



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow.

HEAD OFFICE

Loon River First Nation
P.O. Box 189
Red Earth Creek, AB T0G 1X0
Telephone: (780) 649-3883
Fax: (780) 649-3873

SUB OFFICE

c/o Santa Fe Plaza
18178 – 102 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1S7
Telephone: (780) 444-9366
Fax: (780) 484-1465

June 14, 2011

Aboriginal Relations
20th Floor, Commerce Place
10155-102 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J4G8

Via Email: stan.rutwind@gov.ab.ca

Attention: Stan Rutwind, Assistant Deputy Minister, Consultation and Land Claims

Dear Mr. Rutwind:

Re: Consultation Policy Review Sub-Table

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta has determined that we are not in a position to pursue these discussions, as you have defined the process, any further at this time. However, we wish to be clear that we are not abandoning dialogue with Alberta. Our concerns with the present process are set out below.

As you know, on September 30, 2010, the Treaty 8 Chiefs delivered a Position Paper on Consultation to the Government of Alberta. The Chiefs of Treaties 6 & 7 presented Alberta with very similar documents. **We have received no substantive response** to the concerns and issues raised in the Position Paper, despite the fact that Alberta has had the document for almost 8 months now. We have been provided with no reason for this substantial delay.

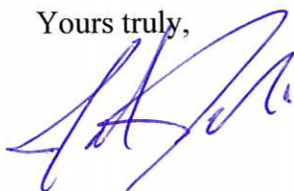
Further, the Treaty 8 Chiefs, as with the Chiefs of Treaties 6 & 7, clearly stated in the Position Paper that “the only way to achieve greater clarity and certainty, for First Nations, Industry and the Crown, is to negotiate a new agreement on consultation.” An *agreement*, as opposed to a new policy built on a former policy that has demonstrably failed both First Nations and Industry alike. Accordingly, the Chiefs of Treaty 8, as well as a strong majority of the Chiefs from Treaties 6 & 7, called “for negotiations with Alberta to develop a mutually acceptable consultation process.”

As a result of **Alberta's lack of response to the Position Paper** and the Province's refusal to enter into good faith negotiations, it is clear to us that we cannot proceed any further with this matter until we have had an opportunity to report these developments at an Assembly of Treaty 8 Chiefs to seek further guidance and direction from the Chiefs.

Finally, we are also concerned that the budget of \$100,000 offered by Alberta, to be split between the three Treaty regions representing 47 First Nations, is inadequate to the tasks at hand. In our view a thorough, fair and productive process regarding the Consultation Policy requires more than \$2,127.66 per First Nation. Alberta has considerable resources at its disposal in this process. The underfunding of First Nation participation has created an unfair starting point.

We look forward to your response.

Yours truly,



Joseph Jobin, COO
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Cc:	Grand Chief Arthur Noskey Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta	Grand Chief Charles Weaselhead Treaty 7 Chiefs Association	Grand Chief Gadwa Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations
	Minister Len Webber Aboriginal Relations	Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers	Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada