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Newsletter

March 2026 Edition

CHIEFS UNITE!

**HISTORIC SHOW OF UNITY: TREATY CHIEFS PASS UNANIMOUS
NON-CONFIDENCE IN UCP GOVERNMENT**

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CLFNS Joins Treaty Chiefs in Historic Call for Accountability

Assembly of Treaty Chiefs passes unanimous non-confidence resolution citing concerns over Treaty rights and governance.



~ Chief Kelsey Jacko addresses the media and public at the Edmonton Legislature on March 9, following a non-confidence vote by the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs.

Cold Lake First Nations (CLFNS) stood alongside leaders from across Treaties 6, 7 and 8 as the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs took the historic step of declaring a vote of non-confidence in the Government of Alberta and the United Conservative Party (UCP).

The resolution was passed during the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs Winter Sitting held February 2026, on Treaty No. 6 Territory. Chiefs from across the three Treaty territories gathered to address growing concerns about the province's relationship with First Nations and its obligations under Treaty and the Constitution.

The resolution states that the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs has lost trust and confidence in the Government of Alberta due to what leaders describe as a continued failure to understand, respect, and uphold Treaty-based constitutional responsibilities. The vote was unanimous and represents a rare and historic step by First Nations leadership.

The resolution also reaffirmed that Treaty Nations maintain a nation-to-nation relationship with the Crown, and that the Treaties form part of the constitutional foundation of Canada and the provinces.

On March 9th, several Chiefs travelled to the Alberta Legislature in Edmonton to continue pressing the provincial government to address these concerns.

Chief Kelsey Jacko of CLFNS was among those leaders speaking directly about the need for accountability and meaningful dialogue.

"Today, is apparently Commonwealth Day and my brothers are in England holding the King to account on Treaty. While we are here to hold the Premier to account. No matter

CLFNS Joins Treaty Chiefs in Historic Call for Accountability (cont)

what we say, she doesn't seem to hear us," said Chief Kelsey Jacko during a press conference outside the Legislature on March 9.

Chief Jacko spoke about the ongoing challenges First Nations leaders face in trying to work with the provincial government.

"We have been trying to work with her [Premier Danielle Smith] and her MLA's for years now. She keeps saying we have a great relationship, but how do you have a great relationship with someone who doesn't listen?" said Chief Jacko.

He also raised concerns about provincial regulatory systems and decisions affecting major resource projects on Treaty lands.

"The AER and the ACO are broken. When the Nations called for a complete overhaul last year by a resolution, we were completely ignored," said Chief Jacko.

Chief Jacko pointed to recent provincial decisions involving major development projects that First Nations say moved forward without meaningful collaboration.



~ Representatives from Samson Cree Nation hold their flag on the steps of the Edmonton Legislature, March 9.

"Instead the Premier signed not one, but two MOU's with Canada about major projects that we are supposed to be partners on. We have asked to use the federal impact assessment process for the pathways project and the government went behind our backs and negotiated that a provincial process will be used," he said.

Chief Jacko emphasized that First Nations are not opposed to development, but that projects must consider the long-term health of the land.

"We aren't against development, but we want the cumulative impacts to be considered. The land can only take so much.

I think most Albertans would stand with the Nations when we say industry is important but we have to build it smart," said Chief Jacko.

During the press conference, he also called on Albertans to better understand the Treaty relationship that underpins the province.

"I call on all Albertans to learn about Treaty, because you are Treaty people too. Come stand with us. We demand better," said Chief Jacko.

The Assembly of Treaty Chiefs' resolution also raised broader concerns about provincial legislation, natural resource decisions, and growing

CLFNS Joins Treaty Chiefs in Historic Call for Accountability (cont)

separatist rhetoric that leaders say could destabilize the Crown-Treaty relationship. Chiefs say discussions about Alberta separation have heightened tensions because Treaties are constitutionally protected agreements that predate the creation of the province.

Following the Chiefs' resolution, the provincial opposition (NDP) attempted to introduce a motion of non-confidence in the Alberta Legislature.

Government House Leader, Joseph Schow, rejected the request during debate in the Assembly.

Schow said discussions about Alberta's future must remain within the framework of the Canadian Constitution.

"As we've said before, the Constitution is the highest law in the land, and section 35 of the Constitution recognizes and affirms existing Aboriginal and treaty rights, providing constitutional protection for these rights. These protections guide and bind all levels of government in Canada, and they remain firmly in place," said Schow.



