



For immediate release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

# **Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Chiefs host signing ceremony for education agreement with Government of Canada**

**Cadotte Lake, Treaty 8 Territory [July 18]**—Today, the five Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council (KTC) First Nations hosted and celebrated an official signing ceremony for the ten-year Regional Education Agreement (REA) between KTC First Nations and the Government of Canada.

Loon River First Nation Chief Ivan Sawan, Lubicon Lake Band Chief Billy Joe Laboucan, Peerless Trout First Nation Chief Gladys Okemow, Whitefish Lake First Nation Chief Albert Thunder and Woodland Cree First Nation Chief Isaac Laboucan-Avirom joined Canada's Minister of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) Seamus O'Regan to mark the completion of negotiations for the Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) REA.

This new Agreement will enable KTCEA to put forward new resources, hire new staff and improve school supports to further student achievement and offer new programs that meet the needs of each student.

“The Regional Education Agreement between KTCEA and the Government of Canada is a historic agreement for our Nations. We celebrate this agreement today because it is a commitment to honour our current and future generations. It will help to ensure our students are provided with equal access to educational opportunities. We need to continue to work together to close all gaps — in programs, in services and in achievement,” said Chief Ivan Sawan of Loon River First Nation and Chairperson of the KTCEA Board of Directors.

More specifically, the Agreement establishes sustainable, stable and flexible funding, including core funding for ten years and a clause to protect against funding decreases during the term of the REA.





FOR ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES

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ABOUT KTCEA

The Kee Tas Kee Now Tribal Council Education Authority (KTCEA) is comprised of the following Treaty No. 8 First Nations located in North-Central Alberta: Loon River First Nation, Lubicon Lake Band, Peerless Trout First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation, and Woodland Cree First Nation. We operate six schools, with emphasis on Nehiyawewin and land-based education.