



FORT MCKAY

FIRST NATION

Media statement

Fort McKay First Nation congratulates Fort McKay Métis

For immediate release: February 14, 2020

Fort McKay – Chief Mel Grandjamb released the following statement today.

“Yesterday, Alberta’s Indigenous Relations Minister Rick Wilson announced that the Fort McKay Métis Community has become the first in Alberta with a credible assertion of Aboriginal harvesting rights.

“As a result, the Alberta government will require industry to consult with the Fort McKay Métis when natural resource development may adversely affect those harvesting rights and traditional land use practices.

“The Fort McKay Métis are our neighbours and kinship bonds have kept the two communities close for generations. As development progressed in the Athabasca oil sands, the Fort McKay First Nation partnered with the Fort McKay Métis to build its own capacity to benefit from resource development and to represent its members to industry.

“Most responsible developers active in the Athabasca oil sands already consult with the Fort McKay Métis as a matter of sound business practice. However, to have the explicit endorsement of the provincial government that consultation of this community is required is an important milestone for this community, which has also been impacted by heavy industrial development.

“Council and I are pleased to congratulate Minister Rick Wilson and President Ron Quintal on this signal achievement.”

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