

# *Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba*



*“As long as the sun shines, the grass  
grows and the rivers flow”*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2008-2009**

*“We Are All Treaty People”*

# DEDICATION



In the spirit of growth, appreciation and commitment the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) dedicates the 2008-2009 Annual Report to the partnerships that it has created in its efforts to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship and mutual respect as envisaged by the Treaty partners.

The partnerships commit to an ongoing dialogue and assist in establishing a framework for collaboration to enhance Treaty education and understanding. These important partnerships are dynamic and have unique characteristics that support the goals and objectives of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

## Current partners include:

1. Royal Canadian Mounted Police – “D” Division
2. Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
3. Aboriginal Leadership Institute, Inc.
4. Parks Canada
5. Manitoba Conservation
6. Brandon University
7. Red River Community College
8. Winnipeg Police Services
9. Riding Mountain National Park and the Coalition of First Nations with interests in Riding Mountain National Park
10. Manitoba Hydro

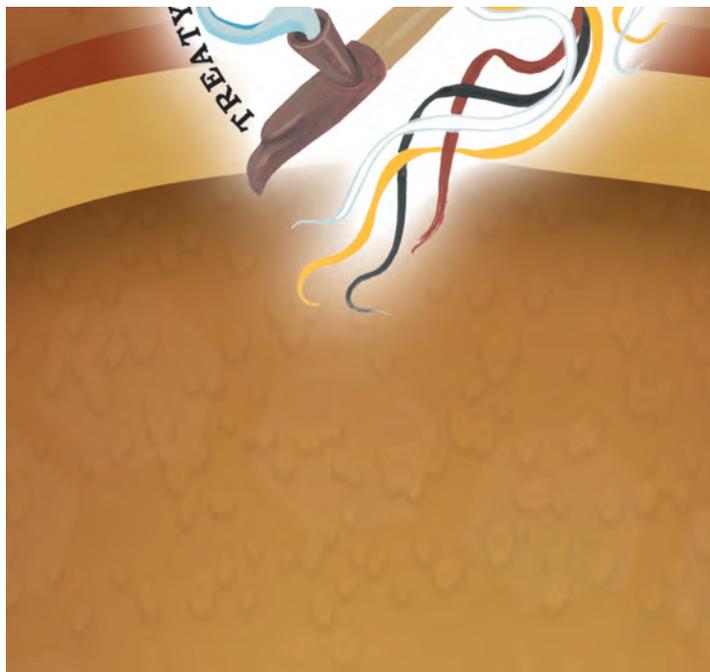
We thank our partners for their continued support and for sharing the objective that all people should live in harmony based on knowledge and understanding of their cultural traditions; particularly as they relate to the Treaty relationship.

## We Are All Treaty People!



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |                                     |    |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| Dedication .....   | 2  | Resource Tools .....                | 25 |
| A Message from the Government of Canada .....                  | 4  | <i>Website</i> .....                | 25 |
| Greetings from AMC .....                                       | 5  | <i>Learning Centre</i> .....        | 25 |
| A Message from the Province of Manitoba .....                  | 6  | <i>Library</i> .....                | 26 |
| A Message from the City of Winnipeg .....                      | 7  | <i>Curriculum Development</i> ..... | 26 |
| A Message from the AMC Treaty Portfolio Chair .....            | 8  | Commemorations .....                | 27 |
| A Message from the AMC/TRCM Council of Elders .....            | 9  | Research .....                      | 28 |
| A Message from the AMC Youth Council .....                     | 10 | Facilitation .....                  | 31 |
| A Message from the Treaty Commissioner .....                   | 11 | 2009-2010 Next Steps .....          | 33 |
| Executive Summary .....  | 12 | Manitoba Treaty Map .....           | 34 |
| About the Treaty Relations Commission .....                    | 13 |                                     |    |
| <i>Accountability Framework</i> .....                          | 13 |                                     |    |
| <i>Mandate</i> .....   | 13 |                                     |    |
| <i>Principles</i> .....  | 13 |                                     |    |
| Public Education: Outreach Strategy .....                      | 14 |                                     |    |
| Outreach Strategy Profile: Important Meetings & Connections .. | 16 |                                     |    |
| Elders Council .....   | 18 |                                     |    |
| Speakers Bureau .....  | 19 |                                     |    |
| Partnerships .....   | 21 |                                     |    |
| Public Education Campaign: We are All Treaty People .....      | 24 |                                     |    |



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA



**T**reaties continue to be vital to the Canadian federation and offer a means to further improve the relationship between First Nations and the Government of Canada. Encouraging all the people of Manitoba to better understand their connection to Treaties fosters not only a stronger relationship today, but into the future as well.

Through its work, the TRCM captures the hope that all residents will see the importance of the Treaty relationship. Over the last year, great strides have been made towards realizing this hope through the expansion of the public awareness campaign as well as the outreach facilitated through the TRCM's Learning Centre. In the words of the TRCM, "We Are All Treaty People."

The Commission's partnership projects with organizations such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Manitoba Hydro and Manitoba Conservation help to break down barriers and promote greater understanding of Treaties and their significance to us all. These partnerships provide important venues for reminding people of the obligations and benefits that flow from Treaties.

I commend Commissioner White Bird for his leadership in the ongoing work of the Commission. Looking ahead, let us continue this important work aimed at building awareness and fostering partnerships that further enhance the Treaty relationship.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Strahl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Honourable Chuck Strahl, PC, QC, MP  
Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-status Indians



## A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS



“Onjida igo ji-anishinaabemoyeg, ji-anishinaabe  
naanaagadawendameg gaagii-izhi-miinigoyang  
gegiinawind. (You need to speak in your language,  
think in the way we were given).

- Harry Bone, *Keeseekoowenin*, 2008

On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, I would like to express our pleasure and gratitude to the AMC Council of Elders and research team who have completed the initial research phase of the Manitoba Treaties Oral Histories Research Project (OHP), which is jointly sponsored by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM).

After two and a half years, interviews have been completed with 229 Elders and other Traditional Knowledge Keepers representing all of the language and Treaty groups in Manitoba 62 First Nations.

Throughout the interviews, our Knowledge Keepers spoke in their own languages about the world as they understood it before Treaty, during the negotiations, and after Treaty. Simultaneous translations during the interviews helped the team—Lead Researcher Dr. Winona Wheeler, AMC Treaties Relations Coordinator Gail Flett and AMC Treaties Relations Researcher Darren Courchene—connect to the languages in their truest form.

The first publication, *Treaty Elders’ Teachings Volume I: Who We Are* is due out in the fall of 2009. The writing of the remaining volumes, *Our Relationship to the Land*, *Our Relations with the New Comers*, and *Our Treaty Relationship* will continue.

We welcome the opportunity for everyone to understand our history through the languages and oral history of our people.

The next year represents an important period as the TRCM evaluation is underway with preparations for a new Memorandum of Understanding and the beginning of the Treasury Board Authority Renewal process. This is a time for all of us as Leaders to consider how the mandate of the TRCM can evolve to support the implementation of our sacred Treaties and uphold our relationship with the Crown to lead to holistic well-being for all First Nations people as long as the sun shines and the grass grows.

Miigwech, Ekosani, Mahseechoo, Wopida  
ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

Ron Evans,  
Grand Chief

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCE OF MANITOBA



**I**t is an honour for me to congratulate the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba on their excellent work in their efforts to promote public understanding of the Treaties. We Are All Treaty People whether we are members of individual First Nations, Métis, Inuit or are non-Aboriginal.

As an Indigenous person, I take the Treaties very seriously. The 2005 creation of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba was a major step forward for the province. The Commission has worked with all sectors of society to strengthen and enhance the Treaty relationship in this province.

Our provincial government is proud to work with the Treaty Relations Commission and First Nation communities in enhancing the Treaty relationship by working together and respecting the Treaty rights and territories in the area now known as the province of Manitoba.

Yours Sincerely,

**Eric Robinson, Acting Minister  
Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Province of Manitoba**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CITY OF WINNIPEG



**I**t is with great pleasure to acknowledge the efforts and accomplishments of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) as they continue to work with the community. In an effort to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship the TRCM has been actively engaged in public education, research and facilitation. This has provided many discussions and opportunities to create awareness to all citizens that “We Are All Treaty People” and to enhance the Treaty relationship.

The City of Winnipeg is located in Treaty One territory. It is important that we recognize this as a part of our vibrant history and the foundation for our strong future.

Together the TRCM and City of Winnipeg have been engaged in dialogue and educational opportunities to ensure that First Nation and non-First Nation Manitobans understand the obligations and benefits that stem from the Treaties in Manitoba.

I truly support the TRCM as they continue to create an understanding of the Treaties and enhancing the Treaty relationship. As we move forward, let us work together as partners ensuring the continued success of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Katz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sam Katz, Mayor  
The City of Winnipeg**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AMC TREATY PORTFOLIO CHAIR



**A**s the Treaty Portfolio Chair and as an Anishinabe person, it is an honour to congratulate the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba in its efforts to create awareness about the Treaties in Manitoba. The work that is being completed at the TRCM is a true reflection of the vision and purpose envisioned in its creation.

