

# MONTH IN REVIEW



TREATY 8  
FIRST NATIONS  
OF ALBERTA

JUNE 12, 2026

## ELDERS ADVISORY COUNCIL



Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta hosted a Treaty 8 Elders Advisory Council meeting May 4 to 6 in conjunction with the MMIP Walk. This three day gathering focused on sharing knowledge, discussing priorities, and helping guide the future direction of Treaty 8 initiatives.

The gathering brought together Elders representing member Nations from throughout the territory to provide advice, teachings, and recommendations on issues affecting our communities.

Throughout the gathering, participants heard updates on key areas of work, including emergency management, lands and livelihood, health initiatives, Jordan's Principle, and Treaty 8's

Nâtawihowin / Healing / Nà tsé jíh anti-racism program.

Elders also participated in discussions regarding Alberta separation efforts, Treaty implementation, and the ongoing development of the United Nations Declaration Act (UNDA) Action Plan.

A major focus of the gathering was ensuring Elders' voices continue to shape the future of Treaty 8. Through sharing circles, discussions, and reflections, Elders provided guidance on governance, Treaty rights, and community priorities while helping identify next steps for leadership.

The gathering concluded with a "What We Heard" circle, allowing participants to share recommendations and direction for future work.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta extends its gratitude to all Elders who attended and shared their wisdom, knowledge, and experiences in support of future generations.

### IN THIS MONTH'S UPDATE:

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**Gathering  
With  
Premier  
Kinew**

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**Jordan's  
Principle  
Caregiver  
Survey**

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**MMIP Walk**

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**First Nations  
Condemn  
Alberta  
Separation**

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# MMIP WALK & DAY OF AWARENESS



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA WAS PROUD TO HOST OUR ANNUAL MISSING & MURDERED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WALK & DAY OF AWARENESS IN EDMONTON ON TREATY 6 TERRITORY ON MAY 4.

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# JORDAN'S PRINCIPLE CAREGIVER SURVEY

Jordan's Principle exists to ensure First Nations children receive the services and supports they need without delays, denials, or jurisdictional disputes getting in the way. Now, caregivers across Treaty 8 are asked to help shape the future of how those services are delivered.

The Health Co-Management (HCoM) Jordan's Principle Caregiver Survey is part of a regional evaluation examining the current administration and delivery of Jordan's Principle in Alberta.

The evaluation will look at strengths, challenges, gaps, and barriers within the system, while gathering recommendations directly from First Nations families and caregivers.

The survey focuses heavily on lived experiences and client outcomes. Organizers are seeking feedback from caregivers of children under 18 who have accessed Jordan's Principle supports within the past five years. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences with approvals, denials, appeals, communication, and overall access to services.

The survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes to complete and can be accessed online through QR code or direct survey link. Paper copies are also available upon request.

This survey is open to Treaty 8 members, and only for caregivers, program support workers and families who have accessed, applied, appealed or are still waiting for a decision on reimbursement.

All completed surveys will be entered into a prize draw, with additional details available at the end of the questionnaire.

The deadline to complete the survey is July 30, 2026. For more information or to request a paper copy, contact Justin Wong at [justin@jtkresearch.com](mailto:justin@jtkresearch.com).

[Click Here or Scan the QR Code to Take the Survey!](#)



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## CULTURAL GATHERING WITH PREMIER KINEW

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta would like to thank Manitoba Premier Wab Kinew for taking the time and for following protocol to meet with the Treaty 6, 7 and 8 Chiefs when he was visiting the Treaty Territory.

We also thank him for reminding the Premiers attending the Western Premiers' Meeting this month that the duty to consult is a constitutional responsibility of government.

Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta stands with everyone who has been involved in our continued fight to protect Treaty rights, uphold the Constitution, and ensure governments are held accountable to their legal obligations.



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA

HONOURING OUR  
TREATY GATHERING  
&  
ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING

July 28 - 30, 2026

Woodland Cree First Nation

HOSTED BY:



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# TREATY 8 NATIONS CONDEMN ALBERTA'S CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO ADVANCE SEPARATION

The Chiefs of the Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta are seriously concerned about Premier Danielle Smith and the Government of Alberta's continued efforts to advance separation-related initiatives without meaningful consultation with Treaty First Nations.

