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Contact: Theoren Royal, Blackfoot Confederacy Communications
E: TheorenR@Blackfootconfederacy.ca

BLACKFOOT CONFEDERACY CHIEFS RESPOND TO MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA CLAIMS REGARDING INDIGENOUS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS IN BLACKFOOT TERRITORY

Mohkinstsis (Calgary, AB), Blackfoot Territory – October 28, 2025 – The Siksikaitsitapi Ohkin'ninaiks (Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs), representing Kainai-Blood Tribe, Piikani, Siksika, and Amskaapi'piikani Nations, reaffirm our October 16 request for Canada and Alberta to discontinue support for Métis Nation of Alberta initiatives related to Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas in Blackfoot Territory Treaty No. 7. In response to the MNA's public statements outlining its acquisition of lands through private sales and its intent to establish a network of Métis led IPCAs, the Blackfoot Confederacy asserts that private land transactions do not negate Blackfoot jurisdiction. Participation in a competitive market process is not equivalent to obtaining consent from the First Peoples of this territory, and private ownership does not override the inherent rights, protocols, and responsibilities the Blackfoot hold by Treaty and through thousands of years of relationship to these lands.

We are deeply moved by the outpouring of support from First Peoples across Canada and internationally. Many Nations face similar concerns as federally and provincially recognized Métis organizations attempt to assert jurisdiction on their territories. We acknowledge and commend Métis citizens and leaders who have spoken publicly against the MNA's actions and in support of the Blackfoot Confederacy. This is what good relations look like: respecting the laws of place, deferring to Blackfoot ancestral authority, and following the protocols that make coexistence possible. Federal and provincial neglect of Treaty relationships has opened space for these encroachments, implementing almost everything except the original spirit and intent of Treaty. Our territories are not abstract spaces but interconnected relationships, storied landscapes, and living modes of life affirmed through Treaty as a political relationship not a historical footnote. It is time to revisit, renew, and reclaim those original Treaty visions.

The Blackfoot Confederacy rejects any claim that consent is unnecessary for initiatives in Blackfoot Territory. The MNA has demanded consultation on First Peoples projects while advancing its own activities without equivalent engagement, creating confusion and undermining First Peoples jurisdiction. Public naming contests for sites within Blackfoot Territory disregard Blackfoot names,



stories, and responsibilities that have governed these lands for generations. Framing IPCAs as Métis stewardship while bypassing Blackfoot ancestral authority reproduces the very structures conservation is meant to resist. Legally, these actions contradict the historical record of Métis encroachment, violate the Crown’s Treaty obligations, and run contrary to R. v. Hirsekorn 2011. Without Treaty, neither Alberta nor Canada would exist. Treaty remains the legal foundation for settlement in this territory.

As of today, October 28, the Métis Nation of Alberta has not contacted the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs, Blackfoot Nations, or the Blackfoot Confederacy Tribal Council regarding its activities in Blackfoot Territory. This absence of engagement, coupled with public statements aimed at managing criticism rather than addressing jurisdictional concerns, has heightened tensions. Following the Blackfoot Confederacy Chiefs’ response, the MNA has doubled down on its position. If the MNA were genuinely committed to addressing harms, it would have engaged with Chiefs, Nations, or the Tribal Council before publicly advancing these initiatives. The Blackfoot Confederacy affirms that implied or asserted harvesting rights, Aboriginal title, or jurisdiction within Blackfoot Treaty territory will not be recognized, and we will continue to uphold our sovereignty, laws, and responsibilities to Blackfoot lands and peoples.

We remain committed to principled diplomacy, good relations, and respectful coexistence. Living and learning here requires upholding responsibilities to the First Peoples, the first law keepers, and implementing Treaty in practice, not symbolism. Any initiative in Blackfoot Territory must begin with Blackfoot protocol and consent. Anything less sidelines Treaty, erodes sovereignty, and undermines reconciliation. Our sovereignty is not negotiable.

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**NIOKSSKAISTAMIK
Chief Ouray Crowfoot,
Siksika Nation**

**AAKAAYAAMIHSTINIMA
Chief Travis Plaited Hair,
Kainai-Blood Tribe**

**KIYAYOTOOKANN
Chief Troy Knowlton,
Piikani Nation**

**Chairman Rodney Gervais,
Ampaskaapi’piikani -
Blackfeet Nation**