

MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8
SOVEREIGN
NATIONS

OCTOBER 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS RECAP

Chiefs from Treaty 6, Treaty 7, Treaty 8 and the Blackfoot Confederacy gathered September 15–17 on Treaty 6 Territory in Edmonton for the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AOTC), passing nine resolutions focused on defending Treaty rights, strengthening First Nations jurisdiction and protecting lands, waters and communities.

Ahead of Alberta's October referendum, Chiefs affirmed that First Nations citizens who choose to vote do so to defend their territories and rights. Participation does not validate Alberta's referendum process or diminish Treaty, Inherent or Aboriginal rights.

The Assembly also backed the Blackfoot Confederacy's demand for transparency following Alberta's suspension of meetings and communications under their Protocol Agreement, calling for confirmation that government relationships are not conditional or contingent.

Health care was another priority. Chiefs demanded that Canada uphold its Treaty

obligations and that Alberta refrain from further eroding the quality and accessibility of care.

Chiefs supported developing a Treaty-Based Funding Framework and endorsed Saddle Lake Cree Nation's exercise of health jurisdiction, including access to gender-affirming care and other Nation-determined services.

A separate resolution called for a pause on artificial intelligence data centres in Treaty territories until affected First Nations' Free, Prior and Informed Consent is secured and environmental assessments are completed. It also directed the creation of an AOTC AI Data Task Force to examine environmental impacts, protect knowledge and intellectual property, and develop rules for AI use within First Nations organizations.

Chiefs also reaffirmed that sovereign Nations represent themselves, stating that the AFN has no mandate to represent them on those matters without their Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

IN THIS MONTH'S UPDATE:

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Staff
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Building

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Racism
Health
Initiative

Winter
Gala

Meet the
Team

TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS TEAM BUILDING STAFF RETREAT



STAFF FROM TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS MARKED THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION WITH THE SHUSWAP BAND AS PART OF OUR ANNUAL STAFF RETREAT TEAM BUILDING EVENT IN SEPTEMBER.

THE RETREAT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STAFF TO STRENGTHEN WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND REFLECT ON THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IN SERVING TREATY 8 NATIONS.

THE OBSERVANCE HONoured THE CHILDREN WHO NEVER CAME HOME, THE SURVIVORS WHO CONTINUE TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND THE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.

TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SHUSWAP BAND FOR WELCOMING OUR TEAM INTO THEIR TERRITORY.

NÂTAWIHOWIN / HEALING / NDÀTSÉJÍ

TREATY 8 ANTI-RACISM IN HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

CONTACT YOUR TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS
HEALTHCARE ADVOCACY AND NAVIGATION TEAM!



Client Advocate



Client Navigator - Team Lead



Patient Navigator

We are all Treaty 8 members with extensive experience in healthcare and social work. We combine our professional experience with an understanding of Treaty 8 history and culture.

We are here to walk alongside you with the compassion and respect you deserve in your healthcare journey.

Toll-Free: 1-888-873-2898

Phone: 780-444-9366

Email: advocacy-navigation@treaty8.org



Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations

Winter Wonderland Gala

Date: Friday Nov 27, 2026

Doors open: 5:30 pm

Dinner at: 6 pm

Dance: 8pm

River Cree Resort & Casino

Semi Formal

\$1500 per table (10 ppl)

\$150 per person



Evening Entertainment
will include

Comedian - Al Crawford

Bands:

Midnight Thunder and The
Firestone Band

For more information :

cbernard@treaty8.org or

jyellowknee@treaty8.org



MEET OUR TEAM

RAYEIL CHUA, HEALTH POLICY ANALYST



Rayeil Chua, Health Policy Analyst with Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations, believes it is always important to take chances in life. Her willingness to step beyond what is familiar has been a through point for her both personally and professionally, and that is also how she ultimately earned her role with our organization.

As Health Policy Analyst, Rayeil examines any government legislation that might impact the health and well-being of Treaty 8 members and the Treaty right to health. Rayeil believes right now is a crucial time in Alberta's history with the current attacks on the public health care system.

"Health affects everyone," Rayeil says. "Proper health care for all is absolutely necessary and fighting for that has never been more necessary than it is right now in Alberta. I feel like I came here at the exact right time."

What brought Rayeil to her current role was that personal urge to take the chances that feel right. She began her career in Winnipeg at the National Microbiology Laboratory, part of the Public Health Agency of Canada, following her completion of a Bachelor of Science Degree she obtained from the University of Manitoba, majoring in genetics. She enjoyed the role, but one day concluded that her skills could be better utilized if she shifted to policy work and promptly decided to make the change.

Life soon brought her to Edmonton where she worked as a Strategic Planning Analyst for the City of Edmonton, getting to experience the last municipal election from a front-row seat while bolstering the crucial skills she needed for her new career path.

"Working in the municipal election gave me firsthand experience of how legislation works in practice. It encouraged me to think critically about how policies can affect individuals and influence outcomes."

Rayeil was born in the Philippines before moving with her family to Steinbach, Manitoba on Treaty No. 1 territory. True to form, she is always looking to grow her skill set in her personal life, too. She played soccer for most of her life (while avoiding any headers) until injuries recently slowed her down. To stay physically active (while also avoiding the gym) she recently started various forms of dance.

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
