

# Self-Government and Sovereignty

One Indigenous Nation whose path toward self-determination is still ongoing is the Saulteau First Nations, located near Moberly Lake and Chetwynd in northeastern British Columbia. The Saulteau First Nations are signatories to Treaty 8 and continue to work toward greater self-governance, economic independence, and control over their traditional territories. Their vision is to be a “proud, culturally strong and self-sufficient” Nation that makes decisions based on community priorities and Indigenous values.

One way the Saulteau First Nations have strengthened self-determination is through governance and land stewardship initiatives. The Nation has developed its own governance structures, community planning processes, and economic development projects while working with governments on land and resource decisions. The Province of British Columbia notes that the Saulteau First Nations are involved in ongoing discussions regarding land and resource issues outside of the BC treaty process. They have also signed several reconciliation, revenue-sharing, and economic development agreements that support greater decision-making authority and community benefit from activities occurring within their traditional territory.

The Saulteau First Nations have also focused on cultural revitalization as part of self-determination. Their Cultural Centre was created to support language learning, education, ceremonies, wellness programs, and cultural gatherings. The Centre reflects the Nation’s commitment to preserving Indigenous knowledge, traditions, and community connections for future generations. By strengthening governance, protecting their lands, and revitalizing culture, the Saulteau First Nations continue to advance their path toward self-determination and self-governance.

I selected the Saulteau First Nations because they are one of the Nations whose traditional territory I was raised on. Growing up in northeastern British Columbia, I have

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been privileged to witness the self-determination of the Saulteau First Nations in many ways and have been welcomed to participate in cultural events and practices. The strength and resilience of this Nation has always been inspiring to me. As I continue learning about Indigenous Peoples across British Columbia and Canada, I am often heartbroken by the impacts of colonialism and the injustices Indigenous communities have faced. At the same time, this learning has strengthened my determination to do better than previous generations, continue educating myself, and be the best ally I can be. As an educator, I hope to help future generations learn from the past, build respectful relationships, and continue the work of reconciliation through understanding, respect, and action.

## References

- [Saulteau First Nations Official Website](#)
- [BC Assembly of First Nations – Saulteau First Nations Profile](#)
- [Government of British Columbia – Saulteau First Nations](#)
- [Saulteau Cultural Centre Project Information](#)