



British Columbia Assembly of First Nations



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May 29, 2026

Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

Chief Traveller Plaited Hair
Blood Tribe

Xakiji Suh Xakiji (Chief Ellery Starlight)
Treaty 7 Chiefs Association

Chief Troy Knowlton
Piikani Nation

Grand Chief Joey Pete
Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations

Chief Samuel Crowfoot
Siksika First Nation

Chief Allan Adam
Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation

Open Letter to First Nations in Alberta in Support of the Recent Legal Victory and Rejection of Separatism

On behalf of the BC Assembly of First Nations, I am writing to express our respect, solidarity, and support for your stand against the growing separatist movement in your territories. Your recent legal victory on May 13, 2026, is a landmark achievement for all First Nations. Justice Shaina Leonard's ruling affirmed that the Alberta government failed in its legal duty to consult First Nations before advancing a citizen-led petition for separation, and that such a process cannot proceed without directly engaging with First Nations in Alberta whose constitutionally-protected Treaty rights would be violated.

We celebrate your courage in taking this fight to the courts and in forcing the province to recognize that Treaties are living, constitutional agreements between First Nations and the Crown, and that the Alberta Government cannot unilaterally alter or sever the Treaty relationship. We stand with you in condemning Premier Danielle Smith's response to this ruling, including her announcement that her government will appeal the ruling and is adding a new separatist question to the October 19 referendum. We echo your denunciation of these actions as undemocratic and an ongoing attack on the rule of law and First Nations' sovereignty.

We stand with the leadership of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Blood Tribe, Piikani Nation, Siksika First Nation, and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, as well as other Treaty 6, 7 & 8 Nations that continue to reaffirm that First Nations' inherent Title, rights, Treaty rights and Treaty agreements are sacred, non-negotiable, and both constitutionally and legally protected.



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We call on the Government of Canada to immediately uphold the court's ruling and the honour of the Crown. As is the case in British Columbia, the silence from the federal government is unacceptable while First Nations are carrying the burden of defending the rule of law and the Constitution.

To our relatives in Alberta, we stand with you as you defend your Treaty territories and this country's legal and moral relationship with First Nations. Your court victory is a victory for First Nations inherent title, rights and jurisdiction, the Constitution, Treaty rights, and the future of all First Nations. We continue to watch, support, and act in solidarity with you.

Mussi,



Regional Chief Terry Teegee

cc: Prime Minister Mark Carney
Danielle Smith, Premier of Alberta
Wab Kinew, Premier of Manitoba
David Eby, Premier of British Columbia



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