Assembly of Treaty Chiefs

October 7, 8 & 9, 2025 Fall Session

Executive Summary:

The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (AoTC) Fall Sitting 2025, hosted by Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, convened leadership from Treaty 6, 7 and 8. The meetings were held at the Edmonton Inn & Convention Centre in Edmonton, Alberta. The 3-day meeting started with a pipe ceremony every morning to ask for guidance and prayers from our ancestors and to work together in a good way for the benefit of our citizens.

Day One: October 7, 2025

Grand Entry: Drum group Driftpile drummers

We had 3 excellent chairpersons including Allen Willier (T8), William Big Plume (G4) and Dr. Wilton Littlechild (T6).

Meeting Call to Order**:** 9:57 am by Co-Chair Allan Willier and informed the Chiefs that the Rules & Procedures will be followed by the Chairs

Agenda: was opened to the Chiefs-in-assembly for discussion by Co-chair William Big Plume.

Chiefs added to the agenda:

- Metis Treaty with Alberta
- AoTC Chief vs AFN Regional Chief
- Correction on Item Five from Alberta Separatism Resolution to *Alberta Separatism Referendum*
- Sam Bird family to have some time to talk to Chiefs.

MOTION #01/2025/10/07 - Adoption of Agenda
Moved by: Chief Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations as amended
Seconded by: Chief Gary Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation
Carried

Welcoming Remarks by Treaty 8 Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais (Frog Lake), Treaty 7 Blackfoot Confederacy Proxy Chief Cindy Provost (Piikani), Treaty 7 Stoney Nakoda Tsuut'ina Chief Aaron Young and Treaty 8 Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi all thankful for the morning pipe ceremony. Welcomed the Elders, technicians and Chiefs in attendance. They spoke about the importance of the work that needs to be done to protect the Treaty, and unity in moving forward in strategy in actionable/concrete outcomes for the protection of the peoples.

Key Topics and Discussions

Review and Adoption of Rules and Procedures

MOTION #02/2025/10/07 - Adoption of Rules and Procedures
Moved by: Chief Sheldon Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake First Nation
Seconded by: Proxy Chief Cindy Provost, Piikani Nation
Carried

April 2025 Executive Summary Report

Motion 03/2025/10/07 - Adoption of April 2025 AoTC Summary
Moved by: Chief Dwayne Laboucan, Driftpile Cree Nation
Seconded by: Chief Ramona Horseman, Horse Lake Nation
Carried

Review and Update on Resolutions from April 2025 Sitting

Tabled

Item One: Red Paper Revitalization Update & Resolution – Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Technicians.

Chiefs-in-assembly were briefed and updated on the work the technicians have done on the Red Paper with the 4 pillars of Treaty (peoples, nationhood, fiscal and lands). The technicians requested:

- Assign 2 technicians
- Approval of resolution to move forward with strategic plan and build a Treaty Protection office.

Discussion from the Chiefs pertained to the amendments of including Treaty Protection and Enforcement office within Alberta and to add a communication plan to the strategy to inform all nations. Chiefs will appoint Chiefs for political support to the technicians

Resolution R#01/2025/10/07 – 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 Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations
Second by: Proxy Chief Regena Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation
Carried

Item Two: Lands and Resources

I. Chiefs Steering Committee on Water - Vaughn Paul & Norma Large

Chief Watchmaker updated the Chiefs-in-assembly on the importance of Treaty protection of the waters being related to health and well-being of the peoples. The pathway is with Treaty and Canada has not kept their commitment to the Treaty. Bill C-61 Canada's First Nation Clean Water Act died when the federal government prorogued and then into federal election. The present government introduction of C-5 One Economic Act national interest projects will affect the infrastructure and water.

Norma Large, Technician went through the power point presentation to give Chiefs a complete report on the Chiefs Steering Committee work and recommended immediate Actions of support for a proposed strategy, data and geographical mapping of treaty territories and to establish a living library from the Elders it vital for Treaty-based efforts and to ensure that their knowledge is utilized as evidence for challenging legislation.

Chiefs-in-assembly discussed the importance of water to the way of life, and the need of clean drinking water for the people. The importance of Treaty Chiefs receiving Free Prior Informed Consent on all issues and establishing evidence with own data and geographical mapping to Treaty based arrangements available to all of First Nations who participate.