Treaties are foundational documents in the history of this province and it is important to recognize and honour our Ancestors who made Treaties for the future generations of our people. Our Treaties are sacred and the TRCM has a deep respect and understanding of the importance in keeping the culture and traditions of our people alive and well; strengthening the voice of our people.

The Chiefs in Assembly recognize that the research being undertaken by the TRCM is essential in preserving the history of our people from an Indigenous perspective. As the TRCM brings Treaty issues forward and solidifies the understanding of the Treaty relationship, Treaty information within the community is enhanced. This information will assist First Nations in carrying the rights and responsibilities of our Treaties into the future.

As we move forward, let us all work together to understand our Treaties in an effort to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship. As the Chair of the Treaty Portfolio, I wish much success to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba as it continues to raise awareness of the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norm Bone". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Chief Norman Bone, Keeseekoowenin First Nation  
Treaty Portfolio Chair, Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AMC/TRCM COUNCIL OF ELDERS



**I**t is our great pleasure to acknowledge the excellent work that has been achieved under the guidance of Dennis White Bird, Commissioner of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM).

The Treaties are the highest expression of a respectful relationship; a living, breathing partnership that compels us all to work together to find common solutions and to make real headway on real challenges. The TRCM has increased public interest, conducted research and fostered discussions allowing all Canadians to work together with open hearts and open minds with respect to the Treaties.

The AMC Council of Elders would like to commend the TRCM and its staff on the outstanding work it has accomplished this year. The Commission has achieved its objective of making the Treaties and the Treaty relationship more informative, effective and interesting, specifically, with the Manitoba Treaties Oral History Project (OHP).

During the course of the OHP, Elders shared many teachings and stories in their own languages about life before and after the Treaties to explain how the people understood their relations with the land, each other and the web of life. These teachings are very important because they help create understanding about how our Treaty ancestors understood what Treaty making was all about before European contact and how they understood the Treaty relationship with the Crown.

As we continue our work with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, the Elders Council wish success to the TRCM in its efforts to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship.

Ekosani, Miigwetch, Wopida, Masicho

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D'Arcy Linklater". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Elder D'Arcy Linklater – Adhesion to Treaty 5  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE AMC YOUTH COUNCIL



*From left to right: Carla Cochran - Fisher River First Nation, Marley Malcolm - Ebb & Flow First Nation  
Mr. Frank Whitehead - MLA for The Pas, Regional Chief Bill Traverse - AFN, Grand Chief Ron Evans - AMC  
Jessica Pierre - Roseau River First Nation (Urban Rep), Erin Egachie - Roseau River First Nation  
Angela Parisian - Peguis First Nation, Michelle Klippenstein - Poplar River First Nation, Tim Catcheway - Skowman First Nation,  
James Zebrasky - Mathias Colomb First Nation (Urban Rep), Missing: Cody Hotain - Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, Melissa  
Chipperway - Lake Manitoba First Nation, Tamara Dettanikazze - Northlands Dene*

**T**he Manitoba First Nations Youth Council in partnership with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Youth Secretariat would like to congratulate the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba on its success this past year and acknowledge all of the work that has been done to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship.

The Youth Council has received positive feedback from First Nations Youth about the tremendous work that the Treaty Relation Commission of Manitoba continues to do for First Nations people in Manitoba. We feel the First Nations Youth have a greater understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship thanks to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

The Manitoba First Nations Youth Council looks forward to continue utilizing the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. We wish the Commission continued success and say “Thank You, Commissioner” for informing all Manitobans that “We are all Treaty People”.

Sincerely,



**Tim Catcheway**  
**Regional & National Youth Leader**  
**Manitoba First Nations Youth Council**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE TREATY COMMISSIONER



### *“We Are All Treaty People”*

I am very pleased to present the 2008-2009 Annual report. The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) has had a stimulating and extremely positive year.

In 2008-2009, the TRCM continued to be actively involved in reaching out to the community to promote the mandate of the TRCM and raise the profile of the Treaties. Several community partnerships have been solidified during the 2008-2009 fiscal year which will aid the TRCM in achieving the goals set forth in its mandate.

By design, the TRCM is a neutral organization with a mandate to facilitate public understanding of the importance and role of Treaty making in building a stronger and healthier nation. As a result of this unique position, the TRCM has been afforded opportunities to act as an independent facilitator in an effort to bring parties together to discuss Treaty and Aboriginal related topics.

As the implementation of TRCM Research Strategy continues, much work is nearing completion with the expected results of disseminating reports to partners, communities and educational institutions. These reports will be shared to create discussions and encourage dialogue relating to identified research priority areas that illustrate the varied perspectives of the Treaties and Treaty relationship.

The TRCM will enter into an evaluation of its mandate in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. There are to be information sessions and planning meetings scheduled over the short term and the TRCM stands ready to make a contribution towards this process based on its history and first-hand experience.

There are three streams of activities that will occur simultaneously over the next year to move this process forward:

- TRCM Evaluation;
- New Treaty Commission Policy Framework; and
- Mandate Renewal of the MOA.

In an effort to prepare for the evaluation the TRCM has been engaged in dialogue with its partners (AMC and Canada). As the evaluation proceeds, the TRCM, Canada and AMC remain highly committed to engaging in discussions concerning Crown and First Nation relations, Treaties and the Treaty relationship. The Commission strongly believes that its mandate will be renewed as there is still much to be done to reach our goals, learn about the Treaties and to share Treaty knowledge with the public.

The TRCM has received tremendous support and encouragement from all sectors with a compelling desire to work towards reconciling the history of Manitoba. Application of Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution recognizes and affirms existing Treaty and Aboriginal rights thus building the foundation of a stronger, healthier nation for future generations. The TRCM will continue to work towards setting those strong foundations for Treaty knowledge for the benefit of all Treaty people.

Sincerely,

**Dennis White Bird**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the inception of the TRCM, the past three (3) years have certainly been a challenging and exciting venture in developing and establishing the entirety of the TRCM. During the past year, the TRCM has been involved in numerous meetings with various First Nation communities, political organizations, key Federal and Provincial Government departments, Educational Institutions and national Treaty Commissions.

In 2008-2009, the TRCM has actively promoted the concept “We Are All Treaty People” through various *m e d i u m s* . The public education campaign has served as an excellent opportunity to initiate dialogue amongst the general public about their understanding and role within the Treaty relationship. The campaign also served a secondary purpose of creating awareness about the TRCM and to channel interested parties to the TRCM’s website where they can learn more about the Treaties and TRCM services. The main theme and message “We Are All Treaty People” is gaining exposure and building awareness across Manitoba and beyond. As we move forward, the TRCM will continue to develop the key messages in support of the campaign thus serving to support the TRCM mandate overall.



*Henry Gladwyn meets Chief Pontiac. C.W.J. Jeffries Collection. Image courtesy of Library and Archives Canada.*

This year, the TRCM has also had the opportunity to facilitate Treaty related discussions amongst various Governments, First Nation communities and organizations such as the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the West Region Tribal Council (WRTC), Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Manitoba Human Rights Commission and the First Nation Tax Commission. Several key areas of importance such as Jurisdiction, Duty to Consult and Accommodate and

the identification of research priority areas have been highlighted through this process and will be taken forward to our partners for discussion and feedback. Discussions are ongoing on many fronts and the TRCM will continue to provide supports where appropriate as we move forward.



*Commissioner White Bird meets with the Department of Justice on December 16, 2008 to share information about the Treaties.*

The TRCM also continues to implement the TRCM Research Strategy.

While many short term projects are nearing completion, longer term initiatives such as the Manitoba First Nation Atlas project and the Oral History Project (OHP) continue.

The TRCM is in the final stages of developing four volume series specific to the OHP. Volume I: Who We Are is going through the final editing stages and is expected to be submitted for publication in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

While much has been achieved this past year, much work remains. The TRCM looks forward to an ongoing healthy and positive working relationship with its partners and the community as we move forward. The TRCM would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone, including TRCM staff members and the Elders that have been involved in the work of the TRCM for their steadfast hard work, patience and



*Original Treaty 4 document.*

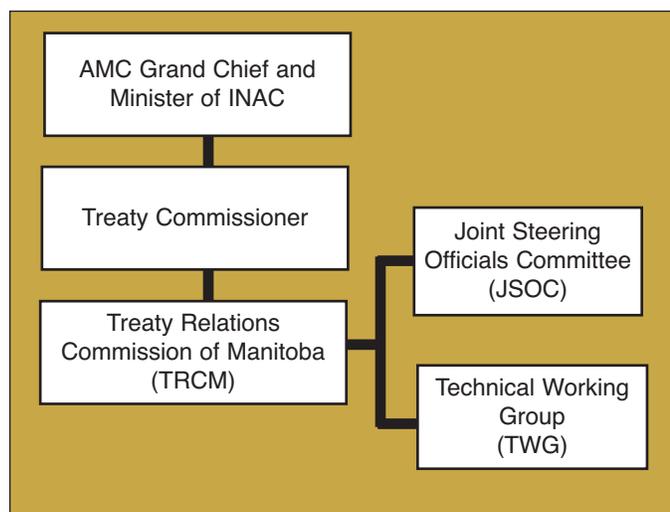
## ABOUT THE TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION

On November 19, 2003, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) and the Government of Canada signed a historic Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that recognized the need for the establishment of a Treaty Relations Commission in Manitoba to address Treaty issues. This agreement is intended to be inclusive of all First Nation communities within Manitoba. In June 2005, through an Order-in-Council, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) was created. On June 1, 2005, Dennis White Bird was appointed as Commissioner of the newly formed TRCM.

