

Chief Mel Grandjamb - Summit Press Conference Remarks

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Good morning. My name is Mel Grandjamb and I am the Chief of the Fort McKay First Nation. **I am honoured to stand here today at the Moose Lake Together Summit.**

We had a productive morning talking with the Government of Alberta, area leaseholders, other partners in the resource sector, and Treaty 8 Chiefs about the Moose Lake Plan. After the announcement, I will take questions.

After 20 years of negotiations, in which previous governments with good intentions have fallen short, Fort McKay First Nation is set to cross the finish line on Moose Lake with the new Alberta UCP government.

- We are putting in place a three-month roadmap to finalize the Moose Lake Plan with Alberta.
- Over the next 90 days, Alberta and Fort McKay will have monthly meetings and weekly working sessions between Alberta and Fort McKay to ensure we work closely together to get the job done.

There's more work still to do but today we have achieved a major milestone together at this historic summit. We have been on a long journey to get a decision on Moose Lake and now we can see the finish line. I am confident that together, we will cross it.

Today's announcement means more than I can say to Fort McKay, to our elders, our children, and to me personally.

On behalf of my Councillors and all community members, I want to applaud Minister Nixon, Minister Wilson, and Premier Kenney.

This is a demonstration of their commitment to respect Treaty rights even as they support responsible growth in the Athabasca oil sands.

This commitment made today shows that responsible resource development can be a tool for reconciliation.

Once the plan is approved, it means that managed oil sands and forestry resource development will be allowed in the Moose Lake area.

Development will be allowed with appropriate conditions that reduce development impacts so that we can maintain the ecological and cultural integrity of Moose Lake.

This is traditional land that is sacred to Fort McKay; it is where our ancestors have lived for millennia. And today it is the last significant wilderness in our traditional territory.

My community is proud to be a longstanding contributor to Alberta's economy. The Moose Lake plan will provide the clarity and certainty that we all need to grow the economy and respect Treaty rights.

We are proud to be a champion for responsible resource development as we protect a culture and heritage that has thrived in this region for thousands of years.

My team and I look forward to working with Minister Nixon over the next three months to finalize the Moose Lake Plan. Given the public interest and attention on these developments, I will also be providing a monthly roadmap progress update to Albertans.

Our community members can rest assured that Moose Lake will be protected. We will be able to pass down our traditions and way of life for generations to come.

Thank you.

I will now take a few questions.