

# CONFEDERACY OF **TREATY SIX** FIRST NATIONS



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**Office of the Premier  
307 Legislature Building  
Edmonton, Alberta Canada  
T5K 2B6**

Honorable Premier Rachel Notley

As the Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the announcement made to your Cabinet Ministers on July 9, 2015 regarding the implementation of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People**.

We take this announcement to heart it brings us great pleasure in receiving such positive news and we anticipate fruitful tangible results.

The UNDRIP is the culmination of over thirty years of hard work at the United Nations level by dedicated First Nations leaders of Indigenous Peoples worldwide. From the time the initial work started decades ago the accomplishments and progress born of the declaration remained unsupported and even opposed by key Nations including Canada up until 2010 when the Canadian Government officially endorsed the declaration.

With respect to our territory in Treaty Six we learned that Canada was one of four countries, along with Australia, New Zealand and the United States to vote against the declaration when it was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007.

Although Canada has endorsed the declaration as of 2010 it does not officially accept the UNDRIP as law stating the UNDRIP does not reflect customary international law or change Canadian laws viewing the declaration as an aspiring document.

With this in mind having a new Alberta Premier representing a new Alberta Government commit to implementing the articles contained in the UN declaration brings a renewed sense of optimism in anticipation of what the announcement will offer Indigenous peoples in Alberta today.

We would ask that that as the new Premier you afford us the opportunity to participate in reviewing the respective Ministries portfolios and mandates as much as it may apply to or affect our First Nations.

We would welcome the opportunity to participate and offer an Indigenous perspective in your efforts to review budget implications, programs, Ministry policies and legislation that may require changes based on the principles of the UN declaration.

While we recognize this as a positive step for Alberta and First Nations we are fully aware of the immense amount of work that lay before us regardless we remain committed to playing a role as the First People of this land.

In closing I would like to acknowledge your comment regarding reconciliation as being of utmost importance especially in light of the fact that the notion of reconciliation applies to every critical aspect of our existence keeping in mind that all else is subject to the land itself.

I look forward to hearing from you in the very near future.

Sincerely,



Grand Chief Bernice Martial  
Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations

CC: Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations  
Chief Charles Weaselhead, Grand Chief, Treaty 7  
Chief Steve Courtoreille, Grand Chief, Treaty 8