



2018–2019 ANNUAL REPORT

# Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

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

WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE

## IN MEMORIAM

*In 2018–19, two members of the AMC/TRCM Council of Elders journeyed to the spirit world. Elder Elmer Courchene, Treaty No. 3, Sagkeeng First Nation, passed away December 5, 2018 and Elder Doris Pratt, from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, passed away March 6, 2019. Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross, staff and associates of the TRCM extend our heartfelt condolences to the friends and family of these cherished Elders. They offered invaluable support and guidance and their presence and contributions will be deeply missed. They carry with them their profound knowledge on their journey home to meet their ancestors. We are honoured to have been a part of their legacy through the knowledge they have provided to us during their time with the Elders Council. We will strive to continue that legacy by continuing to educate on the significance of the Treaties to all Canadians.*

## ELDER COURCHENE MEMORIAL

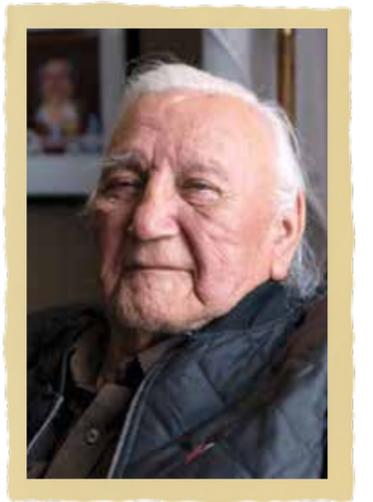
**Elder Elmer Courchene (Standing Strong Man)**, from Sagkeeng First Nation, was a highly regarded Anishinaabe Elder with a deep understanding of his language and culture. He was a pipe-carrier and sun-dancer and practiced traditional Anishinaabe customs and ceremonies. He sat as the Manitoba Elder at the Assembly of First Nations Senator Council, served as an Elder for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and the TRCM. Elder Courchene shared his love, knowledge, and wisdom in TRCM’s “We are all Treaty people” campaign and Oral History project.

Elder Courchene’s first educators were his parents until the age of 5 when he was sent to Fort Alexander and Le Bret Residential schools. Upon returning home from school, he played junior and senior hockey for the Pine Falls Paper Kings with his late brother Eugene. Although he was an excellent player with a promising future, he decided to go to school in Winnipeg to learn the trade of welding. It was there that he met his wife Delores who was in Winnipeg attending hairdressing school. They married in 1962 and settled in Delores’ home community of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation) where he worked in the Paper Mill and as Band Manager. He also worked with Delores, helping community members afflicted with addictions to recover

and heal with compassion through community supports. Delores introduced AA meetings to the community and Elder Courchene promoted healing through sweat lodge ceremonies. He eventually returned to his home community of Sagkeeng but remained supportive and committed to the people of Biigtigong Nishnaabeg throughout his lifetime.

The difficult years he endured in residential school shaped him into a strong and compassionate advocate for his people. Soft spoken and patient, he endeared himself to all around him, and he had the ability to captivate any audience. A vocal advocate for youth, the environment, and the Treaties, he provided guidance and advice to numerous chiefs, dignitaries, and First Nations across Turtle Island. He was also instrumental to the Manitoba Indian Brotherhood (now Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs), participated in discussions on the 1969 White Paper, “*Wahbung: Our Tomorrows*”, and provided guidance for the Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

His message was one of love, compassion, kindness and hope for the sake of the future generations. Elder Courchene began his journey home to his ancestors on December 5, 2018.



## ELDER PRATT MEMORIAL

**Elder Doris Pratt, Duzahan Mani Win (Walks Fast Woman)** was born on February 10, 1936 in the Oak River Indian Reserve, now known as the Sioux Valley Dakota Nation (Wipazoka Wakpa). Elder Pratt's grandfather, Ite Wanzida (One-Face), was known as one of the first Dakota men who returned with his family, along with other families, to the *North Country*. Her parents, Bessie and Demas Dowan, provided her with the spirituality, language and cultural foundation that guided her in her lifetime.

From the age of 6 years, she attended the Anglican Day School in her home community. She later attended residential school in Elkhorn Manitoba and the Portage la Prairie Indian Residential School. At the age of 16, her mother refused to send her back to residential school and she was able to live in her community where she believed she "*received the best kind of education*". She worked hard helping her father with chores, trapping, and working in the agricultural fields that surrounded their community. She was a horse-woman, known for her excellent riding skills. Elder Pratt held firm to the belief that the teachings that she received from her parents, extended family, and community molded her into the strong Dakota woman she was.

