



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.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Insufficient Consultation On Consultation Regulations

Edmonton, Alberta – August 28, 2014 – Today Treaty 8 [Alberta] First Nation leaders chose to boycott an “Engagement session” with the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations that was meant to discuss the Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act. The Treaty No. 8 [Alberta] First Nations have repeatedly raised concerns with the Act and consultation in the province for over ten years.

The First Nation leaders feel that Alberta’s Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act, and the associated regulations, have been developed without adequate First Nations participation and failed to incorporate the numerous concerns they have raised over the years.

“For the past decade Treaty 8 [Alberta], both as a collective and as individual Nations, have participated in these sessions. We have submitted letters that include our concerns, suggestions and feedback and we almost never receive a response or any indication of how our input will be used,” states Chief Trevor Mercredi, Portfolio Chief of Livelihood, Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta. “At the same time the government qualifies our participation at these sessions as consultation on the issue. If our participation can’t change the process, why are we asked to participate? The complex nature of consultation cannot be addressed in one group meeting, they [the Province] must meet with our nations individually.”

The submissions the Grand Chief is referring to are communications between First Nations and the Government of Alberta outlining concerns that have remained largely unaddressed for almost a decade. In many cases, Alberta has not even responded to the letters.

“The extreme irony of the Aboriginal Consultation Levy Act is that it was created without adequate or meaningful Aboriginal consultation and the regulations have been no different,” says Grand Chief Kappo. “We want to be clear, this is not about being against resource development, this is about policies that directly affect our First Nations being created for us without meaningful participation. We are leaders, elected officials that govern our unique territories, it’s 2014 and our people and sovereign governments are still being treated with a paternalistic hand. Today is about us saying, it’s time this stops.”

“If you want a process to be successful create it with the Chiefs and communities, from the ground up, and work with us to build policies that work for First Nations, Industry and Albertans alike,” says Grand Chief Kappo.

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