The TRCM is a neutral body, created through a partnership between the AMC and Canada with a mandate to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship and mutual respect between First Nations and non-First Nation Manitobans. The Commission will enhance and maintain positive intergovernmental relations and cooperation, conduct independent research that advances discussion on Treaty related issues and facilitate public understanding of the importance and role of Treaty making in building a stronger and healthier nation.

## TRCM ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The following organizational chart reflects the current Accountability Framework of the TRCM:



Within this structure, the Grand Chief of the AMC and the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs have overall responsibility for the work of the Treaty Commissioner.

The TRCM is also accountable to:

- A Joint Official Steering Committee (JSOC) comprised of two senior executives from both INAC and AMC.
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) comprised of members from INAC, AMC and the TRCM.

It is important to note that while the MOA creating the TRCM identifies an Operational Management Committee (OMC) as part of the originating Accountability Framework; it was agreed by all parties that the roles and responsibilities of the OMC be incorporated into the overall roles and responsibilities of the JSOC. Amendments reflecting this decision were made effective March 31, 2007.

## TRCM MANDATE

The TRCM's mandate is to focus on enhancing and improving Treaty relations and government cooperation through:

- Public Education;
- Research; and
- Facilitation.

## TRCM PRINCIPLES

The TRCM, AMC and the Government of Canada are guided by the following principles:

- Treaties are a fundamental part of the relationship between First Nations Treaty signatories and the Crown;
- The involvement of First Nations Elders is a fundamental part of maintaining the honour of the Crown in its relations with First Nations;
- Recognition that the Treaty relationship is dynamic and will evolve over time; and
- The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba shall be based on mutual respect, operating at arms length from the parties as a neutral body.

# PUBLIC EDUCATION: OUTREACH STRATEGY

The TRCM Operational Plan identifies an Outreach Strategy as one of its key initiatives. The Outreach Strategy identifies three (3) clusters that target 14 audiences varying in demographics, areas of focus and understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship. The outreach clusters are education, government and influencers and partners.



*Commissioner White Bird meets with Allan Bradley, CEO and Brenda Slobodzian, VP of Community Relations at the Parkland Regional Health Authority office in Dauphin, Manitoba on January 21, 2009.*

The Outreach Strategy's role and purpose is to gather views and provide thoughtful responses that can lead to dialogue about the Treaties. The implementation of the Outreach Strategy adds positively to the overall success of the TRCM and achieves the objective of increasing conversations related to Treaty.

With the primary goal of increasing the awareness of Treaties; to date, approximately 85 opportunities have arisen to share the mandate, role and objectives of the TRCM to the general population and specific targets. As new opportunities to meet with the public are created daily, it is an immediate indicator that the Outreach Strategy of the TRCM is effective.

Within the education cluster, the TRCM has been successful in meeting with universities, colleges, school divisions and provincial associations that

enhance the public school system. The TRCM has had encouraging discussions with Provincial Ministers to discuss the potential of creating mandatory Treaty Curriculum in the K-12 school system. Dialogue is ongoing as the TRCM continues to research and work towards the development of curriculum to raise awareness about the Treaties.



*Jennefer Nepinak, TRCM Executive Director met with Dr. Denise Henning, UCN President to discuss a potential partnership to collaborate and create a stronger understanding of the Treaties.*

Through its Outreach Strategy the TRCM has had the opportunity to meet with all levels of government; Members of Parliament, Provincial Ministers, First Nation governments, Members of the Legislative Assembly and Municipal leaders. Dialogue has been extremely positive throughout these discussions. Information exchange has demonstrated that while much has been achieved, continued work remains in an effort to enhance Treaty knowledge amongst all Manitobans.



*On September 8, 2008 Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP of Winnipeg North met with Commissioner White Bird to discuss Treaty issues and to learn more about the Treaty relationship.*

Defining the influences cluster has proven to be very interesting in the outreach strategy. Identifying organizations that share common goals and objectives with the TRCM has provided a learning opportunity and an effective community relations strategy. The TRCM has engaged the community and identified specific areas where research and facilitation may be required. Influencers have been receptive of the message “We Are All Treaty People” and support the TRCM’s efforts in reaching the general population. In many instances, the Influencers have utilized the Speakers Bureau to provide Aboriginal Perception Training to their staff as part of their overall corporate goals of incorporating cultural diversity into the workplace.

The TRCM is committed to continuing direct dialogue with the community. It is essential that the TRCM continues to work with its partners and new supporters to enhance the relationship. It is expected



*Commissioner White Bird discusses the TRCM's role and mandate with Winnipeg South MP Rod Bruinooge on June 24, 2008.*

that the TRCM will continue to meet new individuals in the clusters which in turn will allow the TRCM to reach a wider audience.



*Commissioner White Bird meets with the Waywayseecapo First Nation Chief and Council and community members on November 17, 2008.*

## OUTREACH STRATEGY PROFILE: IMPORTANT MEETINGS & CONNECTIONS

The TRCM has continued to meet with decision makers, influencers and supporters over the course of the year. Meeting with key players through independent meetings, Speakers Bureau events, media relations and community activities has allowed the TRCM to meet the objectives of its mandate to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship.



*Commissioner White Bird delivers a presentation to staff members of Riding Mountain National Park on January 21, 2009.*

Occasionally, the TRCM through its partners is requested to participate in events that are outside the Province of Manitoba. As an example, through the partnership created between the TRCM and RCMP in 2007, the Treaty Commissioner was invited to tour the RCMP Depot in Regina. The Commissioner was introduced to activities that new RCMP recruits would experience. This invitation provided an opportunity to explore and discuss the important role that the RCMP has played in Treaty making in western Canada.

On December 4, 2008 the Treaty Commissioner met with the Honourable Chuck Strahl, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to discuss a range of issues concerning the current and future initiatives of the TRCM. Detailed discussion occurred with respect to the upcoming 2009-2010 evaluation as well as the Treaty Commission Policy process. Overall the meeting was a positive step forward in

the TRCM Treaty discussions. The Minister congratulated the TRCM on its remarkable success thus far and affirmed INAC's commitment to continued discussions relating to the renewal of the TRCM mandate.



*L to R: TRCM Executive Director Jennefer Nepinak, Commissioner Dennis White Bird, the Honourable Minister Chuck Strahl - INAC, Elder Harry Bone, Manager, Treaty Relations Sandra Wabeqijig and Director General of Negotiations Maureen McPhee meet to discuss the TRCM's current mandate.*

The Treaty Commissioner has been involved with First Nation leaders from communities and organizations including, but not limited to; Birdtail Sioux, Dakota Tipi, Long Plain, Keeseekoowenin, Nisichawayasihk Cree, Norway House, Peguis, Pine Creek, Poplar River, Rolling River, Roseau River, Sagkeeng, Sioux Valley, Skownan, Swan Lake, Tataskweyak and Waywayseecappo. The Commissioner has also engaged the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak and Southern Chiefs Organization, Island Lake Tribal Council, Swampy Cree Tribal Council and West Region Tribal Council in areas such as Treaty Land Entitlement, Health as a Treaty Right, Treaty Right to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping, the Duty to Consult, Jurisdiction and Child Welfare.



