

## Update on Key Issues in Indigenous Relations – Impacts to Saddle Lake Cree Nation

The Government of Canada's efforts to move toward significant changes to our sacred relationship has continued full force throughout the summer and fall this year. In fact almost since Justin Trudeau was sworn in as Prime Minister in 2015, there has been ongoing, daily, monthly and yearly effort by the Government to try to establish their new vision for a Recognition of Rights and Implementation Framework.

As has been reported here in the community newsletters, Saddle Lake Cree Nation leadership has continued to push for our views to be heard and our rights to be implemented, with full recognition of our Inherent ability to live as was agreed to originally under the Treaty. Pursuing Treaty Based arrangements has been our consistent reply to the ongoing dialogue at all levels with the government and once again both Minister's Bennett and Philpott have received this message in November when they met with All Chiefs in Treaty 6, 7 and 8. Unfortunately there is increasingly strategic movement by governments toward undermining our position through various sector policy advancements in education, child and family and health as well as other areas of concern. Saddle Lake Cree Nation has put forward the requirement for Treaty implementation and that any action by the Government of Canada to manufacture consent via co-development processes is being done without our free, prior and informed consent.

In recent weeks, Saddle Lake Cree Nation was compelled to formally disengage from the AFN and to notify the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta that we would no longer affiliate with their organization due to the lack of recognition for Saddle Lake Cree Nation's position in the dialogue both organizations are pursuing. (see letter attached) This includes all chiefs committees at the national level and regional pursuit of memoranda of understanding on education, child and family services and health. We are equally concerned that the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations of Alberta is pursuing legislation to create "An Act to Recognize and Affirm the Right to Self Determination of Indigenous Peoples of Canada."

It is deeply disappointing that the Government of Canada and the Province of Alberta have undermined our collective interests through our own entities. There is much work to be done to reclaim and re-constitute strong instruments at the nation level but with the ongoing support of our management, staff and community, Saddle Lake Cree Nation will strive for achieving our long standing effort of implementation and Treaty justice.

The following documentation reflects the activity and efforts of Saddle Lake Cree Nation in response to the Government of Canada's multi-pronged efforts to move out of the Indian Act and toward creation of the so-called Recognition of Rights and Implementation Framework. In the coming weeks, nation oriented think tanks will be scheduled to begin the important work of communicating and obtaining feedback as we continue these deeply important efforts.

