

NEWS RELEASE

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Mini Thni & Gahna, Alberta



BEARSPAW
FIRST NATION

BEARSPAW FIRST NATION ANNOUNCEMENT **ON SIGNING COMPREHENSIVE FUNDING** **AGREEMENT DIRECTLY WITH CANADA**

Today, The Bears paw Chief and Council announced that they have signed, for the first time, a Comprehensive Funding Agreement (“CFA”) directly with the Government of Canada. The purpose of the funding agreement is to address increased flexibility to support Bears paw Nation’s economic, governance and financial administration priorities.

Chief Darcy Dixon stated “our new CFA agreement is historical in nature and will help guide the Nation’s work to promote lasting reconciliation and strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship based on Bears paw First Nation priorities. I am proud of the work of my Council and Administration in negotiating a collaborative and important agreement with the Crown”. Previously all funding agreements with Canada were made with the Stoney Tribal Administration, representing the Bears paw, Chiniki and Goodstoney First Nations. Under this arrangement the Bears paw First Nation was substantially underfunded by the Crown.

After over two (2) years of negotiations, the initial 2024-2025 Bears paw CFA will include Minor Capital and Housing, Eden Valley Reserve Operations and Maintenance, Registration, Economic Development and Post-Secondary Education. Other programs will continue to be funded by the Crown through a Stoney CFA that BFN is a signatory.

The new CFA Agreement with Canada aligns itself well with Bears paw First Nation *Declaration Respecting the Sovereignty of the Bears paw First Nation* that was adopted by Chief and Council in 2023. Although there is much work left to do, we believe we are on a positive and promising path to our self-determination and financial stability”.

The Bears paw First Nation signed Treaty no. 7 (by Chief Jacob Bears paw) in 1877 and is independent and autonomous from the Chiniki and Goodstoney First Nations, who also are independent signatories to Treaty no. 7.

In 2021 Bears paw First Nation was able to gain and secure the independent administration and management of all its own capital trust funds (\$61 million), past and future, from Canada through the Ozija Thiha Legacy Trust and has the Nation recently seen significant economic growth in its various businesses and economic interests in the past five (5) years.

For Further Information:

Media Relations

Rob Shotclose, CEO

Bears paw First Nation

(403) 881-2606

Robs@bears pawfirstnation.com