



SAMSON CREE NATION

Chief Kurt Buffalo

P.O. Box 159
Maskwacis, Alberta
T0C 1N0
(780) 585-3793
Direct Line 421-4926
Fax (780) 585-2256
1-800-661-2579

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Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples
The Senate of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada, K1A 0A4

Via Fax (613) 947-2104

Dear Standing Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples,

In recognition that the Government of Canada is actively and quickly responding to the Descheneaux Case as ruled by the Supreme Court of Quebec on August 3, 2015 with a deadline for legislative amendments to discriminatory sections of the Indian Act, specifically Section 6.1(a), (c), (f) and subsection 6.2 by February 3, 2017. The following is an Official Statement on behalf of the Samson Cree Nation, a signatory to Treaty No. 6, 1876. Samson Cree Nation is a sovereign Indigenous Nation and follows four Treaty Principles:

1. Inherent Right to Self-determination and Cree government known as 'Kikpaktinkosowin';
2. Original spirit and intent of Treaty, Treaties as sacred agreements known as 'Ketchi Oyichikaywina' Cree understanding;
3. Mutual consent known as 'Taypihmowin';
4. Peaceful coexistence and mutual responsibility to honor the international Treaties known as 'Wetaskiwin'.

Therefore, Samson Cree Nation's sovereign Treaty position is as follows:

- Samson Cree Nation will reinstate Treaty Entitlement Cards as a reaffirmation and acknowledgement of the Nation to Nation agreements of Treaty; Treaty is the agreement to peacefully co-exist between Nations; Treaty benefits are the fiscal responsibility of Canada as a successor to the Crown
- Samson Cree Nation as a Treaty Indigenous Nation, has never consented to the extinguishment of the Right to Jurisdiction or the right to preside over matters that directly impact our Nation as Samson Cree Nation has the right to determine Citizenship through Treaty and Inherent Rights as Constitutionally protected and not defined by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

- Samson Cree Nation as a Treaty Indigenous Nation, Calls upon the Government of Canada, as a successor to the Crown, respect and acknowledge Samson Cree Nation's Right to reinstate Treaty Cards for All Samson Cree Nation Citizens including past, current and future.
- Samson Cree Nation as a Treaty Indigenous Nation, in 1951, was not given the opportunity have full and adequate participation including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to the unilateral Government of Canada changes to the Indian Act in 1951 that erased Treaty Citizens and resulted in Statutory Indians (Indian Status)
- Past and current amendments to the Indian Act sections that stipulate Indian Registration under the Indian Act, further contribute to the genocide of Indigenous peoples through the direct assault on the ability of Treaty Indigenous Nations to determine their own citizenship;
- Treaty supersedes any type of legislation as Treaties are International Agreements as outlined in the 'Study on Treaties, Agreements and Other Constructive Arrangements Between States and Indigenous Populations' by Mr. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, Special Rapporteur.
- Samson Cree Nation as a Treaty Indigenous Nation further affirms our internationally recognized Treaty, Inherent and Indigenous Rights through the full utilization and understanding of the Original Spirit and Intent of Treaty No.6 as supported by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) Articles 9, 18, 19, 22.2, 33.1, 33.2, 37.1, 37.2, and 38; and the OAS American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Article 24.1.

As Chief of the Samson Cree Nation, I trust that our sovereign Treaty Position is respected and acknowledged as a distinct Nation without prejudice to any other Indigenous Nation(s) specific matters or issues.

Sincerely,



Chief Kurt Buffalo
Samson Cree Nation
Treaty No. 6, 1876

C.c. Confederacy of Treaty No. 6 Grand Chief Randy Ermineskin
Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde
Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Craig Makinaw