Agenda Addition: Sam Bird Family

Gina Potts updated the Chiefs-in-assembly on the investigation of the disappearance of Sam Bird and the Police updated report that it is a search and recovery now. She requested support from the Chiefs to utilize their search and recovery volunteers or for donations to hire Alberta search and recovery team before the snow falls.

The assembly had a blanket go around the room to assist in donations. Individual Nations committed to donating funds to the family to assist.

Resolution: R#02/2025/10/07: Enhanced Support for Indigenous Families of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP)
Moved by: Proxy Chief Regena Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation
Seconded by: Chief Desmond Bull, Louis Bull First Nation
Carried

Resolution: R#07/2025/10/08 – Special Investigate Unit
Moved by: Chie Dwayne Laboucan, Driftpile Cree Nation
Seconded by: Chief Billy Joe Laboucan, Lubicon Lake Band
Carried

Item Two: Lands & Resources

II. Environment - Kainai Ecosystem Protection Association – Dr. Mike Bruisedhead

Dr. Mike Bruisedhead presented a PowerPoint on the process of Kainai Ecosystem Protection Association strategy that included a vision statement, strategy and environmental scans that the tribe has done to date. He recommended that the Chiefs consider a Regional Board and Provincial office for First Nations. Chiefs-in-assembly

discussion was based on the importance of having restoration and reclamation as part of the environmental scan and assessment.

Proxy Chief Regena Crowchild inquired about the funding and hosting of the conference. Chiefs-in-assembly agreed by donations and committed funds towards the conference. They then tabled the discussion until Chief Thomas, Enoch Cree Nation was in attendance.

Chief Allan Adam informed the Chiefs, of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation hosting the Inaugural Decolonizing Land and Water Summit September 16 – 17, 2025, where Chiefs were invited to attend.

Motion: M#04/2025/10/08: Environmental Conference
Moved by Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro, Mikisew Cree Nation
Second by Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations
Carried

III. NRTA

Presentation by Brad Michael, tabled to Day 2

IV. Bill C-5 – Bruce McIvor, First Peoples Law

Bruce McIvor explained the legal implications of Canada's legislation Bill C-5 "one economy Act" infringing on Treaty Nations FPIC and failing to accommodate is contrary to all court cases in favor of First Nations rights.

Chiefs-in assembly had a lengthy discussion with Bruce on precedent cases that support FPIC, duty to consult and accommodate. It was explained that until Canada places a "national interest" project on the list by the federal Indigenous Advisory Council, they cannot challenge the legislation. He highly recommended that a strategy be developed and prepare for a case.

Day One Adjourned

Day Two: October 8, 2025

Pipe Ceremony: 7:30 am

Opening Prayer: Elder Ivy Raine

Meeting Called to Order: at 9:10 am

Agenda: Co-Chair, Wilton Littlechild informed the chiefs of the changes.

- Item Two: III NRTA – Brad Michael will be presenting
- Item Five: Treaty Jurisdiction – Alberta Separatism will be presented in the morning.

Item Two: Lands & Resources:
III. NRTA Western Treaty Nations – Brad Michael
Brad Michael went through a power point presentation on how the Western Treaty Nations (WTN) secretariat received their mandate and direction. Highlights of the presentation are. Wealth of the land – Alberta government collecting $2.7 Billion in 2023 in natural resources. outcomes from 2011, 2014, 2019, 2023, summits that established declarations, strategies and next steps as they went from Host Nation to Host Nation.

Emphasizing the 3 directives, Knowledge Keepers Declaration, Litigation strategy and Economic & Political Strategy. He recommended that the Nations determine through research of the province's public audits of natural resources revenue.

Chiefs had a discussion on the constitution issues that may impose difficultly on the pathway of the resource revenue sharing and were reminded of the importance of the United Nations Declaration and OAS use to assist them.

Item Three: Children and Youth:
I. CFS Long-Term Reform – Chief Kelsey Jacko
Chief Kelsey Jacko introduced a 30-minute video of the introduction of the long-term reform engagements required to reply to the CHRT order #80 – remedies for the national reform within 4 months. All engagements regionally must be completed by November 14,2025 from all peoples, organizations, professions so that the National Chief Childrens' Commission can provide an informed report back by December 20, 2025.

Resolution: R#06/2025/10/08 – National Children's Chief Commission
Moved by: Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations
Seconded by: Chief Sheldon Sunshine, Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation
Carried with 1 Abstention – Chief Isaac Twinn Abstained.

