



HEAD OFFICE: ENOCH CREE NATION NO. 135 P.O. BOX 270, ENOCH AB T7X 3Y3

For Immediate Release

Treaty No. 6 Territory – May 14, 2020

CT6FN Chiefs stand in solidarity with FSIN

The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations (CT6FN), stand in solidarity with our leaders of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations (FSIN) and their comments made on, May 13th, 2020. The CT6FN Grand Chief Billy Morin, strongly supports Beardy's & Okemasis Cree Nation and any other First Nation who chooses to practice their Inherent Rights and their ceremonial ways.

Grand Chief Billy Morin would like to extend his assurance to our brothers and sisters in Treaty No. 6 Territory East (or for ease of the colonized minds-the province of Saskatchewan), that they have the support of the CT6FN Chiefs in every way to ensure the protection of rights to their ceremonies. CT6FN, will stand fiercely behind our brothers and sisters under the FSIN for “as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the waters flow”.

CT6FN would also urge Canada, our Treaty partners, to display this same support to our people. We especially urge the provinces to take a step back and remove their involvement from our sovereign lands and any decisions made within its borders regarding our peoples and our way of life.

We understand that organizers of other religious and cultural gatherings are modifying their gatherings to accommodate the COVID-19 guidelines. We commend these other religious groups, nationwide, for making such modifications to their gatherings as we understand it is difficult to make those types of changes to one's way of life. However, as a guest, it is common practice to make accommodations to your host while visiting a foreign land and also a gesture of good faith to your hosts. We take this time to remind the colonial leaders of Turtle Island that you are still a visitor to this land and it is not our duty, as first peoples of this land, to adjust our ways of life to suit your own.

Upon arrival, the settlers have brought sicknesses, laws, and policies that were unheard of to our people, here in the 21st century, we are still fighting these same battles. We understand the severity of this virus and are fully aware of the fact that when this virus hits our nations it will enter with an immediate surge. We understand the catastrophic impact it has on our people when it enters. For this reason, the Chiefs of CT6FN have been advocating for the resources needed to ensure we can adequately protect our people. These requests are made knowing our ceremonies will continue. As Sovereign Nations we have implemented our own guidelines and restrictions, we ask the government take our requests seriously and provide our nations with ample supplies to ensure our way of life is no longer prohibited, restricted or threatened.

CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS



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The Treaty No. 6 Chiefs would like to remind visitors of Turtle Island of the kindness our ancestors extended to you in an effort to ensure your people didn't suffer and starve in the frigid cold, and how this was reciprocated to our people by endless and countless attempts to annihilate our people. The Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island have welcomed uninvited visitors, for centuries and our people have been very tolerant and compliant. We have abided your legislations and laws although they favor the average Canadian and treat the First Peoples of this land as third-class citizens. We continue to struggle to survive on the small living quarters your people have detained us to. We are humble people who continue to remain grateful, we are patient people who have tolerated your injustices, we are kind people who will always stand behind our neighbors and pray for their well-being. We want to be clear with this message we share with you, that this land you stand on, this land you raise your families on, this land you call home is done so on the backs of our people. You are a visitor and you are visitors that have over stayed their welcome.

Today, May 14th, 2020, The Treaty No. 6 Chiefs will no longer tolerate such brutalities on our peoples and let this message be clear, that the visitors to Turtle Island (the Government of Canada, the Provincial bodies, the families that have generationally called our land home) will not interfere in any way, shape, of form when it comes to our ceremonies.

The resiliencies of our people stem from our teachings and ceremonies and are the reasons we are still here; we cling to our ways so we can continue to live our lives in a good way as the Creator and Mother Earth intend us to be. We are on borrowed lands and it is the spirits that live among this land that we balance with our teachings and our ceremony. Our Sundance's are more than just prayer, it is far more than just a gathering, and it is a connection deeper than understanding through explanation; for these reasons we will continue to protect our elders, our ceremony, and our knowledge keepers until the creator decides otherwise.

We have been criminalized for far too long on our own home lands for being who we are. This stops today. Therefore, be it known that during times of Sundance, our nations will not allow legal enforcement into our lands, unless it is a valid emergency. Never again, will our people be intimidated, nor will we push aside who we are for the convenience of your laws. The Sundance is sacred in every way, it is not to be explained to you so that you can feel comfortable in deciding its importance. It is not for anyone other than our own people to determine its level of importance and our final message on this matter is that - Our ceremonies will never be up for discussion or negotiations.