*On September 22, 2008 Commissioner White Bird was invited to Dakota Tipi First Nation to meet with Chief Pashe to discuss issues specific to the Dakota People of Manitoba.*

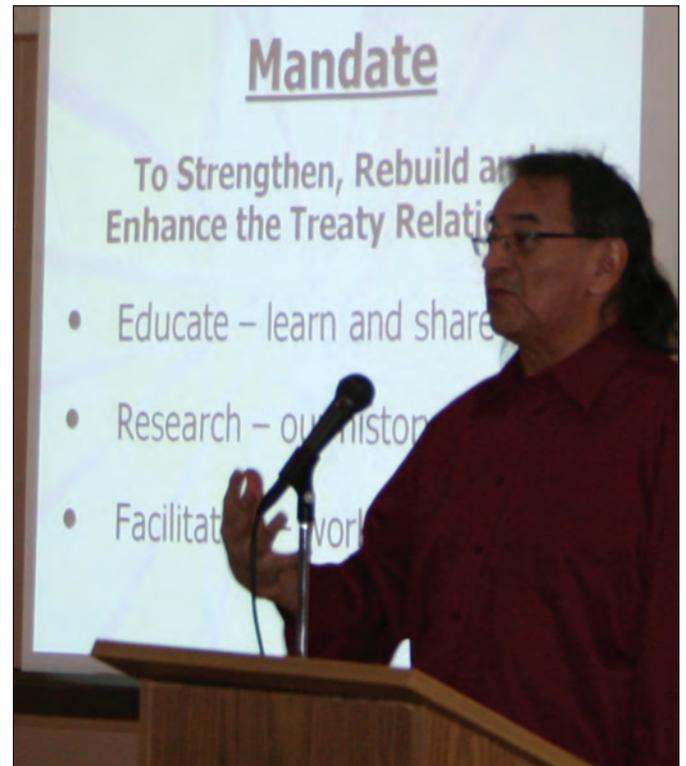
The Commissioner also had the opportunity to speak with party leaders such as the Honourable George Hickes – Speaker of the House, Manitoba Legislative Assembly, Minister Andrew Swan – Competitiveness, Training and Trade and Minister Stan Struthers of Manitoba Conservation. Further, the Commissioner was invited to meet with the NDP Caucus of Manitoba, Mr. Hugh McFadden,



*Commissioner White Bird and Mr. Hugh McFadden, Leader of the Official Opposition met to discuss the Treaties and Treaty relationship in Manitoba to Strengthen the relationship between First Nations and non-First Nations.*

Leader of the Official Opposition and the PC Caucus of Manitoba and Dr. Jon Gerrard, Leader of the Liberal Party of Manitoba. These opportunities allowed the Commissioner to highlight the important work that has been completed to date and highlight key areas of focus as the TRCM moves forward.

Through the Speakers Bureau, the Treaty Commissioner is requested to participate in specific events. As a result the Commissioner has been able to share information about the Treaties with various organizations, universities and businesses such as; the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), University of Manitoba, Department of Justice Canada, Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and the City of Winnipeg.



*The Manitoba Student Aide invited Commissioner White Bird to their Annual Training to learn about the Treaties creating a broader understanding of the Treaty relationship.*

# ELDERS COUNCIL



The AMC Council of Elders provide guidance, support and input to: the AMC-TRCM Manitoba Treaties Oral History Project (OHP); TRCM Historical Atlas of First Nations in Manitoba Project; and other TRCM research initiatives.

The AMC Council of Elders participated in these meetings throughout the year:

- July 31 - August 1, 2008 – Spiritual Meeting & Traditional Feast followed by a regular business meeting;
- October 29-30, 2008 – regular business meeting;
- November 24-26, 2008 – Spiritual Meeting & Traditional Feast; OHP Ethics Review Board Meeting;
- January 26-28, 2009 – AMC Chiefs General Assembly (Long Plain);
- May 6-7, 2009 – OHP Publication Editorial Review Board Meeting followed by a regular business meeting; and
- May 19-21, 2009 – AMC Chiefs General Assembly (Sagkeeng).

These meetings are important in addressing specific Treaty language and knowledge to ensure deeper understandings. As well, they provide an opportunity to focus on the Elders’ roles and functions guided by a Protocol and Terms of Reference. Since January 2009 the AMC Council of Elders have expanded their role - they as an Editorial Board for the upcoming Treaty Elders’ Teachings Volumes 1 – 4 developed from the OHP.

## THE ELDERS PERSPECTIVE

For many years others have spoken for us and have created our histories.

Today, we are speaking with our own voices – voices that have been heard throughout our territories since time immemorial. Our voices can be heard through the Oral History Project and the Atlas Project in building a bridge of understanding for settler society.

Wahkotowin (relationship) is very important to our people. According to our peoples, the establishment of kinship is to journey with one heartbeat, one body and one mind as long as the waters flow. This is the spirit and intent of Treaty!

When our Ancestors entered into Treaty, they made a commitment to live in peace with the settlers and their culture; they asked in return that the settlers respect our culture and beliefs. They shook hands with the Commissioners as a sign of good-will; to build this nation they called Canada.

Treaties established a formal and legal obligation on the part of Canada to look after the well-being of First Nations and to protect their lands and resources in perpetuity. There were promises made from both sides. We, First Nations, have kept our promises to share our land and to live in peaceful co-existence.

It should be understood that our Ancestors did not solicit the loss of our lands and our autonomy or the detachment of our culture and spirituality. This is the message that we want to communicate in terms of a renewed relationship. We need to reconcile ourselves and to create balance and harmony.

It is time to awaken our consciousness to come together as a human family. It is about time that we

The Council Members that represent each of the Treaty Regions and the Dakota Oyate throughout the province are as follows:

- Treaty No. 1 – Wayne Scott
- Treaty No. 2 – Harry Bone
- Treaty No. 3 – Helen Cobiness
- Treaty No. 4 – James Cote
- Treaty No. 5 – William Lathlin
- Treaty No. 5 Adhesion – D’Arcy Linklater
- Treaty No. 6 – Angus Linklater
- Treaty No. 10 – William Loone (deceased)
- Dakota Nations – Doris Pratt
- Treaty No. 5 – Elder Nathan McGillvary\*

\*Treaty No. 5 – Alternate

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

Through dialogue and information sharing the Speakers Bureau is a service provided by the TRCM that is working to create an understanding about the historical and contemporary issues that relate to Treaty. The Speakers Bureau was launched in 2006 and has increased participation to 15 active members from the Treaty territories in Manitoba who are well versed with knowledge and experience about the Treaties.



*Allen Sutherland shares his First Nation - Crown Historical Time line at one of the Speakers Bureau events.*

### SPEAKERS BUREAU OBJECTIVES:

- Raise awareness of Treaties and their importance;
- Raise awareness of the rights and obligations associated with Treaties;
- Facilitate discussions on Treaties;
- Promote the concept “We Are All Treaty People”; and
- Enhance the Treaty relationship.

By invitation, speakers are requested to provide Treaty Information Sessions to groups who are interested in learning about the Treaties. The Speakers Bureau is versatile and continues to grow as it becomes well-known within Manitoba.

Focused attention has been given to the Speakers Bureau and the profile of the Treaties is being raised throughout Manitoba. Development of the Speakers Bureau is ongoing and during the 2008-2009 fiscal year, 27 events have been held with approximately



*Don Lathlin engages youth in Bunibanabee Cree Nation while sharing information about the adhesion to Treaty 5.*

1,000 participants being reached in total.

Through the partnerships that have been created, the TRCM has been able to secure Speakers Series with organizations to utilize the TRCM as a source of education for their staff and managers. This in turn has created an opportunity for the Speakers Bureau to ensure that it becomes the best resource for information on Treaties within Manitoba.

To balance the information that Manitobans receive from various outlets in relation to Treaty, the Speakers Bureau has a unique opportunity to offer presentations that can speak to both the Canadian and First Nation perspective of the Treaties. Elders have been instrumental in the development of the Speakers Bureau and many have become members in light of their wealth of experience and traditional knowledge.



*Irene Linklater engaged the Political Studies class at the University of Manitoba while discussing the current context of the Treaties.*

## SPEAKERS BUREAU MEMBER PROFILE: JEFF HARRIS, BA, B.ED, LL.B



Jeff Harris was called to the Bar in Manitoba in 1983, and has been a partner of Myers Weinberg LLP since joining the firm in 1996.

His practice focuses on Aboriginal law with an emphasis on land and related claims, both in litigation and negotiation. He also advises First Nations on governance, employment, and child and family services matters. He has appeared in all levels of court, including the Supreme Court of Canada.

Jeff has long been active in the Canadian Bar Association, serving as President of the Manitoba Branch as well as on numerous national committees. As the Chair of the National Aboriginal Law

Section, he advocated for policy changes to enhance Canada's justice system, particularly as it relates to survivors of the residential school system and the appointment of Aboriginal people to the courts.

Jeff came to land claims work, in part because of his background in history, through which he saw a need for a recognition and resolution of long standing Aboriginal grievances. He believes this work is important because the resolution of these claims not only corrects historical wrongs, but provides First Nations with economic development opportunities which are critical for self-sufficiency.



*Jeff Harris shares his perspective of the Treaties at the Millenium Library to the public with an interest in learning more about the Treaties in Manitoba.*

# WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE



A group of multicultural students and staff from RB Russell Vocational High School smile as they share in the benefits of being within the Treaty No. 1 territory.

**VISIT [WWW.TRCM.CA](http://WWW.TRCM.CA) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR TREATIES.**

# PARTNERSHIPS

The TRCM is making significant strides in building key partnerships with governments, educational institutions and leaders in Manitoba in an effort to promote the understanding of Treaties and the Treaty relationship.

Over the 2008-2009 fiscal year the TRCM was successful in engaging five (5) organizations as formal partners which support the goals and objectives of the TRCM. Concentrated efforts in maintaining these relationships will be ongoing as the TRCM works with its partners to reach the independent objectives of the terms agreed to in the partnership agreements. They include:

1. Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre
2. Aboriginal Leadership Institute, Inc.
3. Parks Canada

4. Manitoba Conservation
5. Brandon University

The TRCM will continue to actively seek partnerships that will provide opportunities to collaborate and to create an environment for understanding. The following partnership discussions are underway:

1. Manitoba Hydro
2. University College of the North
3. University of Winnipeg
4. City of Winnipeg

It is important to note that while the formal partnership with Manitoba Hydro has not been solidified to date, the TRCM would like to express its sincerest gratitude to Manitoba Hydro for its continued support to the Manitoba First Nation Atlas Project.