Item Five: Treaty Jurisdiction-Alberta Separatism – Thomas Lukaszuk
Thomas Lukaszuk, former member of the legislative Assembly of Alberta, informed the Chiefs-in-Assembly of the filed petition submitted to stop the discussion of Alberta Separatism. His petition requires 350,000 signatures, having until October 28, 2025 to

acquire the essential signatures. He has approximately 5,000 workers that can engage individual Nations to sign the petition. He emphasizes that the separation will cause economic issues for the province, implications to the Treaties, and transcend boundary issues and the process of separation must stop. The question asked to the Albertans is "do you agree that Alberta remain in Canada?"

Chiefs-in-Assembly expressed concerns and various opinions on sovereignty issues of First Nation, Treaties foundation to Canada existence, peoples address and whether or not to sign the petition. Some Chiefs did state they supported the petition and work on own nations must be done.

Item Three: Children and Youth

II. CFS Matter – Court Update – Sherry Stanley

Chiefs-in-Assembly requested support in resolution to have children return back to Frog Lake First Nation. The issue being the understanding of children in care issues are serious as the province and courts are not adhering to the jurisdiction of the First Nations. Chiefs' discussions were about the CFS is a genocide policy of the Canada and Provinces, the importance of providing adequate resources to the peoples in a holistic matter to benefit the children.

It was recommended that a resolution be drafted and approved by Chiefs, development of own laws recognizing the sovereignty of the nation, cross borders issues on traditional territories and the use of the UN Rights of the child to protect the children.

Resolution: R#03/2025/10/08 – Private Guardianship, cease and desist
Moved by: Chief Dale Steinhaur, Saddle Lake Cree Nation
Second by: Chief Wilfred Hooka-Nooza, Dene Tha' First Nation
Carried

Agenda Addition: Alberta Indigenous Games – Martha Campiou

Martha Campiou presented on behalf of the Alberta Indigenous Games (AIG), highlighting its growth to over 7,000 participants and its significant economic impact of $35.1 million to the province. She requested long-term funding support from Chiefs and leadership, noting that current funding comes primarily from participant fees and sponsors. Several chiefs expressed support for the games, Wilton Littlechild reminded the use of TRC calls to Action, and UNDRIP articles were referenced to support the games.

Resolution: R#04/2025/10/08 – The Alberta Indigenous Games
Moved by: Proxy Chief Charles Weaslehead, Kainai Nation
Seconded by: Chief Greg Desjarlais, Frog Lake First Nation
Carried

Item Four: Health

II a. Alberta First Nation Health Cost Analysis – Mark Anielski

Chiefs were informed of the discrepancy of funding between First Nation and Albertans in the funding for health resources.

Chiefs-in-assembly expressed concern on the data used not being accurate and transparent enough to determine people's on and off reserve. Individual nations utilize own source revenues for Treaty right to health, because of the provinces and federal governments inadequate funding. Social determinants of health indicating an indigenous person lives are 9 years shorter than a non-indigenous person, preventative medicine in all areas of way of life must be considered to complete the picture of wellbeing of peoples. Basically, they were not surprised of the health gap between indigenous and non-indigenous funding.

I. HCOM – Update on the Health Co-Management Next Steps – Health Governance – Proxy Chief Cindy Provost, Piikani and Proxy Chief Charles Weaselhead, Kainai

Both Proxy Chiefs read verbatim the Alberta Health Governance. Key components for discussion were extension of time of either 6 months or 12 months to continue the review of HCOM for the Chiefs Steering committee and technical working group to complete their tasks as per previous resolutions M#07/2024/10/10 and M#2/2019/06/11.
Chiefs-in-assembly discussed and agreed an extension of time is required to complete report to answer all questions

Motion: M#05/2025/10/08 – Chiefs Task Force on Health Governance
Moved by: Chief Ivan Sawan, Loon River First Nation
Second by: Chief Billy-Joe Tuccaro, Mikisew Cree Nation
Motion passed with 2 Abstentions 1 Opposed:
Opposed: Chief Jacko, opposed
Abstentions: Chief Gary Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation and Chief Isaac Twinn, Sawridge First Nation

Item Five: Treaty Jurisdiction

III. Jay Treaty – Carol Mason

Carol Mason went through a power point presentation on the Jay Treaty Boarder Alliance (JBTA) structure and political activities to enhance and promote the activities of the committee to have Canada acknowledge and enforce the Jay Treaty articles referencing the "right to cross international borders and the US to change wording in a legislation. She requested more participation and involvement from the First Nations to assist in their efforts and funding.

