

## Treaty Governance Elders Advisory Committee – Reclaiming our Governance Systems

The Elders Advisory Committee (EAC) in support of Treaty Governance in the nation began its work over 9 weeks ago. Meeting weekly, the Elders and Knowledge holders have begun the mandated work to establish a strong process and to provide guidance to the creation of governance mechanisms, laws development and ongoing support for our work to protect the Treaty. The EAC weekly efforts are already starting to provide the necessary strength to the processes long needed in the Nation. Recently the onihcikiskwapowin EAC sent correspondence to our Elder relations in Goodfish with the request for their participation and open door policy in our discussion. It is hoped that our Goodfish Lake relations will attend in the future.

Key discussions so far has centered on understanding the spirit and intent of Treaty, thorough review of implications and impacts of successive Government's in Canada devolution processes. As one of our Elders, Charles Wood always has said, "we need to unlearn what we have learned and relearn what we have forgotten." This is the focus of our work so far with so much more still ahead.

The key issues being worked on so far include:

- Review of the 2007 SLCN Constitution
- Completion of the amended SLCN Tribal Customs Election Regulations
- Establishing processes for review and dialogue in the Nation for all laws development
- Indian Association of Alberta – Document review

The Elders Advisory Committee identified the following priorities for their discussions to date:

1. 2007 SLCN Constitution (governance, lands, peoples)
2. Language Revitalization (ceremony, declaration, translations)
3. Wellbeing/health-education-cfs-social (model for living treaty)
4. Peacekeeping/Tribal Justice (model for living well together)
5. Lands (model for living well together with mother earth and the universe)

EAC Representatives include: Elder Cherilene Steinhauer, Elder Charles Wood, Elder Eric J. Large, Elder Bernice Cardinal, Elder Muriel Cardinal, Elder Alsina White, Elder Mary O Cardinal, Elder Marvin Quinney, Elder Joe Quinney, Elder John Brernton, Elder Mary Steinhauer