



File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council
Treaty Four Territory
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COMMUNIQUÉ

DATE: March 7, 2025

SUBJECT: FHQTC Rejects Premier Moe's 'Pre-Approval' of Pipelines – A Direct Violation of Treaty Rights and Indigenous Sovereignty

STATEMENT FROM THE TRIBAL CHIEF

The File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council (FHQTC), representing the sovereign and Treaty-based rights of our 11 Member Nations—*Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakoda, and Lakota*—rejects Premier Scott Moe's unilateral declaration that all pipeline projects through Saskatchewan will be considered "pre-approved." This reckless assertion disregards the constitutional and Treaty-protected rights of Indigenous Nations and ignores both domestic and international legal obligations.

At a time when Canada faces economic uncertainty, particularly in the wake of global trade disputes and protectionist policies, we should be standing together—building partnerships, not deepening divisions. Saskatchewan's prosperity is rooted in Treaty lands and Indigenous territories, and its future depends on a collaborative approach that includes First Nations as full partners. Instead of imposing unilateral decisions, the province should be working with us to create a robust and mutually beneficial *Indigenous-led economic strategy*.

Premier Moe and other conservative premiers have repeatedly accused the federal government of acting unilaterally and ignoring provincial jurisdiction. Yet, in this instance, Premier Moe is engaging in the exact same behavior—declaring pre-approvals without consultation, without dialogue, and without regard for the constitutional and legal obligations owed to First Nations. Saskatchewan cannot demand respect for its own jurisdiction while dismissing the legal rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous Nations.

We are not opposed to development or economic prosperity. We are opposed to exclusion. First Nations are not anti-development; we are pro-Treaty, which means we support shared wealth and benefits as originally intended in the Treaty relationship. The Treaties were agreements based on mutual prosperity, not permission. Saskatchewan's attempt to override our rights *violates Section 35 of the Constitution* and disregards landmark Supreme Court rulings such as *Haida Nation v. British Columbia* and *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*, which confirm that consultation and accommodation are not optional—they are legal requirements.

Furthermore, in addition to our Treaty rights, the Dakota and Lakota Nations of FHQTC have a powerful *Allyship Relationship* with the Crown, which is distinct from Treaty yet equally binding under international and Canadian law. This unique relationship is formally recognized in Canada's

Statement of Recognition & Apology to the Dakota-Lakota Nations, reaffirming that our Nations hold inherent sovereignty and rights that predate Saskatchewan’s provincial claims. Any attempt to undermine our jurisdiction must contend with both the Treaty relationship and the legal standing of this historic Allyship. If Saskatchewan chooses to ignore these realities, it will face resistance—through the courts, strategic engagement and through sophisticated political advocacy.

Rather than unilateral declarations that divide us, the path forward must be one of partnership. A key solution lies in Indigenous-led trade and economic development, where First Nations play a central role in shaping Saskatchewan’s economic future. The development of Indigenous trade corridors—backed by major investments in Indigenous trade infrastructure—offers an opportunity to create a stronger, more resilient economy for all. By supporting Indigenous-led trade networks, Saskatchewan can unlock new market opportunities, improve transportation and logistics infrastructure, and strengthen economic ties between First Nations and provincial industries.

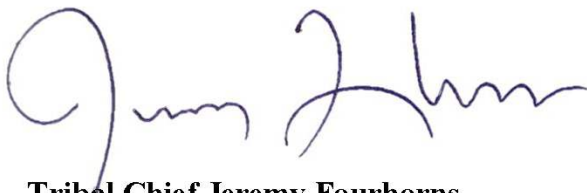
We also take note of recent remarks by federal Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre, who stated: *“I want the First Nations people of Canada to be the richest people in the world.”* His words recognize that First Nations must be at the center of economic development—not as passive participants, but as primary decision-makers and beneficiaries of the wealth generated from our lands, resources, and trade. True economic reconciliation is not about token consultation; it is about ensuring that First Nations are equal partners in shaping the economy.

We remind Premier Moe that Saskatchewan exists within Treaty territory and that its economic success has been built upon our lands. That prosperity cannot continue without the full and meaningful participation of the First Nations whose lands, waters, and futures are at stake. The path forward must be one of collaboration, not unilateralism.

We call on the Government of Saskatchewan to clarify its position on the duty to consult, to engage in nation-to-nation dialogue, and to commit to a shared approach to economic development—one that recognizes and respects Indigenous jurisdiction. We further urge the federal government to uphold its obligations and ensure that Saskatchewan does not undermine the constitutional and international legal standards that Canada has committed to, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council stands united in defending the rights of our member Nations, the integrity of our lands, and the principles of self-determination and sovereignty. We will not tolerate any effort to erode our rights through reckless and legally questionable declarations. If Saskatchewan continues down this path, it will be met with unified resistance—through the courts, through political advocacy, and through the assertion of our inherent rights on the land itself.

We are prepared to defend our rights and our lands—*now and always.*



Tribal Chief Jeremy Fourhorns
File Hills Qu’Appelle Tribal Council