



**LETTER FROM CARRY THE KETTLE
FIRST NATION CHIEF ELSIE JACK**

In moving toward healing of our lands, our community, and the generations before and after us, this land use study gives us a new beginning and an opportunity to move forward in partnership to a healthy, sustainable, and brighter future. —ELSIE JACK

Dear Reader,

I have had the privilege and honour of working with our Nakoda Elders for the past twenty-five years, and I am pleased to present this book on traditional land use compiled from historical research, land claims, Elder and land user interviews, and traditional practices of our people.

Carry The Kettle has a unique and rich history, including precontact traditional land use, the effects of European settlement, our signing of Treaty 4, the Cypress Hills Massacre, and the forced removal of our people from our sacred Cypress Hills homelands. Our people have survived the many acts of genocide inflicted on our nation through government policies initiated by John A. Macdonald and believe that these atrocities need to be recognized, addressed, and atoned.

I would like to thank our Elders for their contributions to and wealth of knowledge attained for this book. Some have passed on to the spirit

world since this project began but remain in our hearts and memories. It would be remiss of me not to share my gratitude for the vital roles and contributions of former Chiefs, Councils, and other community members who greatly supported this project from its conception and pioneered the way to its completion.

We strongly believe that the education of our children is a fundamental and sacred responsibility, both a right and a duty of our First Nation. With this in mind, we will provide this book to our educators to teach our youth the rich culture and history of their First Nation. The book will also be imperative for consultations and negotiations with governments and industry regarding our traditional and current land uses in order to assert our Indigenous Rights and defend our lands and people.

Carry The Kettle is resolute and determined to honour this reality by respecting our rights as a nation and as a people that demand clear actions to advance our position and achieve a better future for the generations to come. Our hope is that our First Nation members and families, Elders, educators, leaders, governments, libraries, industry, private sector, and others will find this study beneficial in learning about the strength and pride of Carry The Kettle First Nation.

Sincerely,
Chief Elsie Jack,
Carry The Kettle First Nation
2017