



File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
Treaty Four Territory
Reserve #77
Box 985
Fort Qu'Appelle SK S0G 1S0

May 15, 2025

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

Re: File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Congratulatory Letter and Invitation for Briefing on Shared Priorities

On behalf of the File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC), I extend to you our warm congratulations on your recent election as Prime Minister of Canada. Your government's renewed mandate, earned at a pivotal juncture in the history of Crown-Indigenous relations, presents an opportunity to advance the unfinished work of Reconciliation—through action, through equity, and through enduring partnership.

The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council is the second-largest Tribal Council in Saskatchewan, representing eleven member First Nations—both Treaty and Non-Treaty (Dakota-Lakota)—with jurisdiction across southern Saskatchewan and beyond. Serving over 18,000 citizens, FHQTC operates a sophisticated administrative apparatus delivering more than two dozen integrated programs across health, education, justice, employment, lands, technical services, and emergency management.

With two Executive Directors overseeing governance and corporate operations, FHQTC administers regional services through institutions like All Nations' Healing Hospital, White Raven Healing Centre, FHQ Developments, and Keseechiwan Holdings, and leads innovative initiatives in virtual education, climate stewardship, and intergovernmental relations at all levels. This robust service delivery model—rooted in the protection of Inherent and Treaty rights—positions FHQTC as both a frontline service provider and a regional governance body advancing Indigenous-led nation-building and policy innovation across southern Saskatchewan.

Our jurisdiction spans significant portions of Treaty 4 territory, and includes First Nations whose traditional lands extend across provincial boundaries and into the United States. As a regional institution, FHQTC is positioned not only as a service delivery agent but as a strategic governance body advancing the sovereignty and long-term development of our Nations.

We acknowledge the efforts of your government to date in addressing longstanding structural inequities. Key areas of federal commitment—such as First Nations child and family wellbeing reform, the expansion of Indigenous policing services, investments in community infrastructure, language revitalization, and the ongoing implementation of *the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*—are meaningful signals of progress. We recognize your government's effort to elevate Indigenous leadership, including the appointment of one Indigenous Minister to Cabinet, alongside two Indigenous Secretaries of State with meaningful mandates.

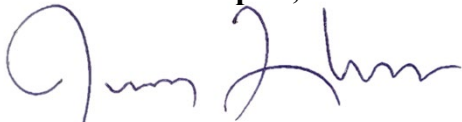
As your Cabinet advances its next mandate, we would respectfully welcome the opportunity to convene a formal briefing session between your office and the leadership of FHQTC. Such a meeting would provide a platform to share key priorities emerging from our region—ranging from education and restorative justice to economic reconciliation, jurisdiction innovation, and Crown–First Nation intergovernmental dialogue. We are confident that a direct engagement would support alignment between our regional aspirations and your federal commitments and ensure a distinctions-based, rights-affirming path forward.

We are, however, deeply concerned by the re-emergence of divisive and inflammatory political rhetoric originating in Alberta, which invokes themes of provincial separatism and threatens the constitutional cohesion of the federation. These narratives not only destabilize national unity but disregard the original and ongoing presence of First Nations as foundational partners to the Crown.

The File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council believes it is time to convene a First Nations–led national dialogue, in collaboration with the Government of Canada, to reclaim and reshape this conversation. Together, we must reaffirm that Indigenous Nations are neither provincial appendages nor passive observers to constitutional change, but full political entities whose inherent rights and international relationships—*both historic and modern*—must be central to any discourse on federalism, jurisdiction, and territorial integrity.

We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate in a manner grounded in mutual recognition and respectful nation-to-nation dialogue. Our office remains available at your convenience to coordinate such a meeting and support your team in preparing for a constructive and solutions-oriented exchange.

With utmost respect,



Jeremy Fourhorns

Tribal Chief

File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council

Cc:

Chief Scott Eashappie, Carry the Kettle First Nation,
Chief Clarence Bellegarde, Little Black Bear’s Band,
Chief Melissa Tavita, Muscowpetung First Nation,
Chief C. Rosa Wahobin, Nekaneet First Nation,
Chief Richard Stonechild, Okanese First Nation,
Chief Fabian Ironeagle, Pasqua First Nation,
Chief Mark Fox, Piapot First Nation,
Chief Frank Dieter, Peepeekisis First Nation,
Chief Rodger Redman, Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation,
Chief Michael Starr, Star Blanket First Nation,
Chief Ellen LeCaine, Wood Mountain Lakota First Nation