~ Chief Sheldon Sunshine of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation at the Edmonton Legislature, March 9.

Schow also dismissed the proposed motion as political manoeuvring.

"Mr. Speaker, it is clear that this is, as I had said, a political stunt led by the NDP attempting to distract Albertans from their own horrible record," said Schow.

Other First Nations leaders strongly rejected that characterization.

"When they minimize First Nations and call this non-confidence vote by the Alberta Chiefs 'a stunt' I take that personally," said Chief Sheldon Sunshine of Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.

Tensions in the Legislature rose

during the debate when Chiefs from the Assembly of Treaty Chiefs and representatives from Treaty Nations seated in the public gallery spoke out.

"This is the people's House," the Speaker said following a disturbance.

"We are the people! We are the first people," the members of the gallery responded.

For Cold Lake First Nations and other Treaty Nations, the message from Chiefs remains clear: the Treaty relationship must be respected, and meaningful dialogue must happen if trust is to be rebuilt.

Understanding the “Cows and Ploughs” Claims Process

Understanding the process behind agricultural benefits claims under Treaty 6 and how settlements are negotiated with Canada.

Many members of our community have heard the phrase “Cows and Ploughs,” but may still have questions about what it means and how the claims process works.

“Cows and Ploughs” is an informal term used to describe agricultural benefits promised to First Nations under the Numbered Treaties.

These agreements included commitments to provide livestock, farming equipment, and seed to support First Nations who wished to pursue agriculture.

Cold Lake First Nations is a signatory to Treaty 6, which included provisions promising items such as ploughs, harrows, oxen, cows, and seed for crops. These agricultural supports were intended to help First Nations families sustain themselves during a period of significant change on the Prairies.

Today, the Canadian government refers to these treaty commitments as agricultural benefits. When First Nations believe those promises were not fully honoured, they may bring forward what are known as agricultural benefits specific claims.



~ Prairie farmland in the 1890s, showing the type of agriculture First Nations were promised under Treaty 6. (CP/National Archives of Canada) Brock

Cold Lake First Nations and the Claims Process

Cold Lake First Nations is currently moving forward with negotiations in our Agricultural Benefits Specific Claim, a long-standing issue rooted in the promises made under Treaty 6.

Chief and Council have been working diligently to secure a fair settlement from the Government of Canada, ensuring that the rights and interests of our Nation are respected.

Cold Lake First Nations is participating in an accelerated negotiation process designed to

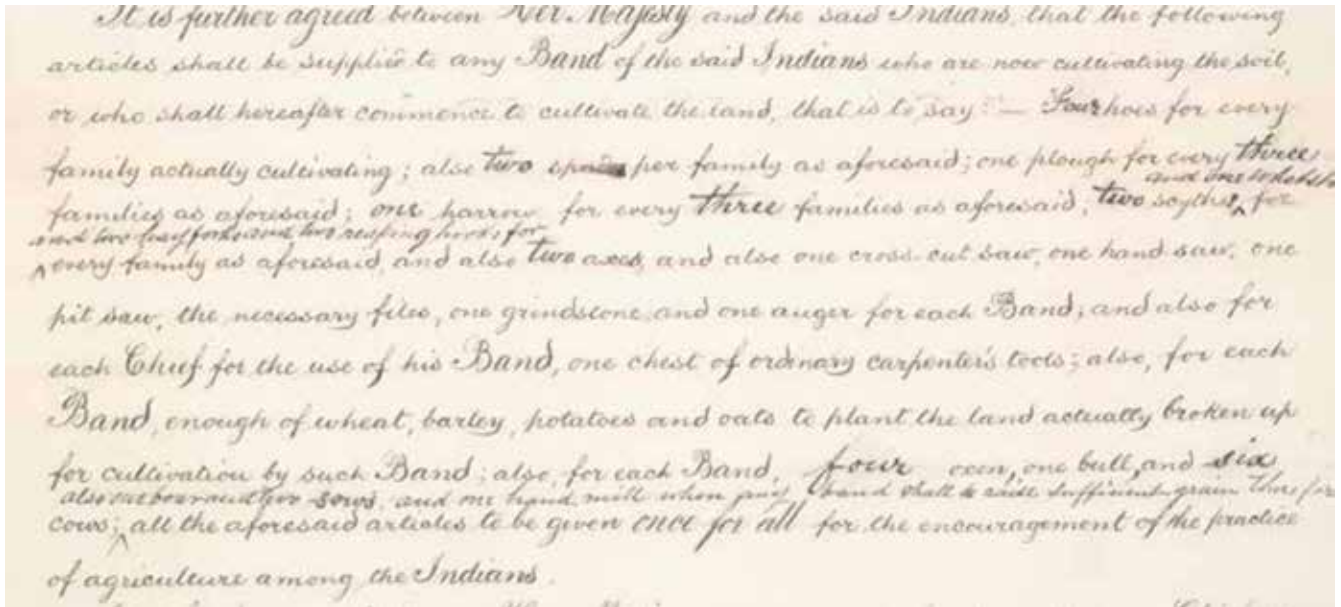
resolve agricultural benefits claims more efficiently. This process allows negotiations to move forward more quickly by bypassing some of the steps that can sometimes reduce compensation amounts in traditional claims processes.

