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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Raises Serious Concerns Over Treaty 8 Corporation, Indigenous Advisory Council and Lack of Consent

Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation (SLCN) is issuing this public notice regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was scheduled for signature on September 17, 2025, and the recent appointment of Trevor Mercredi to the federal Indigenous Advisory Council (IAC), both undertaken without prior notice to, or by the consent of, SLCN. This unilateral conduct is unacceptable and forces us to reconsider our continued participation in the Treaty 8 Corporation.

Canada's passage of Bill C-5, the Building Canada Act, S.C. 2025, c. 2, s. 4 created the IAC and empowered it to shape major projects through so-called "equity ownership opportunities." Let us be clear: equity ownership is not resource revenue sharing. Equity ownership is a loan-based buy-in designed to make First Nations junior partners in corporate projects. Resource revenue sharing, however, is recognition of First Nations as governments with rightful jurisdiction over lands and resources. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation is a government, not a corporate partner and our understanding of Treaty with the Crown requires this at minimum.

The principles of Treaty, Consultation, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) cannot be set aside for provincial or federal convenience. The MOU now being advanced by Treaty 8 Corporation enables governments to bypass rights holders and consolidate discussions through a corporate body. This is the same flawed approach that many Nations, including SLCN, opposed at the recent Assembly of First Nations (AFN) General Assembly earlier this month.

Even Mr. Mercredi himself publicly stated that AFN cannot assume authority over Treaty Nations, yet this MOU attempts exactly that — centralizing decision-making in a body unaccountable to our members.

Our governance is clear. Chiefs and Councils receive their mandate from community members and are accountable to them. We determine priorities and engage governments directly where appropriate. No corporation, MOU, or advisory council has the right to speak for our Nation outside of this process.

SLCN further questions the conflict of interest posed by Mr. Mercredi simultaneously holding an IAC appointment reporting to the Major Projects Office while seeking to centralize political negotiations with Alberta through a corporate structure he leads. This undermines Treaty protections and violates the trust of rights-holding Nations.

We will not stand by and allow our rights to be eroded by corporate mechanisms, advisory councils, or unilateral decision-making. Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation leadership will continue to stand firm to protect our people, our way of life from any and all threats, challenges, or attempts to undermine our inherent rights and responsibilities.

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