



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(amiskwacîwâskahikan) The Grand Chief – Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker, on behalf of the Treaty Six Chiefs would like to offer their congratulations to Chief Mel Grandjamb and his peoples for securing Moose Lake as a traditional use area for their members.

“Their dedication and determination for more than twenty years to achieve their goals of having lands and waters for the future use by their members is a great achievement” said Grand Chief Okimaw Vernon Watchmaker.

Fort McKay has endured massive tar sands development in their territory- more than seventy (70%) has been used for tar sands development. The area around Moose Lake is to be used by the members for traditional and customary uses based on their inherent rights.

“The agreement with the Province is the first step for the Fort McKay First Nations and their future generations to protect their lands for the future use” added Grand Chief Okimaw Watchmaker.

The province of Alberta and the First Nation worked out the Moose Lake Access Management Plan following the overturning of the Alberta Energy Regulator decision to allow development in the area designated by Fort McKay as their traditional area. Former and late Alberta premier Jim Prentice signed a letter of intent with the band in 2015 to work on a plan. Following the court decision in April 2020, Fort McKay and Alberta were able to conclude the Access Management Plan.

“Determination and perseverance on the part of Fort McKay has led to their successful conclusion of a plan to go forward. They must be commended for their efforts – we await to see the outcome of their work for all the future generations to learn their traditional ways” added Grand Chief Okimaw Watchmaker.

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