



Treaty No. 6

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 8

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY OF TREATY CHIEFS

May 28, 29, 2024

River Cree Resort & Casino

Status Report Prepared by Treaty First Nations technicians from Treaty No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8

Attachment(s): Corresponding Chiefs motions mandating the work of the Treaty Technicians on the Treaty Protection Action Plan.

M#3-2024-05-29 *Treaty Chiefs' Leadership Strategy*

M#5-2024-05-29 *Sovereignty High Table*

Introduction:

The Chiefs of Treaty Six, Seven and Eight, gathered for a Special Assembly of Treaty Chiefs meeting on May 28, 29, 2024 in Edmonton Alberta hosted by Treaty No. 6. This meeting was mandated and directed by the Treaty Chiefs following the April 2024 Jasper AoTC meeting hosted by Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. The meetings' primary objective was to discuss the principles of the 1970 Red Paper and 1969 White Paper, and to follow the precedent set in the Red Paper to advance Treaty protection and implementation. At this meeting a resolution was drafted; "*M#3-2024-05-29 Political Action Working Group to develop a Treaty Chiefs Leadership Strategy-Advancing the Red Paper 2024 and Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Strategy*", directing the Treaty technicians to develop an Action Plan that would provide a sound course of action with tangible mechanisms for the Chiefs as they work to advance Treaty & Inherent rights.

There were 37 Chiefs in attendance, both in person and online who participated in and made additional recommendation and comments at important junctures of the presentation given by the Treaty technicians. The work was executed by technicians, who worked collaboratively in developing the Treaty Protection Action Plan outlining, legal, fiscal and political actions on the following: Fiscal Relations, Health, Education, Children and Families, Policing and Justice, Treaty Identification, Housing & Infrastructure, Education, Livelihood, Economic development, Lands and, Nationhood. The document was presented to the Chiefs in Assembly on May 2024 and was unanimously supported by Treaty First Nations leadership in attendance and online.

Leading up to the meeting, the Treaty technicians followed the direction of Elders and Knowledge keepers in respective First Nations in planning ceremonies in order to seek spiritual guidance in the work. Ceremonies were conducted in Treaty 6,7, and 8, to acknowledge and honor the sacred



Treaty No. 6

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 8

spirit and intent of the Treaties. These ceremonies were conducted in all of the respective Treaty areas, following the example in the original work of the 1970 Red Paper. Open invitations to participate in ceremony was extended for all; elders and community members to be part of the historic treaty work. These ceremonies will continue to be performed and are foundational to the technician's work.

Historical Background:

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal Government has been accelerating its Liberal party objectives under the auspices of reconciliation, this agenda has been advancing since 2015. The actions and laws this government have been enacting are run parallel to the 1969 White Paper, and are identical to that agenda, and longstanding since at least 1962. The original *White Paper on Indian Policy* set out the Crown's objectives to nullify and extinguish all Treaty obligations and special status of Treaty First Nations peoples. Currently, the Canadian agenda seeks to achieve the same assimilation agenda with the use of familiar tactics used in Canada's 1969 White Paper at enacting *new* legislation, policy directives and funding agreements aimed at domesticating the Treaty relationship and resulting legal obligations into Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution.

The intention of the Treaty Protection Action Plan outlines an aggressive approach to accelerate action in these areas, Political Action, Legal Action, International Action and a Communication Action. We have outlined 4 main actions as well as follow up deliverables. Advancing this accelerated plan moves Treaty First Nations forward into international recognition, and bypasses domestic governments at junctures, and emphasizes Treaty Nations. The objective behind the Treaty Protection Action Plan seeks to compliment and support the original determination of the historic 1970 Red Paper, written 55 years earlier. Into a revitalized position challenging the Canadian Federal governments modernized Red Paper agenda.

The following will be themes and approaches that will build a Treaty Bi-Lateral relationship structure and will require resources to support the work;

- Protocol & Ceremony
- Nationhood and Laws
- Protection and promotion of Historic Treaties 1-11
- Treaty Bi-Lateral Mechanisms

The Treaty technicians of Treaty 6,7,8 have been meeting regularly to meet the mandate of the Chiefs and we are committed to working collectively on the development of the action plan while complimenting the work. Specifically, the work of the previous Chiefs and leaders that developed the Red Paper that was presented to Canada in June 4, 1970. Treaty protection is an individual, First Nation, and collective responsibility to ensure we are not jeopardizing our sovereignty,



Treaty No. 6

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 8

inherent and Treaty Rights. Technicians from Treaty 6 (including the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations of Alberta), Treaty 7 (including the Blackfoot Confederacy and Treaty 7 G4) and Treaty 8 (including the Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta), all who have a core mandate to protect Treaty and implement advocacy approaches that support the objectives of Treaty recognition and implementation. Technicians have been working collaboratively on the Treaty Protection Action Plan since April based on the mandate of the Treaty Chiefs, to advance a strong plan of action with short, medium and long-term activities prioritized.



Treaty No. 6

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 8

**Assembly of Treaty Chiefs
Treaty No. 6 -- Treaty No. 7 -- Treaty No. 8
May 28 and 29, 2024
River Cree Resort I Ballroom
Enoch Cree Nation, Treaty 6 Territory**

OFFICIAL MOTION

Motion: M#03/2024/05/29

Subject: Political Action Working Group's "Treaty Chiefs' Leadership Strategy – Advancing the Red Paper 2024" and the "Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Draft Strategy"

Moved by: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations

Seconded by: [Proxy] Chief Regena Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation

Decision: Carried by Consensus

Moved that the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) affirm Citizens Plus, 1970, and reiterate that:

"To us, there is nothing is more important than our Treaties, our lands and the well being of our future generations."¹

Further, be it moved that the AoTC will begin to implement Citizens Plus, 1970, through a workplan "Treaty Chiefs' Leadership Strategy - Advancing the Red Paper 2024" and the "Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Draft Strategy" as presented by the Political Action Working Group (PAWG) and amended at the table by the Chiefs in Assembly.

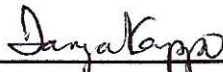
¹ Citizens Plus, 1970, A. The Preamble, Paragraph 1

Further, be it moved that Land and Water, Fiscal Relations, and Nationhood will be the immediate priorities of focus.

Further, be it moved that the AoTC direct the Political Action Working Group to continue their work towards the collective protection of our Treaties and Treaty Territories for the benefit of all our Treaty people.

Further, be it moved that PAWG and Elders begin developing an Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Statement for review and adoption at the next regularly scheduled Assembly of Treaty Chiefs' Assembly.

Certified Correct



Tanya Kappo, Resolutions Chairperson



Treaty No. 6

Treaty No. 7

Treaty No. 8

**Assembly of Treaty Chiefs
Treaty No. 6 -- Treaty No. 7 -- Treaty No. 8
May 28 and 29, 2024
River Cree Resort I Ballroom
Enoch Cree Nation, Treaty 6 Territory**

OFFICIAL MOTION

Motion: M#05/2024/05/29

Subject: Sovereign High Table of Treaty 6, 7, and 8

Moved by: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations

Seconded by: Chief Gary Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation

Decision: Passed:
18 In Favor (16 in-person + 2 online)
1 Abstention

Moved that the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) approve and adopt the Bilateral Sovereign High Table approach, as set out in the attached diagram.

Certified Correct



Tanya Kappo, Resolutions Chairperson