What Happens When an Offer Is Made

If negotiations result in a proposed settlement amount, the federal government presents a formal offer to the First Nation.

Chief and Council then review the proposal alongside legal and financial advisors. However, leadership alone does not make

Understanding the “Cows and Ploughs” Claims Process (cont)



~ The section of the Treaty that details the disputed agricultural benefits.

the final decision.

Before an agreement can be finalized, the settlement must be presented to the membership.

Community Ratification

Most settlements require a ratification vote, which allows members of the First Nation to decide whether to accept the proposed agreement.

Members receive advance notice of the vote along with detailed information about the settlement, including the proposed compensation amount and the terms of the agreement. Community information sessions are often held so members can

ask questions and learn more about the proposal.

Members then vote on whether to accept the settlement. If the majority votes in favour, the agreement is finalized and signed by both the First Nation and the Government of Canada.

What Happens After a Settlement

Once a settlement is finalized, the compensation is transferred to the First Nation.

Each Nation determines how those funds will be managed and used. In many cases, settlement funds are placed into long-term trust funds so that they can generate

investment income and support future generations.

Across the country, First Nations have used settlement funds to support priorities such as housing, education, infrastructure, economic development, and community programs.

Some Nations have also chosen to provide per-capita payments, meaning a portion of the settlement is distributed directly to individual members while the remaining funds are invested or used for long-term community initiatives. Each Nation determines its own approach based on the needs and priorities of its members.

Building Financial Confidence in Our Community

How learning personal finance skills can help members manage money, plan ahead, and make informed financial decisions.

On February 26, 2026, Cold Lake First Nations hosted a community engagement session focused on personal financial management and building financial confidence. The event, organized by the CLFN Education Department, invited community members to learn practical financial skills that can support both short-term needs and long-term goals.



~ ATB representatives at Cold Lake First Nations during a financial literacy session on Feb. 26.


Participants had the opportunity to engage with ATB Bank representatives, who shared information on important topics including opening a bank account, basic investing, money management strategies, and personal financial planning and preparedness. These sessions offered guidance on how to take concrete steps toward financial independence, such as tracking spending, setting aside savings for emergencies, and understanding how to use credit responsibly.

Financial literacy is more than just understanding money—it's about











building habits and confidence to make informed financial choices. Being financially literate allows community members to make better decisions about everyday expenses, save for future goals, and avoid unnecessary debt. Practicing financial literacy can be as simple as keeping track of income and spending, reviewing bills regularly, setting achievable savings targets, or learning more about investments and credit. Over time, these habits help strengthen financial stability and prepare individuals for both expected and unexpected challenges.

Cold Lake First Nations encourages all community members to keep an eye out for future workshops and engagement sessions. Attending these events is a great way to build skills, ask questions, and connect with experts who can help support your financial well-being. Learning about personal finance today helps strengthen our community's resilience and prepares us all for a more secure future.

Social Development Calendar

2 No Intake	3 No Intake	4 No Intake	5 Intake Cold Lake Job Fair 11-6 *Client Volunteer At Food Bank(E-Bay) Caseload Review	6 No Intake *Client Volunteer At Food Bank (Admin Building)	7	8
9 Intake	10 Intake	11 Intake E-Bay (9-12)	12 Intake *Client Volunteer At Food Bank(E-Bay)	13 No Intake *Client Volunteer At Food Bank (Admin Building)	14	15
16 No Intake Barriers monthly sign up	17 Intake St. Patrick's Day 	18 Intake	19 Intake Service Canada & CRA 10:30-2:30 Admin Building *Client Volunteer At Food Bank(E-Bay)	20 No Intake Staff PD Day *Client Volunteer At Food Bank (Admin Building)	21	22
23 Intake	24 Intake	25 Intake E-Bay (9-12)	26 Intake *Client Volunteer At Food Bank(E-Bay) Cheque Day	27 No Intake *Client Volunteer At Food Bank (Admin Building)	28	29
30	31					

