



# Saddle Lake Cree Nation

Box 100, Saddle Lake, Alberta  
T0A 3T0

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Phone (780) 726-3829 Fax (780) 726-3788  
Toll Free 1-800-396-2167

November 29, 2018

Honourable Minister Jane Philpott  
Minister of Indigenous Services – INAC

Honourable Minister Carolyn Bennett  
Department of Indian and Northern Development

Honourable Minister David Eggen  
Minister of Education, Government of Alberta

Honourable Minister Danielle Larivee  
Minister of Child and Family Services, Government of Alberta

Honourable Minister Sarah Hoffman  
Minister of Health, Government of Alberta

Honourable Minister Richard Feehan  
Minister of Indigenous Relations, Government of Alberta

All Chiefs – Treaty 6, 7 and 8

*tansi* colleagues,

Please be advised that the *onikaniwak* on behalf of the peoples of *onihcikiskwapowin* – Saddle Lake Cree Nation is hereby no longer affiliated in any manner with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta or the Assembly of First Nations as provincial, territorial and national organizations.

As the representative rights holders, we do not give consent for any advocacy organization, including that of the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta, Assembly of First Nations, First Nations Health Consortium or Co-management Committee to represent us. This will include NAO and PTO representatives including the current Grand Chief. None of these representatives are given leave to speak for our Inherent and Treaty interests. Any documentation or written representation related to matters impacting Treaty No. 6 on our behalf does not have the consent or approval of our nation.



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In recent months, we have observed the repeated efforts of both Federal and Provincial officials utilizing the Confederacy and the Assembly as mechanisms to achieve the objectives of off-loading legal responsibilities either directly to nations themselves or to provincial systems. For many years the federal objective has been clear if not transparently tabled under the devolution and transfer of control policy approach. However, it has become increasingly apparent that this objective has been accelerated in the last two years through co-development or joint processes seeking an aggregated consent through the National AFN and PTO offices. We cannot allow this to continue, as our concerns are not addressed directly despite countless letters and correspondence.

Processes in education, health, child and family services have been advanced without direct dialogue with our nation for approval or even influence. Direct dialogue with the Confederacy is now being acted upon by both government's in pursuit of the appearance of 'reconciliation,' on sectoral matters all while ignoring our own, rights holders concerted efforts at addressing outstanding and unfinished business related to the Natural Resources Transfer Act, Federal and Provincial consultation policy, Administrative Reform Agreement, Indian Health Transfer Policy, Regional Education Agreement requirements, federal Jordan's Principle authority creation and of course, a rights holders perspective on the implementation of Treaty.

All endeavors of the Government of Canada or the Province of Alberta are forthwith required to be obtained by our nation directly and will not be entertained if dialogue with the Confederacy or any other representative organization has already occurred on our behalf. This includes but is not limited to:

MOU on Child and Family Wellbeing

MOU on Jordan's Principle

Exploratory or Clarifying Tables relative to the Federal Recognition of Rights and Implementation Framework

Any discussions related to federal or provincial legislation in CFS, Education or Health

We are not pleased with the approach of both governments' to undermine our views on how to proceed on our own behalf. Clear and direct communication and processes that support it are a requirement of federal, provincial and international laws. We feel compelled to cut ties with our own relational organizations to get this most urgent message across to all who may be involved.

Regards,

Chief Eddy Makokis, onihcikiskwapowin – Saddle Lake Cree Nation, Treaty No. 6 Territory

cc: All Council