



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

31 March 2021

(amiskwacîwâskahikan) The Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations Chiefs in a zoom conference call with Alberta Minister of Justice, Kaycee Madu and Minister of Indigenous Relations, Rick Wilson informed the Chiefs that the first phase of Rural Alberta Provincial Integrated Defence (RAPID) will start on the 1st of April 2021.

The Chiefs were shocked to learn that the province without any process to engage our Nations has taken on itself the decision to deploy the Peace Officers, Fish and Wildlife Officers, and other provincial enforcement agents on the sovereign lands along with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The Confederacy Chiefs have by resolution completely rejected this initiative as unworkable.

The Chiefs want to remind our citizens that we entered into a Peace and Friendship Treaty with the Crown. The Province of Alberta did not exist when we made Treaty. It is completely unacceptable that our sovereign lands will be open to provincial officials.

The Confederacy Chiefs learnt that the Province of Alberta does not respect our Peoples or our Territories by the imposition of RAPID. The province of Alberta needs to step back in the implementation of RAPID if the spirit of reconciliation is going to continue.

The Confederacy Chiefs want to caution our citizens to remain calm as you might be stopped or confronted by these officials. The **Chiefs have not authorized these officials** to come into the Treaty Sovereign Lands.

We are attaching the resolution passed by the Confederacy Chiefs on 31 March 2021.

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For more information or media inquiries, contact:

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CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS RESOLUTION ON POLICING

31 MARCH 2021

WHEREAS, the Treaty Chiefs of Treaty No. 6 did meet in a duly convened meeting at the, Treaty No. 6 Territory, AB on March 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs derive their authority from the Creator and the citizens of their respective Nations/Tribes, and in the exercise of their inherent authority and Treaty Rights are beneficiaries of all aspects of international law; and

WHEREAS, the Chiefs have reviewed the report on Policing in Alberta; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Alberta is engaged in the reestablishing a provincial police force; and

WHEREAS, the Province has engaged Price Waterhouse to scope out the costs of such a force without any discussion with the Treaty Chiefs; and

WHEREAS, the province has not released sufficient documents on their plans; and

WHEREAS, the Province of Alberta will be releasing a report from their work; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) have been engaged at the National level on federal legislation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Confederacy Chiefs give the following directions:

1. The first step is to reengage our Nations, in our own security; and
2. The Confederacy Chiefs support the work of our Nations to secure a reestablishment of the security needed within their nation(s); and
3. There is a lot of work to do to reimagine the implementation of the inherent rights to security of the Nation including looking at the continuation of our own laws. This concept is widely known as legal pluralism; and
4. In exploring the role of what laws apply in the Nations and what laws will the Nations agree to apply from the state; and

5. The five million federal monies that are presently being given to the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) must be redirected to the Alberta First Nations who are rights holders so that we can engage in the work; and
6. More specifically, the present Five Million dollars given to AFN by Minister Blair, Minister of Justice to work on restorative justice based on the implementation of Treaty; and
7. The Nations completely reject any provincial police force in our Territories – we retain our sovereign rights; and
8. Write a letter to the Province and the federal government that the Chiefs completely and totally reject any provincial police force; and
9. The Chiefs and the working committee once established need to meet with the Provincial Justice Minister of Alberta, to discuss the blue-ribbon panel review of policing in Alberta and their quest to replace the RCMP as the police service of choice; and
10. Working committee will monitor the Provincial government and their committees on policing; and
11. Have a meeting with the RCMP to determine their views on a provincial police force; and
12. The combination of the Provincial Police force along with the Peace Officers, Fish and Wildlife and other provincial enforcement agent on the reserved lands be completely rejected as unworkable and could lead to major issues related to policing; and
13. A report be prepared for the next Confederacy meeting on the above items.
14. That the Treaty Six Nations request that we begin the negotiations for a self-administered essential Tribal Police Service and that the RCMP will be the police service of choice during this time

Moved by:	Chief Vernon Saddleback, Samson Cree Nation
Seconded by:	Proxy Chief Kelsey Jacko, Cold Lake First Nations
Decision:	PASSED
Dated:	March 31, 2021
Certified Correct:	 Cameron Alexis Interim Executive Director, Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations