

## Additional Comments From DMFNA on Vista Coal mine Phase II

August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

I am writing today to remind you of the spirit and intent of the treaty. As you are aware, The Vista Coal mine is located near Hinton Ab, on Crown land and the Traditional Territory of my Ancestral ties to the land.

The Spirit and Intent of Treaty to Indian Land, Water and Resources

“The establishment of reserved Indian Land under treaty is clear: reserve land is land that was reserved by First Nations as sovereign territory and where their sovereign jurisdiction remain in force. It is Important to recognize the fact that reserves were not granted to the Indian Nations under the treaty and the land was retained by them for their exclusive use and benefit.”

“Anything not specifically negotiated by the First Nations by the Articles of Treaty remain under Indian Jurisdiction including renewable and non-renewable resources.” - Sol Sanderson

The Descendants of Michel First Nation Association was not consulted on phase I by the IAAC and as such, our treaty rights were breached. In honouring the Treaty partnership, we have every right to make decisions and assert our rights to a living and partake in the economic benefit of this project.

I am well aware of the political issues of the day and that we are all trying to create a cleaner environment. I have visited the Coal mine and I saw first hand how the technology used is cutting edge and done in a very responsible manner. There is also the fact there is a demand for coal in Alberta and it makes no sense for Alberta to be buying the coal from Montana, USA.

Vista Coal mine is stimulating the Local economy as well as Indigenous communities within Treaty 6.

It is my firm belief that this operation should continue for the economic benefits of my nation and other treaty six nations that are already employed at the site.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the matter.

Sincerely,

Brandy Callihoo  
DMFNA  
CEO