



## Statement by Acting Chief Andrew Onespot

### Refusal to Accept a G7 Signature Scroll Represented by Federal Representatives

For Immediate Release

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Tsuut'ina, Alberta – Today, representatives of the Federal Government were at the Tsuut'ina Nation to present a signature scroll from leaders of the G7 Nations who assembled in Canada this past June.

At the meeting, acting Chief Andrew Onespot respectfully refused to accept the scroll citing the failure of the federal government to follow through on commitments to ensure clean drinking water on First Nations, including Tsuut'ina. In fact, the federal government has made it clear that it is no longer even willing to meet to discuss this commitment. The following statement can be attributed in whole or in part to Acting Chief Andrew Onespot.

“I extend greetings to the guests from the federal government whom we welcome today. You are here to present a scroll bearing the signatures of the G7 leaders who recently visited Canada. I know this is intended as a gesture of partnership and goodwill. I welcome you all with the respect and hospitality we extend to all visitors. However, I must, with equal respect, decline to accept the scroll on behalf of the Tsuut'ina Nation.

For generations, our people have honoured treaties and shared this territory in good faith. We have welcomed visitors, upheld our responsibilities, and extended our hands in cooperation. But cooperation cannot be one-sided.

Canada has made commitments - public and repeated - to ensure the basic human right of safe water on First Nations. In fact, as recently as the G7 Summit, Minor Chief Paula Big Plume spoke personally to the Prime Minister on this issue, and yet only months later Canada advised that they would not negotiate a resolution with us.

That promise remains unfulfilled. Despite years of discussion, we have seen no meaningful progress, no substantive negotiations, and no firm timeline to deliver the infrastructure our community needs and deserves. Further, as of late, Canada has even made it known that it intends to suspend such discussions with us and other Nations. Until Canada demonstrates a genuine willingness to sit with us, negotiate in good faith, and allocate the resources required to resolve this crisis once and for all, ceremonial gestures like this ring hollow. We will accept the scroll when it is accompanied by a budgeted and scheduled plan. We remain open to dialogue. We remain committed to the Treaty that bind us. But we will not accept symbols in place of solutions.”

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Acting Chief Onespot is not available for further comment on this matter.

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