



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACFN Calls on Alberta Government to Respect the Courts, Treaty Rights, and the Rule of Law

(Fort Chipewyan, Alberta – May 21, 2026) - Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation (ACFN) is calling on the Government of Alberta to immediately halt any move toward a referendum on Alberta separation and to respect the rule of law, the Constitution, and Treaty relationships.

On May 1, 2026, ACFN submitted a detailed submission to Premier Danielle Smith and Cabinet outlining the profound impacts an Alberta separation referendum would have on Treaty rights, Indigenous mobility, and the Treaty relationship itself.

To date, Alberta has not responded.

ACFN has also not been invited into any discussions regarding next steps, including the so called "Select Special Citizen Initiative Proposal Review Committee", despite clear court rulings confirming that consultation with First Nations is legally required before advancing a referendum process. In a sham of a process, the Chair of that Committee issued a press release yesterday confirming the Government's intention to ignore ACFN, ignore the Courts, ignore the Constitution and call the referendum before the Committee itself has even voted on the issue.

"The courts have already spoken clearly. Consultation is required. Yet no consultation has occurred," said Chief Allan Adam. "The Government of Alberta cannot simply ignore the Constitution, ignore Treaty rights, and ignore the courts because it finds those obligations inconvenient. Cabinet is not above the law."

The Nation says the province is proceeding recklessly despite repeated warnings from First Nations, legal experts, and the courts themselves.

"This is sowing the wind," said Chief Adam. "This is perilous, and it is being done without considering ACFN's rights and the other sweeping issues we have raised that affect all Albertans. It is folly to rush this through."

ACFN's submission also raised serious concerns regarding anti-Indigenous racism, foreign interference, disinformation campaigns, and growing extremism surrounding the separatist movement.

"Listen to us. Listen to the courts," added Chief Adam. "There is still an opportunity to step back from this dangerous path and engage in meaningful dialogue that respects Treaty relationships, the Constitution, and the rule of law."

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