



**DECLARATION OF FORT CARLTON
TREATIES NO. 1 -11 GATHERING
JULY 22 – 27, 2007**

WHEREAS the Indigenous Nations from the Treaty Territories of Treaties No. 1 - 11 have gathered in assembly in the ancestral territories of the Willow Cree at Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan on July 22 – 27, 2007 to discuss the importance of the Treaties for the benefit of all of our future generations and the protection of Mother Earth; and

WHEREAS by virtue of their very existence, Indigenous Nations of Treaties No. 1 - 11 have the right to live freely in their own territories and their close relationship with Mother Earth and the spiritual realm must be recognized and understood as the basis for their cultures, spiritual life, cultural integrity and economic survival. For the Indigenous Nations of Treaties No. 1 - 11; relationship with the land is not simply one of possession and production, it is also a material and spiritual element that they should be able to enjoy freely, as well as a means of preserving their cultural heritage and transmitting it to future generations; and

WHEREAS through the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples the United Nations Human Rights Council has recognized the collective rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Committee on Human Rights, monitoring agent for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, applies the right to self determination as a right of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada and to other States as a legal obligation of the State. This same Committee on Human Rights has also recognized, in its General Comment 23, that the right to the use of their language, culture and religion implies the access and use, by Indigenous Peoples, of the lands and natural resources;and

WHEREAS the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as the Monitoring Committee of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, have established the rights to free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples with regard to State legislation or actions that affect them; and

WHEREAS for Indigenous Nations of Treaties No. 1 - 11, the inherent and collective right to sovereignty are indispensable for the continuation of their cultures and Indigenous identity. Traditional forms and norms of land tenure and collective decision making of the Indigenous Nations of Treaties 1 - 11 must be respected; and

WHEREAS the freedom of self determination for the Indigenous Nations of Treaties 1 - 11 involves not only access to but also control and management of their lands, territories and natural resources; and

WHEREAS the Indigenous Gathering of Nations of Treaties No. 1 – 11 hereby supports and endorses the Enoch River Cree Declaration and the recommendations of the UN Treaty Study Seminar held at Samson Cree Nation.

THE INDIGENOUS TREATY NATIONS OF TREATIES NO. 1 - 11 GATHERED AT FORT CARLTON ON JULY 22 – 27 HEREBY DECLARE AND RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING:

- **To continue and to persevere with this spiritual movement known as the Gathering of Indigenous Nations of Treaties 1 – 11 for the purposes of the promotion, protection and enforcement of the Sacred Covenants; Treaty No. 1, Treaty No. 2, Treaty No. 3, Treaty No. 4, Treaty No. 5, Treaty No. 6, Treaty No. 7, Treaty No. 8, Treaty No. 9, Treaty No. 10 & Treaty No. 11.**
- **To revive and strengthen our ancestral practices and the spirituality of our Indigenous Peoples.**
- **To foster alliances and continue the Treaty making process amongst the Indigenous Nations, organizations and other Indigenous Peoples.**
- **To promote a development amongst our Nations based on our own visions and world view as Indigenous Peoples.**
- **To promote collective action for the recognition of legal collective rights where participation in decisive strategic instances may be obtained.**
- **To initiate and to continue to work on the construction of our autonomies and self determination as Indigenous Treaty Nations as a form of Nation rebuilding and decolonization.**
- **To continue to reject exclusion, discrimination and subordination to other jurisdictions including our Treaty partners.**
- **To continue to reject the progressive privatization, deprivation of our lands and the expropriation of our natural resources without our free, prior and informed consent.**
- **Denounce the mineral exploitation and extraction by multinational/transnational corporations from our traditional lands and territories whose consequences are the serious deterioration of the environment and an irreversible contamination of our sacred and lifegiving places.**
- **We denounce the theft and commercialization of our traditional knowledge (ceremonial and medicinal herbs) without our free, prior and informed consent.**
- **We denounce the deforestation of our traditional lands and territories by multinational/transnational corporations and call for the mitigation of the negative effects this generates including the contamination/destruction of air, lifegiving water, wildlife habitat, sacred sites and gathering places.**
- **We call for a stop to the utilization of the cultural and environmental heritage of Indigenous Peoples for profit, without safeguarding the participation of our peoples.**

We make our Declaration of Fort Carlton and the following Recommendations to the Crown at this Gathering of Nations of Treaties 1 – 11 at Fort Carlton, Saskatchewan, Treaty No. 6 Territory, on July 27, 2007.

Recommendations for the Crown:

- **Honor, Respect and implement the true Spirit and Intent of our Treaties as understood by our ancestors and as undertaken by the parties at the time of the negotiation of the Treaties.**

- On the basis of free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous Nations of Treaties No. 1 - 11 design a National Policy for the free, prior and informed consent of our utilization of our natural resources within our territories.
- Reform Canadian laws on protected areas, forest and environment law including the free, prior and informed consent over all projects in relation to the forests including all the related environments.
- Reject the concession of our natural resources by the Governments of Canada and the Provinces to multinational/transnational corporations for their exploitation without the free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous Nations of Treaties No. 1 - 11.
- Based on the Spirit and Intent of our Treaties increase immediately the political and budgetary support to social, health, education, housing, employment, land distribution, utilization of natural resources and other services. Eliminate the privatization of basic services.
- Prioritize policies and actions aimed at eradicating poverty as a way and means of addressing social and political instability and as a meaningful response to the National Day of Action of June 29, 2007.
- That the Government of Canada be urged to change its position that they took June 29, 2006 and support the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

MOVED BY: CHIEF ROSE LABOUCAN, Driftpile First Nation

SECONDED BY: CHIEF CALVIN SANDERSON, Chakastaypasin Band of the Cree Nation of Treaty 6

DISPOSITION: CONSENSUS

FORT CARLTON, SASKATCHEWAN

JULY 27, 2007

**CO-CHAIR: _____
Ron Lameman**