



**Press Release – December 20, 2021**

## **Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais Passes the Torch**

Treaty No. 6 Territory

Grand Chief Greg Desjarlais will officially be concluding his rotation from his role as Grand Chief of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations was created in the spring of 1993 with the purpose of serving as the united political advocacy voice for those Treaty Nations who are signatories of Treaty No. 6. The Grand Chief is the spokesperson for the 16 Member Nations of the Confederacy and the appointed term is held for one year.

Grand Chief Desjarlais is from the Frog Lake First Nation and shared some encouraging words of wisdom at the Confederacy's Assembly of Treaty No. 6 Chiefs meeting. The announcement was held on December 16<sup>th</sup> at the River Cree Resort.

*"My time as Grand Chief was an honor to serve"* said Grand Chief Desjarlais who addressed the Assembly.

Chief George Arcand Jr. from the Alexander First Nation will soon be appointed and transition into the role at a ceremony held on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Chief Arcand Jr. steps into the role with years of experience in a leadership position. He is currently the Chief of Alexander First Nation, was previously the CEO of Fort McKay First Nation, worked for the Federal Government as the Regional Director General, and served as a Community Development Officer for Alexander First Nation in the 1980s.

Chief Arcand Jr. said the *"Treaty No. 6 pipe, Alexander Pipe and the Frog Lake Pipe will be brought together in unity"* at the transitional ceremony. Chief Arcand Jr. plans to focus his term on the protection of Treaty and Inherent Rights and creating economic stability within Treaty No. 6.

Grand Chief Desjarlais said, *"On behalf of the Treaty No. 6 Chiefs, thank you"*. As he addressed Chief Arcand Jr. he stated, *"I will be walking with you"*.

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