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For Immediate Release

Treaty No. 6 Territory

In follow up to previous statements on “Wexit” by Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Dr. Wilton Littlechild, a renowned international Indigenous rights expert, Chief Littlechild stresses again that first and foremost any group speaking of separating from Canada must engage with our Treaty First Nations. Treaty No. 6 is a Peace and Friendship Treaty that opened lands to non-Indigenous settlers for “as long as the sun shines, the rivers flow and grass grows” meaning no end of time to this international agreement between the Nations who entered into Treaties.

“Furthermore, there are unfinished Treaty business that must be dealt with. As partners to Treaty No. 6, when our ancestors agreed to share the lands, the provinces were allowed to enter Confederation and they received authority of the natural resources from the federal government through the Natural Resource Transfer Agreement without the First Nations being consulted. My question is, would Alberta be prepared to reimburse the First Nations of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8 for all the natural resources they took from our territories without our consent?”

“Every person in Canada, whether they are new immigrants, new Canadians or generational Canadians are subject to Treaty and took an Oath or their ancestors did, including each province when entering Confederation – to be loyal to Canada. This wasn’t provided to our Indigenous peoples who were not even recognized as human beings let alone as citizens in our own lands and that is why I worked nearly four decades to have the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly (2007) and finally by Canada. The UN Declaration sets out a framework of the minimum standards for rights of the Indigenous peoples throughout the world, including Canada.”

“I believe we need to look at uniting our country, not pulling it apart. I believe in working to find common ground and working in good faith; I cannot support any talk of separating from Canada, especially when there are international legal “Crown” obligations this country and its provinces have with the Indigenous peoples of North America.”

Chief Littlechild serves as the Grand Chief and was bestowed the position of International Chief through sacred ceremonies by Elders and Chiefs of Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7 and Treaty No. 8. He is a former Commissioner of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada on the Indian Residential School era.