Month in Review

TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS

November 12, 2026

Treaty 8 Welcomes Vote to Remain & Demands Respect for Treaty

Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations welcomes Albertans' decision to remain in Canada and calls on the Alberta government and the United Conservative Party to abandon further efforts to advance separation. First Nations rejected this path.

The courts have ruled against unconstitutional aspects of the referendum process. Now, Albertans have delivered a clear message at the ballot box. The provincial government must respect that decision.

"Albertans have made their voices heard and rejected separation," said Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi. "The provincial government must honour the will of the people and put an end to its separatist agenda once and for all."

Treaty No. 8 was entered into in 1899, six years before Alberta became a province. Our Treaty relationship with the Crown predates Alberta itself.

No provincial referendum can diminish our inherent rights, alter our Treaty relationship, or determine the future of our sovereign Nations. Those rights were never Alberta's to negotiate away.

Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations thanks the First Nations and Albertans who stood together in defence of Treaty and against separation. When our rights and territories were threatened, you stood with us. You demonstrated the strength of our collective voices and our commitment to protecting the promises made to our ancestors and future generations.

Our people should never have been placed in a position where defending Treaty required participation in a provincial referendum. Our decision to vote does not legitimize a process that failed to respect our inherent rights and Treaty relationship. We participated because our voices matter, our rights are not negotiable, and our Nations will never stand aside when our future is at stake.

"Our ancestors entered into Treaty so our people could live together on these lands," said Grand Chief Mercredi. "Albertans have now made their decision. It is time for the provincial government to respect that decision, acknowledge the harm this process has caused First Nations, and rebuild its relationship with our Nations through meaningful action and respect for Treaty."

In this month's update:

First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting

IELCC Annual Gathering

Anti-Racism Program

Meet the Team

First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting





At the October 26 First Nations–First Ministers' Meeting, Chiefs of Treaties No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8 and the Blackfoot Confederacy called on Canada to honour Treaties and NRTA resource revenue sharing, and build economic partnerships that respect First Nations' rights and sovereignty.





Nâtawihowin / Healing / Ndàtséjí

TREATY 8 ANTI-RACISM IN HEALTHCARE INITIATIVE

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



Client Navigator - Team Lead
Glenda Simon



Client Advocate
Marilyn Lamouche



Patient Navigator
Lindsay Laboucan

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 IELCC Annual Gathering







Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations hosted our annual Indigenous Early Learning & Child Care (IELCC) Gathering on October 28 and 29 in Edmonton, bringing together educators and early childhood professionals to share knowledge, resources, and approaches to culturally grounded learning.

The two-day gathering featured presentations and interactive sessions exploring the importance of language, music, storytelling and play in supporting children's development and strengthening cultural connections.

The gathering reinforced the importance of preserving traditional knowledge while supporting the next generation of Treaty 8 children and families.



Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations Hosts OCAP® Training

On October 27, Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations was proud to facilitate OCAP® (First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession) certification for 11 attendees.

The First Nations Information Governance Centre developed The Fundamentals of OCAP®, an online course on the principles of ownership, control, access, and possession.

Congratulations to everyone who completed the workshop.

Happy Halloween From Treaty No. 8







IELCC Advisory Committee



Treaty 8's Indigenous Early Learning & Child Care Advisory Committee held its first meeting this past month to discuss priorities for the program and for Treaty 8 early learners.

Meet Our Team

Wendy Moostoos, Housing Program Support Worker



Wendy Moostoos, the new Housing Program Support Worker for Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations, has a connection with Treaty No. 8 that goes well beyond her professional role.

Wendy is a direct descendant of one of the original signatories of Treaty No. 8 in 1899, her great-great-grandfather Chief Headman Moostoos (whose picture proudly hangs at the Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations' sub-office).

"When my great-great-grandfather signed the treaty, he stood firm for all Indigenous peoples of Treaty 8 during a time of hardship," Wendy says. "He strongly advocated for education and hunting rights and after 127 years of colonization and unsuccessful attempts to erase our culture and our people, we are still here."

Wendy, who holds a double degree with a Bachelor of Arts in Native Studies and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Alberta, was born with the surname Willier. However, when she learned that name came from a priest of a Residential School, she took the steps to reclaim her history by legally changing it to Moostoos, the same name that is proudly displayed on that important document.

"I am not that priest's granddaughter," she explains. "I am a descendant of Chief Moostoos, Alexander Moostoos, and James Moostoos, and I am still here."

Wendy intends to continue her ancestors' work in championing the well-being of First Nations in her new role with Treaty 8 Sovereign Nations.

As Housing Program Support Worker, she will facilitate all aspects of the upcoming program, from the financial side to the administrative components, and will play a vital role in ensuring the important program helps Treaty 8 members who need it the most.

Fortunately, Wendy has an extensive background in delivering programing. She currently owns a business that offers Indigenous programs for children through creative arts and Cree language lessons, with a focus on reclaiming the culture and language lost through colonization. Her work with children translates into her own life as she is a proud mother of three.

"Along with breaking the cycle of identity loss, I am a sober parent of three children," she explains. "My sobriety supports their childhoods and my own wellness while breaking the cycle of trauma caused by addictions, an issue that is predisposed upon us."

Wendy, whose home Nation is Sucker Creek First Nation, has an extensive athletic background, having played a wide range of sports from hockey to volleyball, in addition to her skills as a singer.

As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, the waters flow, and until such time as Yíhdá should reverse.

TREATY 8 SOVEREIGN NATIONS

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