



Treaty No. 6 Statement **The Buffalo Declaration**

February 28, 2020

On February 20th, 2020 "The Buffalo Declaration" released by the Conservative Signatories have deemed Canada to be in crisis and mirrors the same assertions as the First Peoples of this land. ***The Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 First Nations would like to offer the supporters of this declaration a glimpse into "our world".***

The Chiefs of the Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 will not support the title of such a declaration. The Buffalo are a sacred being to our ceremonies and our culture, and in no way should it be used to further a political gain. The audacity to select the very four-legged being that your ancestors attempted to wipe out in an effort to annihilate our existence, is an insult to our people.

For centuries the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island have struggled to thrive in our own homelands. At times we have raised our voices to demand equality and respect, and far too quickly our efforts are silenced, to which we are then labeled "troublemakers".

If this declaration is to demand equality, then the province needs to examine its own back yard before threatening a possible separatist movement. Our land and its resources have kept Albertans and settlers alike prosperous for decades, however (we), the original landowners have been ignored and excluded from those discussions and benefits time and time again.

In order to display a false support and inclusion of our people we are continuously added to documents such as these to further, yet another colonial agenda. Throughout the document it mentions the First Nations People a total of eight (8) times, then ironically asks the Prime Minister to recognize the province as "culturally distinct". This is a contradictory statement, in the sense that it lacks inclusion of the original culturally distinct peoples of this land.

This declaration is a clear display of ignorance and moreover a thoughtless claim of support to your inequalities. As we continue to inherit the imbalances which stem from our Treaty obligations being overlooked and ignored, we also absorb the profanities for simply being culturally distinct. We caution you that being culturally distinct provides no protection from this government.

CONFEDERACY OF **TREATY SIX** FIRST NATIONS

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Since the 1930 Natural Resource Transfer Agreement (NRTA), it is Albertans who have been benefiting off the lands of our ancestors, for much longer than our own people have. The Indigenous Peoples have fought to protect our Mother Earth since the beginning of time. We have urged industry and stake holders to work with the Indigenous Peoples to seek a balance that will honor what Mother Earth provides; instead industry and stakeholders continue to rape and steal what she is not willing to give. Therefore, I question you - is it equality or our lands you seek? And if so, who exactly stands to benefit from this equality? Or maybe it is the inequality of our stolen resources that you seek?

The economic decline as mentioned in "The Buffalo Declaration", is said to have left Albertan families shattered with amplified suicide and domestic violence rates. Sadly, these are the types of tragedies our people can connect with. Regrettably, the Indigenous communities have statistics that triple those incidences as compared to the average non-Indigenous communities. We ask you, why is that not enough to reinforce our pleas for sovereignty? As Blake Richards stated - we too feel disconnected from and disrespected by the rest of Canada.

The Treaty No. 6 Chiefs challenge the Canadian and Alberta Government to acknowledge the wrongs at their front door and will once again remind Alberta's leaders that our Treaty No. 6 (1876) predates the creation of the Province of Alberta (1905) and there will be no such threats of separating "OUR LANDS", any further than history has already done.

Both Governments are aware of the Bilateral relationship as it exists with the Crown. As good neighbors, we respectfully remind you that the Treaty Lands we share with you is, was, and will never be owned by the any level of government. Therefore, it is unviable for any government to negotiate and leverage any such threats or transactions. Without a bill of sale, there was never any sale of our lands. Our traditional territories were provided by the Creator and gifted to us to respect, honor and protect.

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations Chiefs