## MANITOBA FIRST NATION EDUCATION RESOURCE CENTRE

May 23, 2008

*The dynamic partnership between MFNERC and the TRCM is one of mutual vision, understanding and respect. The partnership is a collaborative approach to creating documents that will enhance the Treaty relationship for all Canadians."*

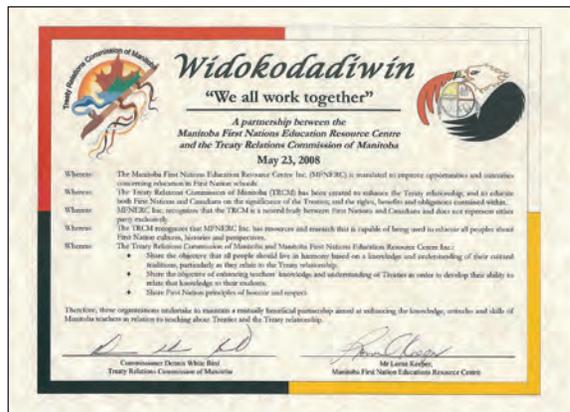
**Lorne Keeper, Executive Director**

*"Since its opening the Resource Centre has worked hard to establish itself as 'the' venue for First Nation curriculum development and education initiatives. The TRCM hopes it can access the great storehouse of knowledge and understanding that is the Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre."*

**Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird**



*On May 23, 2008 Treaty Commissioner White Bird and Lorne Keeper united the MFNERC and TRCM through a formal partnership.*



# ABORIGINAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE INC.

October 22, 2008

*"The Aboriginal Leadership Institute is committed to building relationships that support leadership and governance. We appreciate partners that are addressing the sacred agreements that were made by our Ancestors. The TRCM is cognizant of the work that needs to be done to move forward and to create a strong future."*

**Ted Fontaine - Board of Directors, Chair**

*"The Aboriginal Leadership Institute has the ability to reach community leaders and provide the opportunities to share information with leadership effectively. As a partner, the TRCM is able to use ALI as a forum to share the message with the audience. The result is that the grassroots people have a stronger understanding of Treaty and the Treaty relationship."*

**Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird**



*Ted Fontaine and Treaty Commissioner White Bird sign the partnership agreement formalizing a continued effort to enhance the Treaty relationship on October 27, 2008.*



# PARKS CANADA

November 7, 2008

*"Parks Canada is working together with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba to tell the story of the making of Treaty One and hopes to create through its programming a greater understanding of the significance of the Treaty as a symbol of the vital and ongoing relationship between First Nations and all other Canadians."*

**Dawn Bronson - Superintendent, Manitoba Field Unit**

*"This collaboration is an important step in enhancing the Treaty relationship. Parks Canada and its staff have an important role to play in educating Canadians on the role of the land and history in creating this wonderful country."*

**Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird**



*Superintendent Dawn Bronson, Manitoba Field Unit & Commissioner White Bird enter into a partnership on November 7, 2008*



# MANITOBA CONSERVATION

November 17, 2008

*"Treaties signed by the federal government and First Nations have impacts in all provinces and the existing broad base of Treaty knowledge within the provincial government will be enhanced through this initiative."*

**Minister Stan Struthers, Manitoba Conservation**

*"The province has an important role to play in securing the lands and resources of Manitoba for future generations. By signing this partnership, the commission will be able to deliver messages to conservation staff and management about how the First Peoples viewed and maintained these lands."*

**Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird**



*Conservation Minister Stan Struthers and Commissioner White Bird sign a Partnership agreement on November 19, 2008.*



# BRANDON UNIVERSITY

December 10, 2008

*"Brandon University has been involved in partnerships with the Aboriginal people for much of its history. This present relationship is another example of our commitment to encourage cultural diversity and understanding between us all. I think it will be a benefit to everyone in the Brandon community."*

**Brandon University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Louis P. Visentin**

*"By signing this MOU, the TRCM will be able to deliver the message We Are All Treaty People to Brandon University students, staff and management. We are eager to work with Brandon University to enhance the Treaty relationship and to learn from our partners as we work together to educate all Manitobans about the importance of the Treaties."*

**Treaty Commissioner, Dennis White Bird**



*On December 10, 2008 Dr. Louis Visentin and Commissioner White Bird formalized the partnership between the TRCM and Brandon University creating a stronger understanding of the Treaties.*



# PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN: WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE

Over the 2008-2009 fiscal year the TRCM created the Treaty Education Campaign “We Are All Treaty People”. The goal of the campaign was to present the concept to the general public in an effort to create dialogue about their understanding and role within the Treaty relationship. The campaign also served a secondary purpose of creating awareness about the TRCM and to channel interested parties to the TRCM website where they can learn more about the Treaties and the TRCM Speakers Bureau.

Through effective communication mechanisms such as billboards, television, transit buses, posters, Treaty map, DVD, advertising and brochures the TRCM has reached the general population to introduce itself as a resource to gain valuable information about the Treaties. To further solidify the campaign the TRCM was able to successfully deliver many of the newly developed tools to various educational institutions within the Province of Manitoba.

## PROFILE: BILLBOARDS



*We are All Treaty People billboard and poster campaign.*

Billboards were strategically placed in three (3) communities with high populations; Brandon, Dauphin and The Pas. To identify the effectiveness of the campaign the Commission secured data from its service provider regarding the proof of performance and reach of the “We Are All Treaty People” campaign.

On its Gross Rating Points in the Brandon area the TRCM reached a total of 30% of the population daily averaging 14,000 people aged 5 years plus. The campaign was in effect for a total of 69 days allowing the TRCM to reach 39,000 people. Brandon’s population total is 47,500 citizens. In Dauphin, with a population of 7,800 people the TRCM reached an average of 71% of its population daily totaling 5,500 citizens. Running for a total of 58 days the

Commission reached approximately 155,000 people in the Dauphin area. In its smallest market, The Pas with a population of approximately 5,300 citizens the “We Are All Treaty People” billboards reached on average 14 % of the population daily totaling 251,000 views over the 47 day run of the campaign.

## PROFILE: CTV AD CAMPAIGN



*Historian John Bumstead and Elder Elmer Courchene in ‘Share the Land’ CTV ad campaign.*

As a result of the effectiveness of the “We Are All Treaty People” campaign, CTV sought to solidify a partnership with the TRCM to create a series of commercials that would convey the campaign as well as highlight interesting facts and information regarding Treaty making.

A series of four commercials speaking to different topics relating to the Treaties were developed; with the goal of presenting general ideas to the public that encourage people to reflect on their understanding of the Treaty relationship and their role within it. The CTV commercials varied in themes; Sharing the Land, Treaties in the Modern Context, Royal Proclamation of 1763 and Oral History. Each 30 second vignette consistently portrays the TRCM message with dialogue from both the Crown and First Nations perspective on the Treaty making process.

Response to the campaign has been positive and has served to initiate dialogue and discussion relating to Treaty and the Treaty relationship. The effectiveness of the “We Are All Treaty People” campaign can be seen by the website statistics. The TRCM has increased the number of hits on the TRCM website [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca) from an average of 8,000 hits to a staggering 22,000 hits in a one month period totaling 188,500 hits over a one year time period.

# RESOURCE TOOLS

WEBSITE: [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca)



Visit [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca) to learn more about your Treaties.

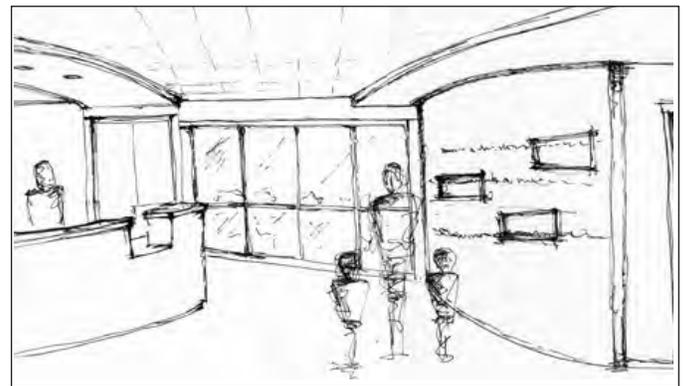
The TRCM website is the hub of the TRCM's Communications Strategy as it is a vault of information for the general public. Its users are from all demographics with wide and varied interests and motivations for learning and understanding the Treaties. The TRCM continually develops the website to ensure that the usability is increased by teachers and students, knowledge seekers and the general public.

Over the year, key performance evaluators indicate that the TRCM has more than tripled its volume in website hits. By count, the website averages 1,600 visitors per month. The increase in statistics can be attributed to the "We Are All Treaty People" campaign, Outreach Strategy and Speakers Bureau.

