



Treaty 7



Treaty 6



Treaty 8

DECLARATION OF TREATY 6, 7 AND 8 FIRST NATIONS *Treaty Right to Health*

Recalling and agreeing with the Chiefs in Canada 1981 Declaration which stated that...

"We the original peoples of this Land know the Creator put us here.

The Creator gave us Laws that govern all our relationships to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

The Laws of the Creator define our rights and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs, our Languages, our culture, and a place on Mother Earth which provided us with all our needs.

We have maintained our freedom, our Languages, and our traditions from time immemorial.

We continue to exercise the rights and fulfill the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the Land upon which we were placed.

The Creator has given us the right to govern ourselves and the right to self-determination.

The right and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other Nation."

Noting that the Royal Proclamation of 1763, initiated and adopted by the British Government, recognizes nations or tribes of Indians. The proclamation recognizes our original title of all lands traditionally occupied and used by our ancestors. The status

of our Indian nations was confirmed and entrenched by our entering into Treaties with the British Crown.

Recognizing that in 1982, at the peak of our Indian Nations' struggle to securely entrench our Treaty and Inherent Rights in the Constitution Act; Justice Lord Denning supported the solemnity, integrity and durability of our treaties with the British Crown. On January 28, 1982, Lord Denning in the High Court of the United Kingdom, proclaimed in his judgment, "There is nothing, so far as I can see, to warrant any distrust by the Indians of the Government of Canada. But, in case there should be, the discussion in this case will strengthen their hand so as to enable them to withstand any onslaught. They will be able to say that their rights and freedoms have been guaranteed to them by the Crown, originally by the Crown in respect of the United Kingdom, now by the Crown in respect of Canada, but, in any case, by the Crown. No Parliament shall do anything to lessen the worth of these guarantees. They should be honoured by the Crown in respect of Canada 'as long as the sun rises and the river flows'. The promise must never be broken."

Further on July 5, 1973 Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II affirmed the Treaties in an address to the Chiefs in Alberta, stating "You may be assured that my Government of Canada recognizes the importance of full compliance with the spirit and intent of your treaties."

The Treaty which became known as Treaty No. 6 contains a medicine chest clause which was agreed to due to existing circumstances at the time.

Emphasizing that Sections 25 and 35 (1) of the 1982 Constitution Act of Canada recognizes and affirms treaty rights.

Also emphasizing that the Treaty 6, 7 & 8 Unity Agreement of 2003 recognizes that the Cree, Dene, Chipewyan, Blackfoot, Nakoda Sioux, Assiniboine, Sauteaux, Beaver, Ojibway and Tsuu T'ina within their traditional territories have always considered ourselves integrally related, possessing from time immemorial, all the attributes of nationhood and all it entails under international law.

Acknowledging that International Law recognizes the nationhood of the Cree, Dene, Chipewyan, Blackfoot, Nakoda Sioux, Assiniboine, Sauteaux, Beaver, Ojibway and Tsuu T'ina in Treaty 6, 7 and 8, and the Geneva Declaration on the Health and Survival of Indigenous Peoples (23-26 November 1999) Part 1 includes "a call on governments where Treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements exist, that the original spirit and intent of these international agreements be honoured, respected and implemented."

We now therefore declare,

As Treaty Indians there is nothing more important than our Treaties, our land and the well being of our future generations

All rights are recognized in Treaties between the Crown and Nations or Tribes of Indians in Canada ensuring the wholistic and the spiritual concept of Treaties

That the medicine chest clause binds the federal government to provide medicines and all that is required to maintain proper health.

Treaty 6, 7 & 8 discussions were based on previous treaties and that all were equally inclusive and applicable.

So long as the sun shines, rivers flow and the grass grows, these words must never be broken.

Dated: March 16-17, 2005

Signed by

Chiefs in Treaty No. 6, No. 7 and No. 8

31st Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference
hosted by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations,
at Ermineskin Cree Nation, Alberta Canada

August 3 – 7, 2005

Resolution on the Treaty Right to Health

The 31st Annual Conference of the International Indian Treaty Council, held August 3rd -7th 2005 at Ermineskin First Nation, attended by Indigenous Peoples from North, Central and South America and the Pacific, endorses and supports by consensus the above Declaration of the Treaty 6, 7 and 8 First Nations Chiefs on the Treaty Right to Health, as presented to the Conference by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations. The IITC further affirms that this Declaration and its contents are now the policy of the IITC.

Adopted by Consensus August 7, 2005