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March 10, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON. K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Carney:

Cease & Desist Appeasement of Alberta's Separatist Premier

The Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation asserts that your recent actions with respect to the release of a draft Co-operation Agreement ("**Co-operation Agreement** or "**Agreement**") between your Government and the Government of Alberta is a violation of Treaty No. 8. Further, your actions appear to be a continuation of your Government's appeasement of Alberta's Premier Danielle Smith and the separatist agenda in Alberta.

We demand that you cease and desist all actions that violate Treaty No.8, with respect to both the Co-operation Agreement and the appeasement of Alberta's Premier Danielle Smith and the separatist agenda in Alberta.

As you know, we are leading litigation to challenge the illegal, immoral and dangerous separatist actions of this provincial government. While Premier Danielle Smith claims that she does not support separation, she continues to take actions to accommodate them. The separatist actions have emboldened vitriolic anti-Indigenous and anti-immigrant racism.

The Co-operation Agreement came to our attention through media reports. Prime Minister, this does not respect our Nation-to-Nation relationship. In fact, it completely disrespects and ignores it. Considering that we are preparing to be heard beginning on April 7, 2026, in our court action to halt the separatist referendum, the timing of the so-called "consultation" process on the Co-operation Agreement (21 days) is tone-deaf. We also note that the promises you made of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and First Nation consultation, including in section 5(7) of the *One Canadian Economy Act*, are

withdrawn by the Co-operation Agreement. This is because the Agreement on its face goes beyond even major projects to include all projects.

We are extremely disappointed to have, yet again, received what is a clear “gut punch” instead of genuine engagement from your Government. Additionally, the very intention and content of the Co-operation Agreement is a violation of our Treaty and Aboriginal rights that are protected by Section 35 of Canada’s Constitution.

The Co-operation Agreement proposes to rely on provincial environmental assessments in areas of federal jurisdiction on all major projects. This is a dangerous mistake. It is also egregiously illegal in several respects, and we will be forced to legally challenge this Agreement if it is finalized, as it is obviously going to be with a formalistic and meaningless consultation process, which we are also seeing in other provinces.

It is our position that all major projects will impact on areas of federal jurisdiction. Section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and Treaty No. 8 together require federal involvement in an assessment for every project that impacts our Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Canada’s proposal to defer to Alberta’s basically non-existent environmental impact assessment and rubber stamp regulatory review processes will have disastrous implications, and will be antithetical to the regulatory certainty your Government seeks because:

1. Alberta’s entire consultation regime is currently being challenged as unconstitutional in the Alberta Court of King’s Bench, so far successfully;
2. Alberta rammed through irresponsible water legislation (Bill 7) that will be challenged as unconstitutional;
3. Alberta has refused to renew the section 11 Caribou Agreement with Canada and created a greenlight for industry and coal development in our territory, through a deeply flawed subregional plan. In the process, caribou have been extirpated from this area and under Canada’s watch;
4. Alberta’s regulatory process does not consider our human health or the cumulative impacts on Treaty and Aboriginal rights, despite their allegations to the contrary;
5. Alberta is unable to responsibly regulate its existing pipelines and projects. This is clearly evidenced by an ongoing pipeline spill in our territory. On this, we continually struggle to obtain basic information on the spill from the provincial energy regulator. There have also been catastrophic, unmitigated spills in the Smoky River (from coal mining) and in the Athabasca River (from the oil sands);
6. Alberta is moving ahead with massive data centres (with no consultation and no regulatory process) that are American controlled or owned. These will require

billions of litres of water and significant gas-powered electricity with emissions comparable to coal powered electricity;

7. Alberta has cancelled regulatory hearings due to pressure from, and at the request, of industry; and
8. If the rationale and legal justification for Bill C-5 is the American threat, then this will fall apart when these American or foreign owned projects are challenged in Court.

In other words, Canada relies on Alberta's defunct regulatory processes at its peril. Please rescind this Agreement in its entirety and follow your promises of Indigenous consultation from the First Nations Summit in 2025.

Prime Minister, this is not the first time we've written to you on the matter of Alberta's separatist efforts. We expect respect for this demand and a response to all of our correspondence to date no later than March 19, 2026.



Chief Sheldon Sunshine
Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation