



# 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

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation  
P.O. Bag #5  
Valleyview, Alberta T0H 3N0  
Telephone: (780) 524-3307  
Fax: (780) 524-2711

## 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:

### Education Announcement Promises Much But Leaves First Nations Waiting On Follow Through

*Edmonton, Alberta – February 7, 2014* – The Government of Canada has just announced new changes to their proposed First Nations Education Act. Making the announcement today in Kainai Nation territory, just south of Calgary, the Conservative government's comments have First Nations in Treaty No. 8 [Alberta] wondering what's next.

“We already have a process in the works in Alberta and it has been in place for some time,” states Rose Laboucan, Chief of the Education Portfolio for Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta, “now that we have heard this announcement, we are wondering what this is going to mean for our children. It sounds promising but we hope that it is not another historic broken promise.” Treaty 8 [Alberta] has been working on a grassroots education process for years already.

“It's sad that it doesn't become effective until 2016, after the election. I am sure I am not the only one wondering if this will fall off the table like the Kelowna accord?” states Chief Laboucan.

“Education is a priority for us, our children are a priority for us, and I challenge you to ask every Chief in the province and they will tell you the same,” states Chief Laboucan, “Our children need better learning environments and quality lessons now, not years from now. Classrooms in furnace rooms and basements are appalling and unacceptable for anyone's children. Our teacher's salaries are below the Canadian average. There have been many inequities going on for years.” The inequalities the Chief is talking about have been demonstrated in the 28 year gap between First Nations students and non First Nations in Canada.

“The Prime Minister's promises are a good beginning but I truly hope they mean what they say and didn't just change the title of the bill,” states Chief Laboucan

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

###