



About the Beaver Lake Cree Nation

The Beaver Lake Cree Nation is a small indigenous community on the fringe of Canada's boreal forest, close to the town of Lac La Biche in [northeast Alberta](#). It currently has about 900 members, around 500 of whom live on the Nation's reservation.

Aboriginal history in Alberta extends back at least 11,000 years. The first Europeans arrived in the mid-1700s and by the early 1800s the Hudson's Bay Company had built a trading post at Lac La Biche as a centre for the fur trade.

By the 1870's the Canadian government was involved in a gradual process of treaty making with the local inhabitants of Alberta, aimed at opening up lands for settlement, and in September 1876 the Beaver Lake Cree's immediate ancestors met with Treaty Commissioner Alexander Morris at Fort Pitt.

As part of the resulting treaty, known as Treaty Six, the Cree ceded approximately 195,000 square kilometres of land. In return they were given reservations and the right to hunt, fish and gather plants and medicines throughout their ancestral lands, as they had always done.

The Beaver Lake Cree still undertake these activities within their ancestral lands. However, these territories are now being threatened, degraded or destroyed by tar sands developments. [Leases for tar sands developments](#) have been granted right up to their reservation boundary.

As a result the Beaver Lake Cree fear for the long-term survival of their culture and traditions, and the quality of life for future generations.

On the May 14 2008, the Beaver Lake Cree released their [Kétuskéno Declaration](#) asserting their role as caretakers of their traditional territories and started [legal action](#) to enforce recognition of their constitutionally protected rights to hunt, fish and gather and protect their traditional territories from wholesale destruction by tar sands developments.

Downloads:

- [Kétuskéno Declaration](#)
- [Map of tar sands developments and leases within Beaver Lake Cree traditional territories](#)
- [The Beaver Lake Cree's legal action](#)