



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Theoren Royal, Corporate Affairs and Communications Manager
Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council | E: TheorenR@Blackfootconfederacy.ca

Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB), Blackfoot Territory - May 15, 2025 – Chief Troy Knowlton condemns Alberta Premier Danielle Smith's rhetoric as reckless and irresponsible, emphasizing that the spread of misinformation and disinformation poses a serious threat to Alberta. He highlights the distinction between mis- and disinformation, underscoring the harmful intent behind false narratives designed to mislead and divide.

The Premier's decision to summon a selectively curated group of Treaty Chiefs to Ottawa is recognized as a divisive maneuver more akin to historical propaganda than to modern executive engagement. Such behaviour seeks to fragment First-Nation solidarity and divert accountability away from the province's unfulfilled Treaty commitments. The Chiefs of the Blackfoot Confederacy will not legitimize a process engineered to marginalize and silence their collective voice.

After strategic review, Chiefs Ouray Crowfoot, Travis Plated Hair, and Troy Knowlton conclude that Premier Smith's invitation to join the Alberta delegation to Ottawa delivers no demonstrable value to Blackfoot people. Accordingly, the Confederacy declines participation and reiterates categorical opposition to Bill 54, legislation that would erode the constitutional framework underpinning Treaty relationships and destabilize investor confidence in Alberta.

Addressing claims that he has been labeled a "Go Along Chief," Knowlton firmly refutes the characterization and reaffirms his leadership of the Piikani Nation. He recalls his statement at the Treaty 6-7-8 Chiefs meeting, where he emphasized that Alberta's push for separation has only strengthened First Nations' unity across Canada. He declares that First Nations will remain steadfast in protecting their rights, making it clear that if Smith has an issue with First-Nation communities, she is the one who should leave.

For absolute clarity: the Blackfoot Confederacy neither recognizes nor will recognize an invented position of "Grand Chief." Decision-making authority resides equally and exclusively with each Blackfoot Chief. In alignment with nation-to-nation protocol, all future provincial correspondence must be directed concurrently to Chief Crowfoot, Chief Plated Hair, and Chief Knowlton.

The Confederacy invites Albertans to engage with reputable scholars and verified sources when examining Treaty history and First-Nations rights. We encourage academic institutions, professional



associations, media outlets, and civil society organizations to elevate authentic First-Nation narratives so that policy discourse is grounded in fact rather than conjecture.

The Chiefs extend profound gratitude to Blackfoot Confederacy members, fellow First Nations, and allied supporters across Canada. Our sustained solidarity, intellectual contributions, and advocacy fortify our collective pursuit enduring treaty compliance.