



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

Mikisew Cree First Nation
Box 90
Fort Chipewyan, Alberta T0P 1B0
Telephone: (780) 697-3740
Fax: (780) 697-3826

SUB OFFICE

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Swan River First Nation Holds A Cultural Camp To Raise Awareness

Edmonton, Alberta – August 25, 2015 – Another First Nation within Treaty No. 8 is holding a cultural camp to raise awareness on a “broken First Nation consultation policy”.

Swan River First Nation, along with Driftpile Cree Nation, is the second community in recent months to set up a cultural camp to highlight the unabated development activity happening on their traditional territory.

Swan River First Nation has in place a pilot land use plan focused on preserving a portion of their traditional territory for use into the future. Unfortunately, this land use plan, which had been ignored by the previous government and has not stopped a lumber company which began harvesting in November of 2014.

“Here we have a case of a First Nation, who wishes to preserve part of their territory for future generations. At their own time and expense they created a land use plan, which the government and industry ignored,” states Chief Steve Courtoreille, Grand Chief of Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, before continuing, “I can understand their frustration.”

“We have said it before, but the consultation policy set up by the old government is still running in the background.” states the Grand Chief, “The new government has made a lot of great commitments, but we are still waiting to meet with them. Here we have a First Nation who is saying, okay, it’s time to live up to these promises.”

In their press release, Swan River has called on the government to implement UNDRIP and make free, informed and prior consent part of the consultation process.

“I and many other Chiefs understand that changing the consultation process may take some time, but the first step is for the Premier to meet with the Chiefs. These peaceful actions are a result of that first step still not having taken place,” states the Grand Chief.

Contact:

Greg Posein
Communications Coordinator
gposein@treaty8.org
18178 – 102 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1S7
Ph: (780) 444-9366
###