## LEARNING CENTRE

As part of the TRCM Operational Plan for 2008 – 2011, the TRCM and its partners identified the need for the creation of a Learning Centre that would provide a visible 'sense of place' for Treaty education and awareness. In late 2008, the TRCM was successful in engaging the support of Prairie Architects Inc. to assist in development and design.

To ensure an inclusive and integrated design approach, the TRCM also engaged the support of a committee consisting of members of the TRCM, the AMC and INAC.



*Conceptual sketch of the Learning Centre entrance designed by Prairie Architects, Inc.*

Consulting with the AMC/TRCM Elders Council was integral to ensuring recognition and integration of traditional knowledge into the overall concept. The incorporation of various viewpoints, values, cultural traditions and demographic realities into the design of the new facility ensures its relevance for the future.

The concept was developed to include the four (4) directions and circular elements reflecting an organic and holistic approach. With the intent to engage school aged children in the Treaty discussion; the design also allows for cultural appropriate activities such as smudging and ceremonies. The concept and usability of a user friendly environment will also provide an opportunity for all Manitobans to learn more about the Treaties and the Treaty relationship.

The Learning Centre was completed at the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year and an official launch is scheduled for September 2009.



*The TRCM Learning Centre is designed to provide learning opportunities for all Manitobans to learn about the Treaties.*

## LIBRARY

The TRCM Resource Library has continued to expand over the course of the year. Due to the nature of the material and sensitivity to original documents, the TRCM currently requires the use of the material on location or use by way of reproduction. In an effort to better serve and increase users, the TRCM will continue to work towards developing and enhancing the unique Treaty collection.

## CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

**The Manitoba Treaty Curriculum: Treaty Lessons for Grades 5 & 6 (Including a Teacher Resource Book)**

The Manitoba Treaty Curriculum: Treaty Lessons for Grades 5 & 6 project is being developed by the Treaties sub-committee of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) / Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth (MECY) / Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre (MFNERC) and TRCM working group. Through this group the TRCM has been learning more about curriculum development within Manitoba as well as effective strategies for reaching out to teachers, administrators and students.

The purpose of the project is to provide teachers with an outcome based resource with foundation

building information, outside links and educational materials to facilitate teaching about Treaties. Aimed at grades 5 & 6; this resource will be the pilot project for a range of teaching and learning resources to be developed on the Treaties and the Treaty relationship that will eventually cover all grade levels. The success of the project will be measured on its usability in conjunction with the current Manitoba curriculum and its use by teachers in Manitoba. It is anticipated that the pilot project will be initiated within the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

## Kinikinik: A Treaty Play by Ian Ross

Kinikinik is a short instructive piece of theatre that seeks to enlighten those who experience it. Commissioned by the TRCM, Governor General Award winning playwright, Ian Ross created the piece which serves to educate and share experiences relative to Treaty and the Treaty relationship. The story and issues are explored through three main characters who act as guides to those who view the play.

Written for all ages with a focus on a youthful audience; the play will serve as an adaptable tool for exploration of themes surrounding Treaties. Designed to be performed by young actors who may not have considerable experience, as well as professionals, adaptability is one of the strengths of the play, so that it may reach as many people as possible. Ultimately, the message of Kinikinik lies in the fact that 'We are All Treaty People'.



*Marsha Knight, Ian Ross and Ryan Black showcase Kinikinik at an event held by the TRCM.*

## COMMEMORATIONS

The TRCM takes pride in making significant strides in building key relationships with First Nations, education institutions, researchers, governments and leaders in the community in an effort to promote the understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship. Creating Treaty awareness and understanding in Manitoba and beyond can be supported by recognized Treaty Commemorations and monuments throughout the province. Such events serve as important mechanisms for showcasing the Treaties and all they entail. The TRCM embraces the opportunity to support events which will in turn serve to create a greater understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship.



*Commissioner White Bird provides comments about the significance of Treaty One at the Long Plain First Nation Treaty One Commemoration.*

In the 2008-2009 year, the TRCM supported two (2) communities; Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation and Tataskweyak Cree Nation in celebrating their 100th year Commemoration.

Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) marked its centennial of Adhesion to Treaty 5 that was made on July 30, 1908. The goal of the community was to honour its past and launch a promising future built on pride and awareness in the perseverance, contributions and spirit of its people. NCN's celebration was over the course of eight (8) days and included many activities designed for all ages. Incorporating activities that explored the history and traditional ways of living and contemporary activities complemented the balance between the community's history and future.

Tataskweyak Cree Nation celebrated their 100th Anniversary of signing the Adhesion to Treaty 5 on June 26, 2008 in Split Lake, Manitoba. The community hosted a wide range of community events including a re-enactment of the Treaty making, community feast, traditional games and tournaments. Tataskweyak had approximately 7,000 people attend their commemoration which made the event a huge community success.



*Community Leadership and members of Tataskweyak Cree Nation along with members of the RCMP re-enact the signing of the Adhesion to Treaty 5 at the Tataskweyak Cree Nation Commemoration.*

Through research, the TRCM gained information from the department of Canadian Heritage regarding the Building Communities: Through Arts and Heritage Grant program. The program is designed for communities that will commemorate their community anniversaries of 100 years and annual festivals that recur such as annual Treaty Days. To assist the seven (7) communities that would turn 100 years in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the TRCM sent an introductory letter along with the grant guidelines, application and budget information to each community encouraging them to review and apply for funding to assist in their Commemorations.

Of the seven (7) communities; Bunibonibee Cree Nation, God's Lake Narrows First Nation, God's River First Nation, Wasagamak First Nation and the Island Lake Tribal Council contacted the TRCM for assistance in applying for funding and clarification regarding information pertaining to the application and deadlines.

# RESEARCH

The TRCM Research Strategy arose out of the research mandate set out in the MOA between the Crown and the AMC in 2005 which created the TRCM.

The TRCM Research Strategy was developed in early 2007 following a series of consultations that served to guide the TRCM research agenda and identify the priority research areas. The consultative process included:

- Common issues identified by the TRCM parties;
- Informal First Nations community consultations;
- AMC Chiefs in Assembly;
- AMC-TRCM Elder's Advisory Council; and
- Treaty Researchers' Think Tank.



*Commissioner White Bird met with the Dakota Leadership and Elders of Manitoba to discuss the Dakota experience in Manitoba.*

Throughout the consultative process the Treaty Commissioner strove to ensure that the perspectives of the Denesulen, Dakota Oyate, Nehithowak, Anishinaabeg and Anishininwak from all the Treaty areas in Manitoba were equitably represented by leaders and community members. Through the consultations the Treaty Commissioner received an extensive set of recommendations for research on a wide range of topics. The scope and content of the Research Strategy derived from this inclusive consultative process identified five research priority areas:



*Commissioner White Bird and Elder Harry Bone review the original Treaty Four text at the Preservation Centre of the Library and Archives of Canada in Gatineau Quebec during their visit in March 2009.*

- 1) Livelihood;
- 2) Crown-First Nation Treaty Relations;
- 3) Treaty Provisions, Implementation and Interpretations;
- 4) Manitoba First Nation Traditional Knowledge & Practices; and
- 5) Treaty Research: Methodological Issues.



*Dr. Winona Wheeler, TRCM Research Strategist.*

The specific research projects were selected based on the concurrence of research priorities identified in the consultative process, by their originality or capacity to fill the gaps and expand existing Treaty knowledge specific to Manitoba; and in accordance with the TRCM mandate to advance discussions regarding Treaty related issues. The TRCM research projects arising out of this process are as follows:

## LIVELIHOOD:

- 1) Livelihood I: Conceptions, Intent, and Context (documentary accounts)
- 2) Livelihood II: Conceptions, Intent, and Context (oral accounts)
- 3) Treaty Right to Agriculture
- 4) Historical Atlas of First Nations in Manitoba  
**Crown-First Nation Treaty Relations**
- 5) The Treaty Relationship I: Nature and Scope (documentary accounts)
- 6) The Treaty Relationship II: Nature and Scope (oral accounts)
- 7) The Dakota Oyate Experience in Manitoba  
**Treaty Provisions, Implementation and Interpretation**
- 8) Treaty Provisions: Oral and Written Accounts
- 9) Socio-economic Foundations and the Treaty Relationship  
**Manitoba First Nation Traditional Knowledge and Practices**
- 10) Traditional Approaches to Treaty Making



*Dr. Frank Tough and Meika Taylor continue to work on the First Nation Historical Atlas reviewing plates and geographical areas in Manitoba.*

## Treaty Research: Methodological Issues

- 11) Treaty Research Methodologies: Review and Analysis

In addition to the above Treaty research priority based research projects the TRCM proposed four ancillary projects to support its Treaty Research Mandate.

- 12) Treaty Knowledge Inventory
- 13) A Visual Images of the Treaty Relationship
- 14) Treaty Commissioner Papers
- 15) Treaty Researchers' Think Tank II: Academics and Elders

The TRCM driven research projects above are in addition to the Manitoba Treaties Oral History Project which is a collaborative partnership between the TRCM and AMC.

