



ACFN Demands Immediate Protection of the Ronald Lake Bison Herd (RLBH)
Enacted - March 8, 2016
Ratified – December 2020

- *The Buffalo herd is distinct and unique.*

The Buffalo herd in the Ronald Lake area is genetically distinct from the Wood Buffalo National Park bison. The provincial government does not protect these buffalo, as they were thought to be diseased from interacting with the Wood Buffalo National Park bison, but the Ronald Lake Buffalo herd has been proven to be disease-free.

- *The Buffalo herd is essential to the maintenance and practice of ACFN's Treaty Rights.*

ACFN has Treaty 8 Rights to the land, the herd, and the use of the herd. ACFN has practiced these rights, and sustainably harvested the herd, for centuries. Many ACFN members have depended upon the buffalo for food and cultural needs. ACFN's Treaty 8 Rights to use and protect the herd *have not* been extinguished.

- *The Buffalo herd is under serious threat.*

The Buffalo herd has faced threats from the continued loss of habitat due to oil sands exploration and development, and the unregulated and unrestricted sport-hunting of buffalo by non-Aboriginal hunters for profit. Recent incidents of trophy hunting are not isolated events. ACFN now understands the scope and scale of trophy hunting; the long-term viability of the herd is under imminent threat. ACFN has consistently requested protection of the buffalo from provincial and federal regulators. To date, these requests have gone unheard.

- *ACFN demands an immediate Emergency Protection Order for the Buffalo Herd.*

ACFN can no longer standby and watch the herd be decimated in the face of inaction by the governments. ACFN demands immediate protection of the herd. ACFN requests a complete moratorium on hunting the buffalo. In keeping with ACFN's Treaty 8 Rights to use and protect the herd, ACFN will cease hunting the herd as well, to allow the herd to replenish its members. ACFN will continue to challenge any threat to this herd and its habitat.