Recent court decisions have reinforced that Alberta cannot unilaterally pursue actions impacting the constitutional framework of Canada, Treaty rights, or the Treaty relationship without fulfilling its obligations to consult and engage First Nations.

The Chiefs of Treaty No. 8 emphasize that recent legal interventions by Treaty Nations have already helped prevent what could have become a constitutional crisis, forced Alberta to acknowledge that consultation with First Nations is required, and reinforced that the Treaties and the Treaty relationship with the Crown are constitutionally protected from unilateral action by Alberta.

"These are important legal and constitutional victories, but the fight is far from over," said Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi. "Treaty Nations are not idle on this issue. We will continue to defend the Constitution, uphold the Treaty relationship, and ensure our rights, lands, and jurisdictions are respected."

"Treaty 8 First Nations are particularly concerned that Alberta's current approach appears focused on working around First Nations rather than working with First Nations. Both the proposed referendum process and Alberta's appeal of the recent ACFN decision continue to raise serious concerns regarding the province's willingness to uphold its constitutional obligations and respect Treaty rights.

Treaty No. 8 was entered into with the Crown long before Alberta became a province," said the Grand Chief. "These sacred agreements cannot simply be ignored or politically worked around."

Treaty 8 First Nations are urging Premier Danielle Smith and the Government of Alberta to immediately pause any further separation-related or referendum-related processes until meaningful consultation and engagement with Treaty First Nations occurs.

Treaty 8 First Nations will also be formally writing to the Prime Minister requesting that Alberta's proposed referendum question be reviewed by Parliament in accordance with the requirements of the Clarity Act. What the Premier has called is not just an Alberta question—it is a question for all Canadians.

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## AFL PROVINCE-WIDE DAY OF PROTEST



TREATY 8 FIRST NATIONS OF ALBERTA'S DEPUTY GRAND CHIEF SHELDON SUNSHINE WAS ON-HAND TO SPEAK AT THE ALBERTA FEDERATION OF LABOUR'S PROVINCE-WIDE DAY OF PROTEST AGAINST ALBERTA SEPARATION ON MAY 29.

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## MEET OUR TEAM

### JILLIAN AMES, MANAGER OF HOUSING SUPPORTS



For most of her career, Jillian Ames has been focused on one driving goal: improving housing outcomes for Indigenous Peoples. Her passion, combined with years of experience navigating the complex realities of First Nations housing, made her the ideal person to become Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta's inaugural Manager of Housing Supports when she joined the organization last December.

In her role, Jillian leads Treaty 8's housing initiatives, including the Reaching Home program and the Wedgewood Housing Project, the first of what Treaty 8 hopes will be many Indigenous-led housing developments that support our members.

Years of working in Indigenous housing have taught Jillian that housing solutions must go beyond bricks and mortar and focus on the people who will call those places home.

"A home isn't just a roof over your head," Jillian explains. "It's stability, safety, community, and opportunity. Housing affects every part of a person's life."

Jillian believes meaningful progress when navigating the complexity of Indigenous-led housing requires strong partnerships and collaboration. Building relationships with governments, service providers, housing organizations, and First Nations is a key part of her work as she explores opportunities for future projects and supports. She is particularly passionate about advancing Indigenous-led housing solutions that reflect the unique needs and priorities of First Nations.

While collaboration presents significant opportunities, Jillian still sees challenges ahead, including funding limitations, a shortage of affordable housing, and the lack of reliable data specific to Treaty 8 members. Despite these obstacles, she remains optimistic about what can be achieved.

Her commitment to housing extends beyond her work at Treaty 8. Jillian serves as Co-chair of the Indigenous Housing Collaborative of Edmonton and is currently completing her Master's degree and thesis on Indigenous-led community housing.

When she is not working, studying, or spending time with her six-year-old daughter, Jillian hopes to eventually return to another passion: teaching yoga once she has earned her master's degree.

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**AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE GRASS GROWS, THE RIVERS FLOW,  
AND UNTIL SUCH TIME AS YIHDA SHOULD REVERSE.**



**TREATY 8  
FIRST NATIONS  
OF ALBERTA**

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