



FORT MCKAY

FIRST NATION

News Release

Fort McKay First Nation's Treaty rights recognized by Alberta decision to protect Moose Lake

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Fort McKay First Nation is pleased to learn that the Government of Alberta has approved a Moose Lake Access Management Plan (MLAMP) as an important step towards the protection of Moose Lake and the Nation's constitutionally recognized and affirmed s.35 Treaty rights.

After nearly two decades of seeking to protect its Moose Lake reserves, Fort McKay First Nation thanks the UCP government of Premier Jason Kenney for listening, for participating in difficult discussions, and for being open to learning together.

While the Moose Lake 10-kilometre special management zone (10KMZ) represents just one percent of the entire Athabasca oil sands area, it represents a very real and tangible connection to a sacred landscape and way of life. The requirement to locate central processing facilities (CPFs) outside this zone recognizes the negative impacts these facilities would have on Fort McKay's ability to practice traditional land uses essential to the preservation of Cree and Dene cultures.

"This is a long-awaited moment in the process of honourable Treaty implementation," said Chief Mel Grandjamb. "We are grateful for our Elders and community leaders who were early champions for the protection of Moose Lake and advocates for the full implementation of Treaty rights, and meaningful acts of reconciliation."

With the approval of the MLAMP, the Alberta government has acted on two decades of policy exploration, demonstrating a commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Fort McKay First Nation looks forward to a renewed and respectful Treaty partnership with Alberta to fully realize the promises of Treaty 8.



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Background Information

- In 2015, Fort McKay First Nation asked Alberta to adopt the recommendation of its own government-appointed negotiator to require all CPFs to be located outside the 10KMZ. The industrial hub of SAGD oil sands projects, CPFs produce pollution (air, noise, and water), disrupt wildlife, create 24-hour traffic, pose higher environmental risks, and stay on the landscape for decades.
- In April 2020, the [Alberta Court of Appeal overturned](#) the AER's approval the Prosper project that included a CPF inside the 10KMZ. It said the regulator's future decisions must uphold the honour of the Crown with respect to Treaty implementation and consider cumulative effects and reconciliation.