



**Treaty No. 6**  
c/o Suite 204  
10310-176 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5S 1L3



**Treaty No. 7**  
Suite 400  
9911 Chula Boulevard  
Tsuu T'ina Nation, Alberta  
T2W 6H6



**Treaty No. 8**  
Sante Fe Plaza  
18178-102 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5S 1S7

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May 12, 2009

Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

VIA FACSIMILE: (613) 941-6900

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

**Re: Canada's Proposed First Nation Drinking Water Legislation**

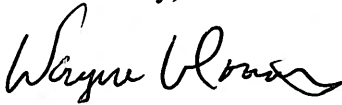
We are concerned that Canada intends to proceed with this proposed legislation over the legitimate objections and concerns of Alberta First Nations. The Impact Analysis submitted to the Minister of Indian Affairs on April 6, 2009 by Alberta First Nations raised a range of serious issues with Canada's proposed legislation that can be summarized in four main points:

1. Canada has failed to satisfy its constitutional duty to consult with and accommodate Alberta First Nations regarding the proposed new legislation.
2. The proposed new legislation will infringe our Treaty rights and our inherent right to have a central role in the governance of water in our communities and on our reserve lands.
3. Many First Nations do not have the financial resources to ensure that their drinking water infrastructure can meet new regulatory standards. Canada must take real steps to ensure that we have the capacity to provide safe drinking water before passing new legislation.
4. Canada has clearly stated that the new legislation will incorporate provincial drinking water laws by reference. Canada decided on this course of action without any assessment of the effectiveness of the provincial drinking water regulatory system. Recent reports from Alberta Environment identified serious problems with the provincial system. Subjecting First Nations to a flawed regulatory system will not ensure the safety our drinking water.

Pursuant to Canada's duty to consult, we expect a written response from Canada to the concerns of Alberta First Nations in the Impact Analysis and the points set out above.

There is still sufficient time for Canada to enter into meaningful consultation with Alberta First Nations on this important matter. However, Alberta First Nations will take all necessary steps to oppose the legislation if Canada proceeds.

Yours truly,



Chief Wayne Moonias  
Grand Chief of Treaty No. 6



Chief Charles Weaselhead  
Grand Chief of Treaty No. 7



Chief Rose Laboucan  
Deputy Grand Chief of  
Treaty No. 8

cc: Chief Eddy Makokis  
Steering Committee Chair - Assembly of Treaty Chiefs (Alberta)  
Chief Wilton Littlechild, AFN Regional Chief (Alberta)  
Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian Affairs  
Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Environment  
Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health  
Clerk of the Privy Council  
Mr. Michael Ignatieff, Leader of the Official Opposition