promote Treaty No. 8 in accordance with the mandate of our organization.



We have seen an onslaught on legislation both federally and provincially impacting our Inherent and Treaty Rights. Some of these include **Bill C-5, known as the One**

Canadian Economy Act, which received Royal Assent on June 26, 2025. The legislation enacts two primary statutes: the Free Trade and Labour Mobility in Canada Act and the Building Canada Act. This led to the Memorandum of Understanding between the



Gwen Muskwa
Director of Treaty Relations



Amanda Gould
Policy Analyst

Government of Canada and the Government of Alberta: agreement to strengthen energy collaboration and build a stronger, more competitive, and more sustainable economy and then fast-tracking approvals, all done without the consent or consultation with First Nations. This will impact on our lands, air and water!



We have also witnessed the separation movement, with some thinking they can separate with our Treaty Territories. We are extremely thankful for the Treaty 8 Nations of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Mikisew Cree First Nation that launched legal challenges against separation and stopped the separatists' petition from moving forward. We are at another critical moment in our collective history, and we must stand in unity to protect the land, environment and our rights for future generations to come.



TREATY 8

TREATY RELATIONS CONT'D.

Treaty 8 Elders Advisory Council

We continue our work with the Elders on the United Nation Declaration Action Plan, not because we support it, but to see what is coming and what we can do to ensure it does not impact our rights. They reference the repealing of the Indian Act and Nations must prepare for this by building their own laws and constitutions. The Elders want to develop a Treaty 8 Action Plan and we have initiated this work that will help provide their advisory role to the leadership.



Treaty 8 Treaty Implementation Bilateral Table

This is a unique table as Canada has never had one like this before. We are one of two tables established nationally, with the other being the Chiefs Steering Committee on Water. Currently, we have developed a draft protocol and terms of reference for this table. The Council of Chiefs will be the Oversight Committee for this table to ensure that they push and advocate for the implementation of Treaty No. 8

Treaty Protection through the Red Paper Revitalization

Working alongside the Treaty Technicians from Treaty 6, 7, and 8, we continue to advance the Red Paper Initiative, carried out under the direction of the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs. As the Political Action Working Group, we continue to meet and update this work.

On June 4, 2025, I attended the Commemoration of the 55th Anniversary of Citizen's Plus Gathering hosted by Tanya Kappo, Lewis Cardinal, and Everett Willier. They honoured all those who advanced the Red Paper, including Harold Cardinal who led this work along with many other Elders from Treaties 6, 7, 8, and nationally.



Honouring our Treaty Gathering and AGM

We hosted our annual gathering and AGM on July 29-30, 2025, in Fort McKay First Nation. Thank you to Chief Raymond Powder, the planning team, and to your members for welcoming us into your First Nation and hosting a great gathering. We honoured Darlene Plamondon, who has worked for the organization for over 21 years and retired in August 2025. It was truly an honour and privilege to work alongside her for many years. We wish her a healthy and happy retirement and she is greatly missed!



TREATY 8

TREATY RELATIONS CONT'D.



Treaties 1-11 Gathering

This year's Treaty 1-11 Gathering was held on August 18-22, 2025, by Tsuut'ina Nation at their Grey Eagle Resort. This truly was a very well planned and organized meeting, and they were amazing hosts that welcomed, fed, and informed people from various Treaty regions. There is an Executive Summary report that can be accessed through Tsuut'ina's website: tsuutina.com/treaty1-11.

They have also produced an excellent overview video of the gathering which highlights some of the people and presentations: tsuutina.com/tsuutina-nation-treaties-1-11-gathering-video

Natural Resource Transfer Act (NRTA) – Gatherings

The annual gathering was hosted by James Smith Cree Nation and Peter Chapman Band along with Prince Albert Grand Council in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan on August 26-27, 2025.

There were great presentations from Sharon Venne, Sol Sanderson and many others. The NRTA bundle was transferred to Kehewin First Nation who will be the next host in 2026.

Other Meetings and Gatherings

Chiefs from the Treaty Nations met in Ottawa on May 27, 2025, when King Charles

III delivered the Speech from the Throne to bring attention to our Treaties that need to be respected, honoured and implemented. The Treaty Chiefs also met with Prime Minister Carney on Bill C-5, known as the One Canadian Economy Act on July 1, 2025 in Ottawa.



It's been another busy year and Treaty 8 attended various other meetings throughout the year including:

- Chiefs Steering Committee on Water
- Swan River Treaty Day and Powwow
- K-Days Treaty 8 Display
- Treaty 8 Annuity Meetings
- Minister's Meetings
- Internal Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta meeting on Health, Emergency Management, Lands and Livelihood and Water and Wastewater.



TREATY 8

TREATY RELATIONS CONT'D.

I am truly thankful for our ceremonial Elders, which include Elders Mike Beaver, Rod Twin, Dusty Twin, and Kevin Cardinal for their continued spiritual support during our meetings and for my own spiritual health.

It's been an honour and privilege to do this work on behalf of Treaty No. 8 and our organization.

Hiy Hiy Ninaskomin!



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, the rivers flow,
and until such a time as Yihdá should reverse."*



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