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STATEMENT FOR GENERAL RELEASE

During these times of unease, it is normal to fear the unknown. Many of us will search for some of these answers and direction within our leaders. We at The Confederacy kindly ask everyone, to keep our Chiefs and Council Members in our prayers during these difficult times.

Our Chiefs carry burdens that most of us are blind to. They are strong men and women who stand together to fight for our people to ensure we are protected and cared for. Many times, the fight is without a win but still, they push onward. They ask for nothing in return except patience and courage as we work together to create a better future.

During these dark times we ask that you grant our leaders the patience as they navigate the wrath of this unprecedented virus. Let's remember to support one another and treat each other with kindness, especially our leaders. Let's have the faith that they are doing their best to safeguard our home lands and our families.

To the People of Treaty 6...

"I want everyone to keep our medical first responders in your prayers. Now is the time to heed the good advice from our medical professionals. From Samson we want to encourage everyone to remain calm. We are following all protocols being suggested from our local medical health authority and making our elderly, those suffering chronic conditions and those struggling with immune deficiency disorders as our priority for support. Akimeymok kahkiyaw, don't give up everyone, we are going to get through this."

Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation

"We in Alexander are reviewing our plans as well and having our staff work from home as well taking all other precautions necessary. As we move forward we will continue to update changes as they unfold. I would like to send prayers to everyone out there and ask that we stay safe and keep healthy."

Chief Kurt Burnstick, Alexander First Nation

"Beaver Lake Nation are busy going over our pandemic plans, preparing for the worst and asking their members to avoid leaving their home and avoiding all public places. Aiy hiy"

Chief Germaine Anderson, Beaver Lake Cree Nation

In the weeks and months ahead, let us keep each other's well-being in our hearts. It is a time such as this that we must reach deep in our hearts and clear our minds to let our teachings surface. The teachings we have all been taught during our walk here on Mother Earth. The time has come to show our children who we are as Indigenous Peoples. Mother Earth is healing, and she will take care of us as we have cared for her; All of us not just the Indigenous Peoples.

This Virus carries a spirit that our elders have forewarned us about. Sadly, our people have faced times of anguish time and time again so let's not fear something our spirit has survived before. These events of today and tomorrow will not break us. We encourage each of you to help our spirits work together, to guide us through this. Let us recall the teachings of Wahkohtowin.

We urge you to take the time and remember what we have been through as a people and remember where we have come from. Let us remember that we are warriors and we are here to stay. Let us remember kindness in the face of despair. Let us remember our bravery in the face of fear. Let us remember patience in the face of panic. Let us remember humility in the face of greed. Let us remember prayer in the face of hopelessness. Let us never forget our people are built on generations of resilience and we will continue to strengthen our legacy for generations to come.

The time to rise is here, we are living the vision of our ancestors. We carry an unmatched insight, wisdom and knowledge to carry us through this storm; Will remain Nehiyawak, Dene, Saulteaux, and Nakota Strong - today and tomorrow.

On behalf of the Staff at The Confederacy of Treaty Six- We will get through this together!