The Research Strategy was approved by the TRCM Joint Senior Officials Committee as represented by INAC and the AMC.

The approved research projects were staggered over three years to ensure that they could all be conducted with due diligence and care. Each long term research project commenced with literature reviews on the state of knowledge (referred to as Phase 1) and a few which were originally identified as one year projects were extended because the initial research results identified gaps in the state of knowledge that warranted additional work.



*Dr. Winona Wheeler, Dr. Frank Tough and Commissioner White Bird review the original Treaty Boundaries at the Preservation Centre of the department of Library and Archives Canada.*

# RESEARCH

The following Table shows how the TRCM Research Strategy has been implemented since its inception in 2007-2008 as well as its proposed pro-

jection to 2010-2011. The TRCM will continue to work with AMC and Canada to identify future research priority areas as

| <b>2007-2008</b>                   | <b>2008-2009</b>                 | <b>2009-2010</b><br>*TBD (Ongoing)   | <b>2010-2011</b><br>*TBD (Ongoing) |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| <b>New</b>                         | <b>New</b>                       | <b>New</b>   | <b>New</b>                         |
|                                    |                                  | Discussions with AMC and Canada are ongoing to determine research priorities and next steps. |                                    |
| Historical Atlas                   | Dakota Oyate Experience          | Treaty Relationship I & II   |                                    |
| Treaty Right to Agriculture        | Treaty Provisions                | Socio-Economic Foundations   |                                    |
| Livelihood I                       | Traditional Approaches           | Treaty Research Methods  |                                    |
| Think Tank II                      | Visual Images                    | Manitoba First Nations Historical Treaty Research Project on Health *                        |                                    |
| Treaty Knowledge Inventory         | Treaty Commissioner Papers       |  |                                    |
| MB Treaties Oral History Project * |                                  |  |                                    |
|                                    | <b>Continued</b>                 | <b>Continued</b>   | <b>Continued</b>                   |
|                                    | Historical Atlas                 | Historical Atlas   | Historical Atlas                   |
|                                    | Treaty Right to Agriculture      | Treaty Right to Agriculture  | Treaty Right to Agriculture        |
|                                    | Livelihood I                     | Livelihood I & II  | Livelihood I & II                  |
|                                    | MB Treaties Oral History Project | MB Treaties Oral History   | Treaty Commissioner Papers         |
|                                    |                                  | Dakota Oyate Experience  |                                    |
|                                    |                                  | Treaty Provisions  |                                    |
|                                    |                                  | Traditional Approaches   |                                    |
|                                    |                                  | Treaty Commissioner Papers   |                                    |
| * in partnership with AMC          |                                  |  |                                    |

## FACILITATION

By design, the TRCM is a neutral organization with a mandate to facilitate public understanding of the importance and role of Treaty making in building a stronger and healthier nation. As a result of this unique position, the TRCM has been afforded opportunities to act as an independent facilitator in an effort to bring parties together to discuss Treaty related topics.

In 2005, Treaty Commissioner Dennis White Bird met with the late Minister Oscar Lathlin, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs to discuss the concept of “Honouring the Treaties at the Legislature” to promote an enhanced relationship between the government of Manitoba and all First Nations. The idea was originally tabled by Commissioner White Bird at the AMC Assembly in August 2005, after initial dialogue was conducted with Minister Lathlin. The idea was then taken forward to the Joint Steering Officials Committee (JSOC) in March 2008 where support was expressed on having such an event in Manitoba.

In January 2009 by way of Chiefs Resolution at the AMC Annual General Assembly (AGA) support was given to the TRCM to further develop the initiative. Discussions are ongoing and information exchange and support will be critical to moving the process forward.



*The late Minister Oscar Lathlin discusses the “Honouring our Treaties in the Legislature” project with Commissioner White Bird.*

While Manitoba is the focus of the TRCM’s work, the nature of the Treaty discussion necessarily requires a regional and national perspective. By virtue of this fact, the TRCM has been involved in discussions with the Canadian Museum for Human Rights (CMHR); a major milestone in Canadian history that is being constructed in Treaty One territory. Grounded in the Canadian experience from our social history to First Nation concepts of peace and justice the CMHR have called upon the TRCM to participate in the process associated with the development of the first national museum built outside of the nation’s capital region. As this project progresses the TRCM remains committed to supporting the development and opportunity to enhance the understanding of the Treaty relationship.

Photo Credit: Andrew Sikorsky



*Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Premier Gary Doer, Gail Asper and key stakeholders participate in the CMHR Sod Turning Ceremony on December 19, 2008*

The TRCM has also had the opportunity to meet with the Canadian Human Rights Commission and Manitoba Human Rights Commission to identify areas of common interest relative to First Nation citizens with disabilities in northern Manitoba communities. The TRCM has facilitated the engagement of the First Nations DisAbility Association, MFNERC and the AMC in an effort to initiate dialogue amongst the parties. The forums thus far have provided an opportunity to learn, share and identify solutions that support common interests. The TRCM has also extended invitations to the Children’s Advocate, First Nation Inuit Health Branch and INAC MB Region to discuss the complex needs, jurisdiction, equitable access to services

and dispute resolution mechanisms that can be used to create a path to equality and balance in respect to the important issues brought forward by the grassroots people of Manitoba.

Through its partnership with Parks Canada the TRCM has participated in discussions with Parks Canada and the Chiefs of Treaty One. In an effort to provide a higher quality experience to its visitors at Lower Fort Garry, Parks Canada has redeveloped and designed an interpretive centre that illustrates the relationship between First Nations and non-First Nations in Manitoba. The design focus has been the making of Treaty One at Lower Fort Garry and the Treaty relationship in Manitoba. While dialogue is ongoing between the TRCM and Parks Canada in other areas pertinent to its partnership, the TRCM as a facilitator worked towards engaging the Chiefs of Treaty One in the process to ensure that their vision and concepts of Treaty making are highlighted and is inclusive of their cultural traditions and practices.

With the current context of the Treaties being interpreted by the Supreme Court of Canada; the economy and business practices between First Nation communities and non-First Nation communities is ever changing. As indicated by the Supreme Court the 'honour of the Crown' must be upheld at all times thus creating the Duty to Consult with First Nations when business and economics directly affect First Nations. The TRCM has been engaged with the Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak (MKO) to share information pertaining to the Duty to Consult in an effort to facilitate discussion and create an

Working with First Nations communities is essential to the overall work of the TRCM. Engaging the grassroots people to gain insight into the understanding of the Treaties allows the TRCM to build a focused and progressive strategy for Treaty education. Together with Keeseekoowenin First Nation the TRCM was able to assist in bringing leadership together from the West Region Tribal Council area to engage in dialogue that would further advance the Treaty discussion. Ultimately, the TRCM was able to assist in engaging seven (7) First Nation Chiefs in the Treaty 2 and 4 territories to share information about the Treaties and the Treaty relationship.



*Treaty Commissioner meets with leadership and community members at Keeseekoowenin Sharing Lodge.*

During the spring of 2009, Manitoba Conservation suspended Fishing in the Dauphin Lake area affecting the Turtle and Valley rivers that flow into the lake. To provide understanding of the complex issues associated with the closure Pine Creek First Nation held a community forum engaging communities in the West Region area to create a strategy for fisheries and resource management based on the Treaties with the traditional users of the resources. The TRCM was asked to act as a facilitator between the Chief and Councils of the area and the community members to facilitate dialogue and generate solutions that would be viable and effective for all involved. The TRCM was able to provide information relating to the Treaties and the traditional practices of hunting, fishing and trapping.



*Treaty Commissioner White Bird presenting on the duty to consult at the MKO forum.*



*Treaty Commissioner White Bird meets with W.R.T.C. leadership to discuss traditional hunting, fishing and trapping.*

On June 11, 2008, the Government of Canada publicly announced its apology to the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools (IRS). The next day, Manitoba followed suit; the first province in Canada to announce its apology for its role in the IRS. In its efforts to educate all Manitobans about the historical wrongs that were inflicted on Aboriginal people in Manitoba, Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth (MECY) Aboriginal Education Directorate developed a four (4) stage strategy to introduce the history of the IRS to the public school system. As the TRCM's Speakers Bureau continues to grow and become the best resource relating to the Treaties, MECY engaged the TRCM in dialogue to create a Speakers Bureau for the IRS. Targeting grades 9 & 11, MECY will launch a Speakers Bureau with core speakers of IRS Survivors. Recognizing that not only First Nations attended the IRS, the TRCM engaged the AMC and Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) in developing this Speakers Bureau in a collaborative approach to create one resource for all Manitobans. Discussions are ongoing as development progresses and supports are put in place to ensure the success and longevity of the project.

In the past, present and future Treaty Land Entitlement has been and continues to be at the forefront of community relationships and partnerships. In support of relationship building the TRCM has been working to break down barriers through

facilitated discussions explaining the concept of how the process was created, exists and how it is a tool to sustain community growth and create economic opportunities with the Municipal and First Nation leaders who are neighbours.

