



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release August 12, 2026

Bigstone Cree Nation has filed a Statement of Claim in respect of Canada's failure to honor the promises of Life and Livelihood made within Treaty 8. Specifically, the Annuities within Treaty 8 promised to the ancestors of Bigstone Cree Nation's present Membership have been eroded and diminished into token payments.

When Queen Victoria's Treaty Commissioners came to speak with our ancestors, they said that the Treaty would be a Treaty of mutual assistance of friendship, and that "life after the Treaty would continue as before." We all know that was not the case. Over time the Annuity promises and other promises made to support the livelihood and welfare of our People simply did not compare to the enormous value of the lands and resources that our Nation, and other Treaty Nations shared in the making of Treaty 8.

We are aware of other Nations who have reached a settlement with Canada with respect of Annuities Claims. However, when we spoke with our own Membership and presented Canada's methods and offer at presentations held in Bigstone Cree Nation's communities, the overwhelming feedback from the hundreds of attending Members was that ratification of a settlement based on Canada's compensation model and was unacceptable and unlikely.

You will hear from us again in the coming weeks regarding this litigation, including information that can be properly shared with Members. We will keep you updated on our efforts to advance our Treaty Rights on behalf of all Bigstone Cree Nation Members as well as our friends and allies throughout Treaty 8 Territory.

Chief Silas Yellowknee

BIGSTONE Cree NATION