Chiefs-in-assembly discussed the implementation of a treaty card, with the importance of the treaty benefits, AFN AGA resolution supporting the JBTA and the advocacy of funding for work to be completed. UN Declaration articles 37 the right to cross international borders and ratification of the Jay Treaty.

Day Two Adjourned

Day Three: October 9, 2025

Pipe Ceremony: at 8:00am

Opening Prayer: at 9:00am

Meeting called to order: Elder Peter Weasel Moccasin, Blackfoot

Recap: read by Co-chair William Big Plume

Amendments:

- Josephine Buffalo change
- NAIG request for TRC Calls to action – (NAIG) after UN Declaration (WIN Games)

Agenda Addition: Metis Nation of Alberta
Chief Jacko updated the Chiefs on a letter dated August 25, 2025 regarding the Otipemisiwak Metis Government and their self-government agreement which impacts our Treaty and Inherent Rights. It will also impact the duty to consult, in which First Nation may have to consult with the Metis on various projects within their respective Treaty territory. The Tribal Ventures Inc. sent a letter of response dated October 3, 2025 and Cold Lake First Nation send a letter of response dated October 6, 2025. Chief Jackso recommended that all First Nation respond and reject the agreement.

Resolution #05/2025/10/08- Otipemisiwak Metis Government (OMG) Revised Self-government Recognition and Implementation agreement
Moved by: Chief Tuccaro, Mikisew Cree First Nation
Second by: Chief Steinhauer, Saddle Lake First Nation
Carried

Agenda Addition: Knowing our Spirits – Bernie Makokis, Saddle Lake Cree Nation
Funding is through sponsorships, fundraising, holistic approach in healing focus on youth – request support from Chiefs. Vital part of healing.

Resolution: R#08/2025/10/09 – Knowing our Spirit Conference
Moved by: Chief Isaac Twinn, Sawridge First Nation
Seconded by: Chief Dwayne Laboucan, Driftpile Cree Nation
Carried

Item Eight: Emergency Management – Andrew Wutjick, AB Region
Power point presentation, key items

Discussion/Questions/Concerns

- Recent wildfires – dealing with jurisdictions – ISC and GoC programs to support the nation members -is unacceptable – funding for Nation and municipalities is unacceptable – not in a position to support our peoples through way of life – funding

cuts by ISC – what is the intention – nations to put forward own resource funding to ensure people needs are met? Many emergency areas for the people – GOA role in supporting the peoples – frustrating people are living in poverty – how do we adequately plan and support our people. Dealing with legislations – having a relationship with province – do better – finding ways to adequately supporting our nations – policy and build back program isn't working – doesn't support overcrowding of homes – eligible criteria dictated by ISC –

- About 10 years ago meeting – same issues – Fed/prov signed an agreement without consultation from Nations – here for another agreement without consultation – lack of resources that affect our nations – structure a organization to service our own people – another organization is formed and paid and paid prior to people – major gaps in the system – unpaid bills from ISC but FN are being blamed – Feds have to deal with Tri-lateral agreements instead of bi-lateral agreements – cannot count on prov/fed because of the treatment they receive – require own organizations – rebuilding is slow –
- Gaps in the system with services and funding and the people's needs are not met.
- Needs are different – safety, preparedness and response and recovery – substance abuse emergency – result of intergenerational trauma impact that people live with daily – include emergency management plan – epidemic use of drug use – what resources do we have to help our people – physical, mental, emotional is part of the plan – Emap – consider the natural disasters but the trauma experience
- Agree with previous speaker – funding backlog of
    - New agreement – social emergency impact – standard resources

Item Nine: Future Generations Foundation

Naomi Racette presented a PowerPoint on the Future Generations Foundation that oversees and manages the residual funds of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement capital. and the work that they are doing. There is funding available for the First Nations to apply for individual and group applications.

Agenda Addition: Treaties 1-11 Gathering Update, Proxy Chief Regena Crowchild

Regena provided an update on the gathering held in her nation in August 2025. Key directives were developed and full report is available for Chiefs to review. Key issues that are to be addressed include: going back to Treaty Cards, establishment of a Treaty office, protection of waters, land and resources, tax exemption and the protection of our Sovereignty, Treaty and Inherent Rights.

Closing Ceremony, retiring the Eagle Staffs and Flags

Day 3 Adjourned