Youth Centre Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 SEWING 1-4pm	2 Gym Night	3  Drop in	4  Cake Decorating Competition	5  Rainbow Cloud Night Light Making	6 Movie Night 5-7pm	7 Tubing at Papa Johns 4pm-8pm
8 SWIMMING 4-5:30pm	9 Ice Cream Making	10  Sports Night (Golf)	11  Clay Sculpting Night	12 Youth Pool Tournament	13 Leprechaun Trap Making	14 Bonnyville Memorial Round Dance
15 SEWING 1-4pm	16 Kooking With Kookum	17  St Patricks day	18  Board Games Night	19 Making Bird Feeders	20 Food Fundraiser	21 Youth Volleyball Tournament
22 Swimming 4-5:30pm	23 Slime Night	24  Nintendo Tournament	25  Paint Night	26 Beading Night	27 Karaoke Night	28 Ribbon Skirt Making
29 Sewing 1-4pm	30 Bird House Painting	31  Glow in the dark Nerf Gun War				

English Bay Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
7 Moccasin with Jasmin 1-4 PM FF 1	8 Moccasin with Jasmin 9-4 PM FF 2	9 Dene Wellness 9-12 PM Psychologist 9-12 PM Librarian 11-1 PM Soup & Banquet 12 PM Dereuline Language Class 4-6 PM Bus to Youth Center 4:30-7 PM	10 Food Party 10-1 PM	11 Breakfast 10 AM Community Night 4:30-6 PM Cooking Class Indian Tacos		6
15 Moccasin with Jasmin 1-4 PM FF 3	16 Moccasin with Jasmin 9-4 PM FF 4 Set Net	17 Set & Full Net Dene Wellness 9-12 PM Psychologist 9-12 PM Librarian 11-1 PM Soup & Banquet 12 PM Dereuline Language Class 4-6 PM Bus to Youth Center 4:30-7 PM	18 Food Party 10-1 PM	19 Breakfast 10 AM Community Night 4:30-6 PM Mini Tips		13
22	17	18 Dene Wellness 9-12 PM Psychologist 9-12 PM Librarian 11-1 PM Soup & Banquet 12 PM Dereuline Language Class 4-6 PM Bus to Youth Center 4:30-7 PM	19 Food Party 10-1 PM	20 Breakfast 10 AM		20
29	24 Set Net	25 Set & Full Net Dene Wellness 9-12 PM Psychologist 9-12 PM Librarian 11-1 PM Soup & Banquet 12 PM Dereuline Language Class 4-6 PM Bus to Youth Center 4:30-7 PM	26 Set & Full Net Food Party 10-1 PM	27 Full Net Breakfast 10 AM Community Night 4:30-6 PM Smoked Fish Dinner		27
30 Cooking Class with Jen	31 Cooking Class with Jen					

Mindful Minute

How Bird Watching Supports Mental Health

Photos: Feathered friends recently seen on the Nation



Bird watching can be an act of self care, which is an essential element of health and wellness.

Bird watching:

- ✓ Slows the mind and body
- ✓ Allows the mind to rest
- ✓ Turns off stressors
- ✓ Allows a moment of peace
- ✓ Reduces anxiety and depression
- ✓ Helps build resilience
- ✓ Calms the nervous system
- ✓ Strengthens our overall well-being
- ✓ allows time to reconnect with the land and the sky



Sometimes healing is as simple as looking up.

COLD LAKE FIRST NATIONS
**COMMUNITY
INFORMATION SESSIONS**

MARCH 23- CLFNS ADMIN BUILDING
BACK COUNCIL CHAMBERS

12PM - 4PM

MARCH 24- DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON
16615 109 AVE NW, EDMONTON

3PM - 6PM

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

✓ UPDATE ON COWS AND PLOWS

DINNER PROVIDED

THESE MEETINGS WILL NOT BE LIVE-STREAMED
IN PERSON ATTENDANCE IS ENCOURAGED

Regain Our Language for Our Children:
NO BOUNDARIES, NO BORDERS

DENESUŁINÉ LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE

March 18-20, 2026

Hosted by the Cold Lake First Nations
Denesułiné Language and Culture Department



Cold Lake
Agricultural Society
4608 38 Ave
Cold Lake, AB
T9M 1K6

For more
information contact:

Judy Nest 780-207-5044, judy.nest@clfns.com
Lance Byhette 780-573-0786, lance.byhette@clfns.com

Limited seating
-register early!



