

**From:** Gwen Muskwa <GMuskwa@treaty8.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 16, 2018 5:12 PM  
**To:** Engages-Mobilisation (WD/DEO) <wd.engages-mobilisation.deo@canada.ca>  
**Cc:** Darlene Plamondon <Darlenep@treaty8.org>; Alex Sawchuk <ASawchuk@treaty8.org>  
**Subject:** Treaty 8 Letter

Good Afternoon,

Please find attached letter regarding the position of Treaty 8 First Nations. Thank you so much and we look forward to a response.

Gwen Muskwa  
For Grand Chief Arthur Noskey



# Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

*To Protect, Promote, Bring to Life, Implement, and Sustain the True Spirit and Intent of Treaty No. 8 as long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow.*

c/o Santa Fe Plaza  
18178 – 102 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5S 1S7  
Telephone: (780) 444-9366 Fax: (780) 484-1465  
[www.treaty8.ca](http://www.treaty8.ca)

November 7, 2018

Western Economic Diversification Canada  
C/O: Western Canada  
Growth Strategy Engagement  
Suite 1500, 9700 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta T5J 4H7

To Whom it May Concern:

## **Re: Western Canada Growth Strategy**

The Nations of Treaty 8 in Alberta are part of the economic fabric of Western Canada well before colonization. Our people hunted, fished, and trapped on the landscape for generations. Trapping was our economic vitality; our trade was a central part of our Nations economies and played a significant role in our Nations success historically and continued post colonization. Today, our Nations are economically diverse and Treaty No. 8 people participate in a variety of roles in the economy, just as we always did. Our Nations use our trade to help support our people and ensure they are taken care of and to ensure protection for their children's futures.

The Government of Canada's unilateral development of a Western Canada Growth Strategy ignores the importance of Treaty No. 8 Nations and people in the Western Canadian economy. With only a 3-month engagement on this Growth Strategy and no notification to the Treaty 8 First Nations in Alberta on this policy from the Federal Government, our Nations are offended we were not involved in this process and have been ignored.

Indigenous people in Western Canada represent 55% of the Canadian population of Indigenous people with 59.8% of those people being First Nations people. With Treaty No. 8 being the largest Treaty area in all of Canada, and one of the most heavily impacted by the resource industry in all of Canada, economic development in Western Canada cannot be developed without consideration for the needs and perspectives of Treaty No. 8 people and Nations. Our Nations have strong understandings of the economic approach and values we need to succeed. If the government truly believes in "increasing collaboration with those who make a difference in our economy" such as First Nations, then the government must work collaboratively with First Nations to develop a strategy that is reflective of the approach and perspectives of Treaty No. 8 Nations.

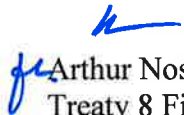
The timeline for the current Western Canada Growth Strategy is unreasonable. The Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta will actively resist this new Growth Strategy without adequate involvement. The Federal Government may not create an economic strategy for Western Canada without Treaty 8 Nations, this is an infringement on our jurisdiction and the rights of our Nations and people.

Our Nations have three requests moving forward:

1. An extension on this Strategy development to ensure adequate involvement from Treaty 8 First Nations;
2. A meeting with Minister Navdeep Bains with our Chiefs to discuss Western Economic Diversification from a Treaty perspective; and
3. Active meetings with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta Chiefs to discuss the path moving forward.

We look forward to a positive response from you and ask that your office please contact me or our Chief Administrative officer Darryel Sowan at the Treaty 8 office in Edmonton 780-444-9366 to discuss your position and to meet the three requests listed.

Sincerely,

 Arthur Noskey, Grand Chief  
Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

cc. Treaty 8 Chiefs (Alberta)  
Minister Navdeep Bains – Minister of Innovation, Science, and Economic Development  
Minister Deron Bilous - Minister of Economic Development and Trade  
Darryel Sowan