



Protocol Agreement on Government to Government Relations

Whereas the Chiefs of the First Nations of Alberta and the Government of Alberta need to strengthen their government to government relationship;

Whereas the Government of Alberta recognizes the Treaties as a fundamental part of the relationship between First Nations and Alberta;

And whereas the Government of Alberta recognizes the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of First Nations referred to in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*;

And whereas the Chiefs recognize the constitutional authorities and responsibilities of the Province of Alberta;

And whereas the Government of Alberta recognizes the Treaty relationship between First Nations and Canada;

And whereas the Government of Alberta recognizes, in principle, the inherent right of self-government and the need to discuss with First Nations the design and delivery of programs and services;

And whereas the Treaty 8 First Nations and Government of Alberta signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Sub-Agreement on Working Procedures in 1993 and the Council of Chiefs and the Government of Alberta signed an Understanding on First Nations/Alberta Relations in 1995;

Therefore, the Chiefs and the Government of Alberta agree as follows:

1. a) The Grand Chiefs and the Premier will meet annually to discuss issues of common interest and review progress made under sub-agreements and processes established pursuant to this Protocol Agreement.
- b) The Aboriginal Policy Framework is a broad policy document that guides the relationship between Alberta and First Nations.
- c) The Grand Chiefs and the Ministers responsible for consultation with First Nations regarding land and resource development will meet twice a year to discuss matters pertaining to Alberta's policy and guidelines on consultation, and other subjects where agreed.
- d) The establishment of further specific processes or sub-tables involving other sectors or ministries will be determined through sub-agreements between the Grand Chiefs and the appropriate Minister or Ministers responsible for those sectors.

- e) Sub-agreements and processes pertaining to consultation may include provisions to allow for trilateral discussions with industry representatives, where appropriate.
 - f) Sub-agreements and processes established will recognize the constitutional, legal and political responsibilities of First Nations and the Province of Alberta.
2.
 - a) The Grand Chiefs and Alberta agree to the establishment of a planning committee composed of the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Relations, senior officials appointed by the Deputy Minister and representatives of each of Treaty 6, 7 and 8 appointed by the respective Grand Chiefs.
 - b) The Planning Committee will prepare an annual work plan for approval of the Grand Chiefs, the Premier and the appropriate Ministers, including the identification of capacity and resources necessary to undertake approved activities.
 - c) The Deputy Minister may invite representatives from participating ministries to attend meetings of the Planning Committee.
 3. Nothing in this Protocol Agreement is intended to prevent Chiefs from individually developing their own relationships with the Government of Alberta, or from entering into specific agreements with Government of Alberta Ministries.
 4. Nothing in this Protocol Agreement is intended to be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from any rights of First Nations recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
 5. Nothing in this Protocol Agreement is intended to be construed as modifying any Treaty, creating a new Treaty or as a treaty-making process.
 6. This Protocol Agreement is intended to state general principles and record the intentions of the Parties. It is not intended to create any legal rights or responsibilities or legally binding obligations on the rights of the Parties.
 7. Nothing in this Protocol Agreement is intended to or shall be interpreted as fettering the discretion or the authority or the rights of the Parties.
 8.
 - a) This Protocol Agreement will be in effect as of May 22, 2008, and in force until March 31, 2013, unless terminated in writing by either party upon 150 days notice or extended by the written agreement of the Parties.
 - b) The Grand Chiefs and Alberta agree to review annually the operation of this Protocol Agreement and processes and sub-agreements established pursuant to it.
 - c) This Protocol Agreement may be amended in writing by the Grand Chiefs and Alberta.

Original Signed by
Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier

Original Signed by
Honourable Gene Zwozdesky
Minister of Aboriginal Relations

Original Signed by
Grand Chief Stanley Lagrelle
Treaty 6

Original Signed by
Vice-Chief Raymond Arcand
Treaty 6

Original Signed by
Chief Charles Weaselhead
Spokesperson, Treaty 7

Original Signed by
Chief Sandford Big Plume
Vice-Spokesperson
Treaty 7

Original Signed by
Grand Chief Arthur Noskey
Treaty 8

Original Signed by
Vice-Chief Rose Laboucan
Treaty 8