



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANDING BUFFALO CHALLENGES CANADA'S ALLIANCE DOUBLE STANDARD

Chief Redman calls for a Modern Alliance Accord following the Canada and European Union Summit in Montreal

STANDING BUFFALO DAKOTA NATION, SASKATCHEWAN (October 30, 2026): Standing Buffalo Dakota Nation is calling on Prime Minister Mark Carney to explain why Canada can develop an ambitious new alliance with the European Union while failing to conclude a *Modern Alliance Accord* with a Nation seeking to give practical effect to its historic allyship with the Crown and Canada's own commitments to reconciliation.

The call follows the conclusion of the *Canada and European Union Summit* in Montreal, where Prime Minister Carney, *European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen* and *European Council President Antonio Costa* announced an *Alliance for the Future* and further work toward Canada becoming the European Union's first Associate Member.

For Standing Buffalo, the summit demonstrates that Canada can move with urgency, develop new negotiating arrangements and commit significant political attention to partnerships it considers essential to its future. "*Canada is demonstrating that when it wants an alliance, it can find the political will and create the mechanisms to pursue it,*" said Chief Rodger Redman. "*Standing Buffalo has already brought forward a Modern Alliance Accord proposal grounded in our historic relationship with the Crown, our inherent rights and a practical vision for shared prosperity. We are asking why that same determination is missing from Canada's response to our Nation.*"

Standing Buffalo's proposed *Modern Alliance Accord* has been under development for years. The Nation presented a draft negotiating outline to Canada's negotiating team in 2023, addressing Crown allyship, natural resources, economic participation, investment, consultation and decision making. The Nation seeks a *Reconciliation and Economic Compact* through which recognition of its rights and historic relationship with the Crown can produce concrete arrangements for its people and greater certainty for responsible development. This approach also respects the distinct rights, histories and relationships of other Indigenous Nations.

Canada's July 2024 recognition and apology to the Dakota and Lakota acknowledged their longstanding allyship with the Crown and exclusion from treaty making. Standing Buffalo maintains that this recognition must now be reflected in federal decisions and negotiating mandates.

"Our ancestors stood as allies of the Crown long before Canada began negotiating its modern international partnerships," Chief Redman said. *"We regard the failure to translate that*

acknowledged relationship into meaningful action, while Canada creates new arrangements for its European partners, as a discriminatory double standard. Recognition must carry consequences in the decisions governments make.”

The summit’s economic commitments make Standing Buffalo’s concerns directly relevant. Canada and the European Union are pursuing deeper cooperation in critical minerals, energy, advanced technologies and investment. Canada also announced a treaty framework intended to facilitate European Investment Bank financing of Canadian critical minerals projects.

Standing Buffalo emphasizes that these ambitions depend upon durable partnerships, responsible development and confidence in government commitments. Meaningful Indigenous participation and negotiated arrangements that respect the rights and priorities of affected Nations can strengthen the economic certainty Canada is seeking to offer its international partners.

On October 24, Chief Redman issued formal correspondence to President *von der Leyen* outlining Standing Buffalo’s position and asking her to raise the Nation’s circumstances with Prime Minister Carney. The letter called for a properly resourced process with a clear mandate, agreed milestones and meaningful Standing Buffalo participation. That request now takes on greater urgency following the summit’s conclusion.

“Canada is asking Europe to place confidence in its resources, its institutions and its commitments,” Chief Redman said. *“Standing Buffalo is offering a practical way to strengthen that confidence through an agreement that respects our Nation and gives substance to reconciliation. Canada must bring the same seriousness to this opportunity that it brings to its international alliances.”*

Standing Buffalo is calling on Prime Minister Carney to designate a senior federal negotiating lead, provide a substantive written response to the proposed Modern Alliance Accord, establish adequate resources for negotiations and agree upon a timetable for advancing a Reconciliation and Economic Compact with the Nation. The Nation welcomes constructive international cooperation and maintains that Canada’s ambitions abroad must be accompanied by meaningful action on its commitments to Indigenous Nations at home.

Standing Buffalo Dakota First Nation is located six miles west of Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan. The Nation has a membership of 1,414, is not a signatory to Treaty 4, and maintains a sacred allyship with the Crown. On July 15, 2024, Canada issued a Statement of Recognition and Apology acknowledging past injustices and recognizing the rights of the Dakota and Lakota peoples. Standing Buffalo regards this recognition as elevating its rights from asserted rights to admitted rights. The Nation seeks negotiations with the federal Department of Justice to develop a framework for a Modern Alliance Accord that advances reconciliation, self-determination and lasting economic opportunities.

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