



TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER

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ABOUT

A treaty is an agreement between Nations. Initially, treaties between the British or the French and the Indigenous populations were a peaceable agreement that represented some kind of mutual sharing, trading or aid. Later, when the first land surrender treaties were signed, the Indigenous people really did not understand that land was being “given” away due to language barriers and misrepresentations and because the concept of land “ownership” was foreign to them. By the time of Canadian Confederation in 1867 only a fraction of Ontario had not been ceded by a treaty. Today in Canada there are approximately 70 treaties between 371 First Nations and the Crown. The treaties represent the rights of more than 500,000 Indigenous people. Since the creation of Canada’s Claims Policy in 1973 some comprehensive land claims have been settled, including the Yukon First Nations, the Nisga’a Agreement, the Tlicho Agreement and the largest land claim settlement in Canadian history, the creation of Nunavut in 1999.

Friendship, Peace and Neutrality Treaties

- 1701** The Great Peace of Montreal. Signed by over 40 Nations, the Great Peace Treaty of 1701 ended wars between the French, the Haudenosaunee and the Great Lakes Nations who had been fighting over the fur trade.
- 1725 to 1779** The British sign treaties of Peace and Friendship with the Mi’kmaq and the Maliseet in Nova Scotia.
 - Treaty of Swegatchy. The Indigenous Nations allied with the French sign a neutrality treaty after the French lose Montreal and Quebec.
- 1760** ● Huron-British Treaty, with the Huron-Wendat of Lorette. The conditions of these two treaties meant that the Algonquin would have continued access to traditional territory and all signatory Nations would receive protection and trade.
- 1764** The British and the Seneca negotiate a treaty that allowed the British to access either side of the Niagara River, giving 2 miles on either side. The purpose of the treaty was to allow the British the means to travel Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. The Treaty was a part of the Niagara Conference and allowed for Britain to restore peace and friendship that was halted during the Seven Years War.

Land Surrender Treaties

Land surrender treaties were conducted until 1862. These treaties were small surrenders of land made with individual First Nation groups. Each signed treaty gives land in exchange for rights or goods. Treaties were contracts that gave Indigenous people reserve lands, monetary compensation, the promise of health care, schools, hunting and fishing rights and freedom from some forms of taxation. Not all Indigenous people are part of a treaty agreement. Treaties fall under Section 35 of the Constitution Act in Canada. In Ontario, there are 5 treaties.

1780s

The first land surrender Treaty

This was followed by 34 more land surrender treaties as more settlers arrived, far outnumbering the Indigenous populations in the south. With the arrival of the Loyalists from the United States there was a need to provide the settlers with prime agricultural land. The land surrenders negotiated with the Indigenous people in the areas of surrender negotiated settlements that usually consisted of a one-time payment.

1850

Robinson Treaties were signed

The Robinson-Huron and Robinson-Superior treaties were created between the Crown and Ojibwe peoples who had traditional territory between the north shores of Lakes Superior and Lake Huron. In return for the land, the Ojibwe were promised reserve land, hunting and fishing rights and monetary compensation. These two major treaties would become the models for future treaties conducted between Indigenous people and the government.



1854

Saugeen Treaty

The surrender of the Saugeen (Bruce) Peninsula.

1850
to
1854

Douglas Treaties were signed

Between 1850 and 1854 14 treaties were made between the Coast Salish Nations on Vancouver Island, the Hudson's Bay Company and the Crown. The Hudson Bay Company post had been moved to Vancouver Island and the traditional territory of the Coast Salish was needed for settlement around the trading post. The Salish signed the treaties in exchange for goods, monetary compensation and hunting and fishing rights.

1854

Manitoulin Island Treaty

Signed surrendering the majority of Manitoulin Island.

1871
to
1921

The Numbered Treaties

Between 1871 and 1921, 11 major treaty agreements were signed between Indigenous Nations and the Canadian government. These treaties included a vast amount of area from the Lake of the Woods in Ontario to the west and the Rocky Mountains to the north all the way to the Beaufort Sea. Treaties were made for settlement in the south and for resource exploration and exploitation in the north. Canada needed the land to continue settlement, mostly for agriculture and for building the railway that would connect the rest of Canada with the West.

1923

The Williams Treaties

The Williams Treaties were signed to settle outstanding land claims with the Ojibwe in central Ontario. The Williams treaties include over 20,000 square miles of traditional lands between Georgian Bay and Lake Ontario. The Williams Treaties were conducted as there were gaps in the treaties conducted between 1783 and 1923. The First Nations who are represented by the Williams Treaties are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Scugog Island First Nation, and the Chippewas of Beausoleil First Nation, Georgina Island First Nation and the Rama First Nation.



Resources

Maps of Treaty-Making in Canada. (2013, August 29).

Retrieved from <http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032297/1100100032309>

The Great Peace of Montreal, 1701. (2012). Pointe A Galliere. Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History.

Retrieved from <https://www.digitalmuseums.ca/archive-of-funded-projects/>

Chief Isadore Day on Treaties

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pj1tHoGT1P8>

Treaties in Ontario

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>

Edusource Resources

<https://edusourceontario.com/>

First Nations, Métis, Inuit Connections Scope and Sequence of Expectations Documents

<http://find.gov.on.ca/?searchType=simple&owner=edu&url=&collection=educationtcu&offset=0&lang=en&-type=ANY&q=FNMI+Scope+and+Sequence>

Indigenous Education Resources

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/nativelang.html>

<https://www.dcp.edu.gov.on.ca/en/curriculum/secondary-first-nations-metis-and-inuit-studies>

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

<https://nctr.ca/>

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action

<https://nctr.ca/records/reports/>

Assembly of First Nations: Teaching Treaties (Grade 9-12)

<https://teachingtreaties.wordpress.com/understanding-first-nations-and-british-western-historical-world-views/>

Trick or Treaty: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-cmr3PRV5M>

Maurice Switzer on Treaties: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrU40RnEiQY>

Charlie Angus on Treaties: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cb3lOV1j_-8

Hayden King on Treaties: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6niWvsgV_oM

Maps of Treaties in Canada

Indigenous Peoples and Lands

<https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1605796533652/1605796625692>

Map of Treaties in Canada from the 1700's Peace and Friendship Treaties to Present Day

<http://scoinc.mb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/CrownAboriginalMap.jpg>

Treaties and Land Claims Map

<http://manitobawildlands.org/maps/CANLandClaimTreatyMap.pdf>