## 2009-2010 NEXT STEPS

The TRCM has maintained its balanced approach to building a significant body of work that forms a solid foundation that improves the environment for Treaty relations and implementation in the Province of Manitoba.

As we move forward into a new fiscal year the TRCM, Canada and AMC remain highly committed to engaging in joint discussions concerning Treaties and the Treaty relationship.

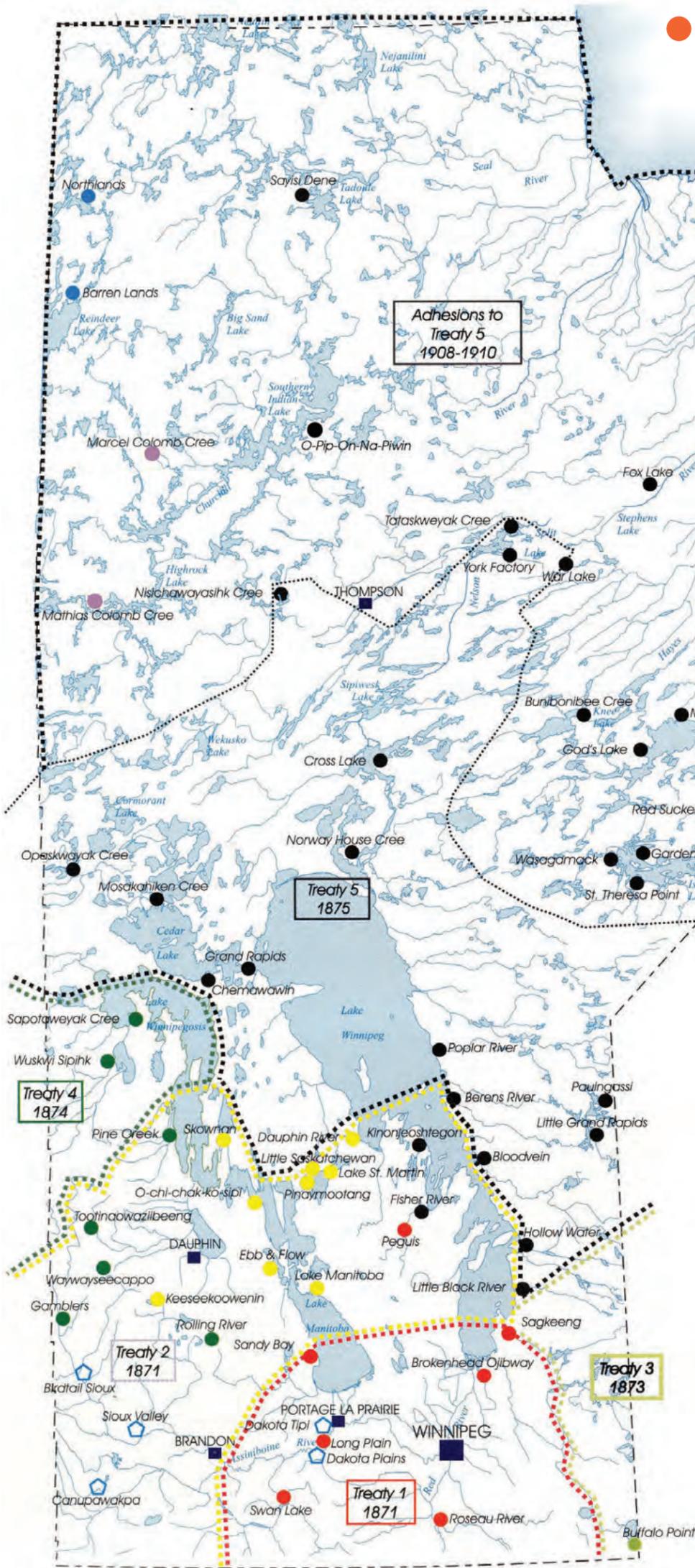
The TRCM will continue to follow its mandate by focusing on:

- a) Public education;
- b) Facilitation; and
- c) Research.

Due to the tremendous amount of support and encouragement that the TRCM has received from all sectors the TRCM strongly believes that its mandate will be renewed so that we may continue to work towards strengthening the understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship for all Manitobans.



# Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre



**Treaty No. 1**  
 Sagkeeng (Fort Alexander) First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Brokenhead Ojibway Nation signed in 1871.  
 Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation Government signed in 1871.  
 Swan Lake First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Sandy Bay First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Long Plain First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Peguis First Nation signed in 1871.

**Treaty No. 2**  
 Dauphin River First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Pinaymootang (Fairford) First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Lake St. Martin First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Lake Manitoba First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Skownan (Waterhen) First Nation signed in 1871.  
 O-Chi-Chak-Ko-Sipi (Crane River) First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Little Saskatchewan First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Ebb and Flow First Nation signed in 1871.  
 Keeseekoowenin First Nation signed in 1871.

**Treaty No. 3**  
 Buffalo Point First Nation signed in 1873.

**Treaty No. 4**  
 Gamblers First Nation signed in 1874.  
 Sapotaweyak (Shoal River) Cree Nation signed in 1874.  
 Wuskwi Sipiik (Indian Birch) First Nation signed in 1874.  
 Tootinawaziibeeng (Valley River) First Nation signed in 1874.  
 Pine Creek First Nation signed in 1874.  
 Waywayseecappo First Nation signed in 1874.  
 Rolling River First Nation signed in 1874.

**Treaty No. 5**  
 Bloodvein First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Berens River First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Chemawawin Cree Nation signed in 1875.  
 Cross Lake First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Fisher River Cree Nation signed in 1875.  
 Grand Rapids First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Hollow Water First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Kinonjeoshtegon (Jackhead) First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Little Black River signed in 1875.  
 Little Grand Rapids First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Mosakahiken (Moose Lake) Cree Nation signed in 1875.  
 Norway House Cree Nation signed in 1875.  
 Opaskwayak Cree Nation signed in 1876.  
 Paungassi First Nation signed in 1875.  
 Poplar River First Nation signed in 1875.

**Treaty No. 5 Adhesion (1908-1910)**  
 Bunibonibee (Oxford House) Cree Nation signed in 1909  
 Fox Lake Cree Nation signed in 1910.  
 Garden Hill First Nation signed in 1909.  
 God's Lake First Nation signed in 1909.  
 Manto Sipi (God's River) Cree Nation signed in 1909.  
 Red Sucker Lake First Nation signed in 1909.  
 Sayisi Dene (Tadoule Lake) First Nation signed in 1910.  
 Shamattawa First Nation signed in 1910.  
 St. Theresa Point First Nation signed in 1909.  
 Tataskweyak (Split Lake) Cree Nation signed in 1908.  
 War Lake First Nation signed in 1908.  
 Wasagamack First Nation signed in 1909.  
 York Factory First Nation signed in 1910.  
 Nisichawayasihk (Nelson House) Cree Nation signed in 1908.  
 \*O-Pip-On-Na-Piwin (South Indian Lake) was originally part of Nisichawayasihk.

**Treaty No. 6**  
 Mathias Colomb (Pukatawagan) Cree Nation signed in 1898.  
 The Marcel Colomb First Nation was originally part of the Mathias Colomb Cree Nation.

**Treaty No. 10**  
 Barren Lands (Brochet) First Nation signed in 1906.  
 Northlands Dene First Nation (Lac Brochet) signed in 1906.

**Dakota Nations**  
 Sioux Valley  
 Birdtail Sioux  
 Dakota Tipi  
 Dakota Plains  
 Canupawakpa Dakota (Oak Lake)

## Explanatory Notes:

The boundaries of the Treaty Areas on the map do not correspond in some cases with a Treaty that a First Nation signed.

Example:

- Gamblers, Rolling River, Pine Creek, Tootinawaziibeeng and Waywayseecappo are located in Treaty 2 area but signed Treaty 4.
- Fisher River and Kinonjeoshtegon are located in Treaty 2 area but signed Treaty 5.
- Marcel Colomb was formed from Mathias Colomb. Both are located in the Treaty 5 Adhesion area but signed Treaty 6.
- The Treaty Boundaries of No. 6 do not extend into Manitoba.
- Northlands and Barren Lands are located in Treaty 5 Adhesion area but signed Treaty 10.
- The Treaty boundaries of Treaty No. 10 do not extend into Manitoba.
- Peguis is located in Treaty 2 area but signed Treaty 1.
- The Dakota Nations – Birdtail Sioux, Sioux Valley, Canupawakpa, Dakota Tipi and Dakota Plains are not signatory to any Treaty with Canada.
- \*O-Pip-On-Na-Piwin is in the process of being recognized as a First Nation.

This map is provided as a public service by the TRCM. It is presented for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the TRCM or their partners concerning the legal status of any First Nation or Territory. The information contained within this map is derived from a number of sources which may, in part, not be current. Any inaccuracies found here are outside the control of the TRCM and any conclusions drawn from this map are the sole responsibility of the user.

*“As long as the sun shines, the grass  
grows and the rivers flow”*



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*“We Are All Treaty People”*