Indigenous Youth! Your Voice Matters



Share your vision for a potential Youth Conference

Take the survey today!





We want to Hear from YOU!

Cold Lake First Nations is planning a new Museum, Archives, & Cultural Centre.

Scan the QR Code

Survey takes between 5 to 10 mins



DIABETES SOCIAL

“Diabetes warriors don’t give up—they level up”

March 26, 2026

Time: 12-1pm

CLFN Health Centre- GYM

Contact: Brittany Daine

780-594-2473

Ext.2217

New School Phone Number

1 587 334-3169

 CLFN HEALTH CENTRE



Prenatal CLASS

"Your journey to motherhood starts here."

With Community LPN

Kristina Hausauer

Place & Time

- CLFN Health Centre-
GYM
- 130-330pm

Dates:

**March
3,10,17,24 & 31**



**JOURNEY TO
Education**
Engagement Session

GRADUATION CELEBRATION UPDATE!

Open to Grades 10-12

CLFNS Cold Lake High School Students Only

March 19 • 5-7PM

Dinner Provided!

**Admin Building -
Back Chambers**

*Parents & Students
Encouraged to Attend!*

Hosted by the Education Department

**YOUTH
VOLLEYBALL
TOURNAMENT!**

MARCH 21, 2026
6:00PM - 8:30PM

**\$10
A PLAYER**

ENERGY CENTRE FIELDHOUSE

TEAMS MADE DAY OF!

MUST HAVE INDOOR SHOES!

Ages 15-19

Elders Advisory Meeting

Tuesday - March 24, 2026

Light Lunch Included
12:00PM



TOPIC: WHAT IS THE
DENE WAY?



12:30 PM
- 3:30 PM



Band Office -
Back Chambers

CONTACT
ALBERTINE MINOOSE
FOR MORE INFO
587-201-1844



Working together to bring Government services to **you.**

Date: March 19th, 2026

Time: 10:30am-2:30pm

Location: Band Office- Council Chambers Room

ID requirements are based on the service offering requested. Please bring a piece of Government issued photo ID.

If you need a SIN, please bring: your birth certificate, certificate of Indian Status and any other forms of federal or provincial identification you may have.

If you are unable to meet with us during this visit, you can request information and assistance through the Outreach Support Centre from 8:30-4:00, Mon-Fri: 1-877-631-2657.

Service Canada

- Get a Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Receive a PAC access code to sign up for My Service Canada
- Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)
- Employment Insurance (EI)
- Pension information for Canada Pension Plan (CPP) and Old Age Security (OAS)
- Passport Information
- General Government of Canada information

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)

- Tax Slip information (T4, T5007, T4A-Pension, T4A-OAS and more)
- Notice of Assessments (NOAs) and Assistance with CRA correspondence
- Benefits and Credits information: Disability Tax Credit (DTC), Canada Child Benefit (CCB), GST/HST credit, Canada Worker's Benefit (CWB)
- Account updates (address, contact number, direct deposit, etc.)

Presented by: Service Canada and the Canada Revenue Agency with the support and assistance of XXXXXXXX

Emergency Contact List

POLICE EMERGENCY CALL 911

HEALTH LINK DIAL 811

**Cold Lake R.C.M.P.
24 Hours 780-594-3301
Office Hours 780-594-3302**

**Victims Services
Dave Zimmerman 780-594-3302 ext.3**

**Emergency Medical Services
911**

**Cold Lake Healthcare Centre
780-639-3322**

**Bonnyville Health Centre
780-826-3311**

**CLFN Emergency Management
780-594-7184**

**CLFN Health Centre
780-594-2473**

**Dene Wellness
780-594-1471**

**FCSS
780-594-7186**

**Youth Center
780-594-7111**

**John N.A. Janvier School
780-594-3733**

**Social Development
780-594-6723**

**Public Works
780-594-1073**

**Dangerous Goods
24 Hours 1-800-272-9600**

**Poison Centre 24 Hours
1-800-332-1414**

**CANADA SUICIDE PREVENTION
988**

**Power Outages Atco Electric
1-800-668-5506**

**Gas Emergencies Northeast Gas
780-826-4002**

**Alberta One-Call
1-800-242-3447**

**Petro Canada Station
780-594-1661**