



## SUMMIT OF TREATY FIVE SOVEREIGN NATIONS

### DECLARATION ON NATURAL RESOURCES ON TREATY 5 TERRITORY

We, the peoples of the *Summit of Treaty Five Sovereign Nations* make this declaration in unity as Treaty 5 Nations. We pledge to uphold our aspirations and political resolve as expressed in this declaration. We are the Sovereign Nations of the Denesuline, Anishininiew, Ininew and Anishinaabe situated in Treaty 5 territory, though our ancestral lands and nations extend beyond the boundaries of Treaty 5 territories.

For the preservation of the environment and all living beings on the land and water, we declare to obey all the natural laws – Creator’s Laws so seven generations ahead may benefit from the beauty and bounty of our lands for as long as the sun shines, grass grows and rivers flow.

We declare, we have a right to the lands, territories and resources which we have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired as declared in Article 26.1 of the UNDRIP (*United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007*). Furthermore, we have an Inherent and Treaty right to continue with our mode of life to make a living as promised in the Treaties. With certainty, this includes an unfettered right to trade and commerce. We further vow to

protect our territories so our children may continue to hunt, fish and gather the medicines forever on our territories.

We affirm, we made sacred Treaties as Sovereign Nations with the Crown known as Treaty No. 5 and Treaty No. 5 Adhesions between 1875 and 1910 with an understanding, among other things, to share the bounty of our homelands. The Crown at both the federal and the provincial levels have taken a unilateral approach in the interpretation of the Treaties that only serves to benefit them. This violates the articles of our sacred Treaties and our basic human rights to access our own resources to sustain our peoples and our governments.

We, the peoples of the Treaty 5 Nations, declare we can no longer support and idly standby with the ongoing extractions of our natural resources without fair and equitable sharing of wealth as intended in our Treaties. Therefore, we are prepared to stop all proponents entering our lands without proper protocols; that, all levels of government and business proponents seeking to do business on Treaty 5 territories must consult with the First Nations and seek a negotiated business sharing arrangement that also meets our standards on environmental protection. When a *Business and Resource*

*Sharing Agreement* has been negotiated fairly and where a First Nation is willing to work with the proponent, Treaty 5 Nations governments may then give permission to the permits, licenses or any other land disposition for the sharing of the natural resources.

We also recommend that all existing agreements on natural resources be examined or revoked if necessary, to ensure there was a level playing field and equitable sharing of wealth as a precondition in reaching these agreements. Alternatively, that these modern-day Treaties are fully implemented.

To this end, we are determined to uphold the true spirit and intent of our Treaties that recognizes an equitable sharing of the lands and resources, as well, to uphold our responsibility and jurisdiction in the management of our homelands.

As Creator as our witness, we declare that we will uphold this declaration to bring justice to the true meaning of our Treaties, so we can all benefit.

Maamaw Kaakike.

**This declaration adopted by majority vote at the Summit of Treaty Five Sovereign Nations on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**

**Moved by:** Chief David Crate  
Fisher River Cree Nation

**Seconded by:** Chief Clarence Easter  
Chemawawin Cree Nation

**Carried**