In the early 1970's, through the encouragement of the kindergarten teacher at the Sioux Valley School, she applied to the Indian Metis Project and Careers Teacher Education (IMPACTE) Program at Brandon University. She acknowledged the many people who believed in her for providing the encouragement, inspiration and support to achieve great things in her lifetime. She practiced that same model and encouraged many young First Nation people to pursue their dreams, many of whom have become teachers like her. She coordinated the BUNTEP program in Winnipeg and started the same program in her own community in the early 2000s.

Elder Pratt earned a Bachelor of Teaching Degree, Bachelor of Education (5-year) and Master of Education Degree all from Brandon University. She also spent five summers at the American Language Institute Development Program at the University of Arizona and achieved an Education, Culture & Language Specialist Degree in December 2004. She considered her formal education challenging and promoted the philosophy that First Nations people can achieve their goals through hard work. She strongly believed that education is the key for success and the advancement of First Nations.

Elder Pratt received several awards recognizing her achievements including:

- Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal – Knowledge Keepers
- Ka Ni Kanichihk – Keeping the Fires Burning – Grandmothers Award
- Aboriginal Circle of Educators – Trailblazers Award
- Manitoba First Nations Education Centre – Dakota Language Recognition
- Women of Distinction Award – Lifetime Achievement

Elder Pratt dedicated her life to education and ensuring that the Dakota language was preserved and promoted in the Dakota communities she worked in as a Teacher, Principal, Director of Education, and as a Professor at the University level. Among her many other achievements, she developed a phonetic writing system for the Dakota Language and authored "*The Dakota Oyate*" published by TRCM in March 2016.

We honour Elder Pratt for her lifetime commitment and incredible contributions as an educator and her strength and determination as an advocate for the rights of all First Nations. Elder Pratt began her journey home to her ancestors on March 6, 2019.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, I would like to congratulate the Treaty Commissioner, the Council of Elders, staff and associates at the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) for successfully promoting and increasing awareness of the importance of Treaties throughout the Province of Manitoba in 2018–2019.

We all have a shared responsibility when it comes to honouring the Treaties and improving the Treaty Relationship. This is why the work of the TRCM involving research, facilitation and public education is so important. It allows First Nations and non-First Nations people to have a better awareness of the Treaties which empowers all of us to move forward in the best way possible.

It is pleasing to see the creative approaches you have taken in educating our First Nations and the general public on the Treaty Relationship. This has been carried out through your radio shows, your outreach booths, and the various special events you have hosted throughout the year. By these efforts we are all reminded that the spirit and intent of our Treaties are still alive.

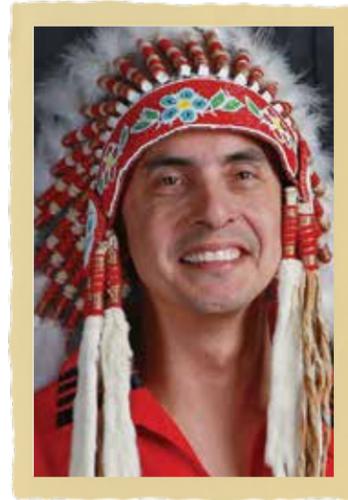
The TRCM has done an excellent job in collaborating with the Council of Elders, whose

involvement is invaluable to this work. Our Elders provide us with a deeper understanding of the Treaties through their knowledge of our history, languages and traditions. Initiatives like the Treaties Oral History Project and the First Nations Historical Timeline are great examples of this.

Thank you for all that you have done this year to initiate and maintain beneficial relationships throughout Manitoba. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs remains committed to supporting the great work being done by the Commission.

Ekosi,

Grand Chief Arlen Dumas  
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs



**GRAND CHIEF  
ARLEN DUMAS**  
Mathias Colomb  
Cree Nation –  
Treaty No. 6

## MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF ELDERS

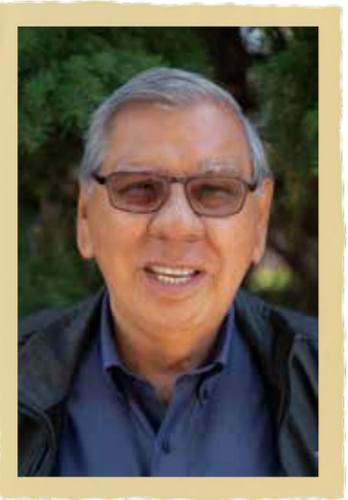
I am honoured to provide the message from the Council of Elders for the 2018–2019 TRCM annual report. During the years I have been with the Council it is becoming increasingly apparent that changes are occurring for the better and in fact since the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Report, there is increased momentum in new and encouraging initiatives to further the education, health, economic development and prosperity of our people. I, along with other members of our Council and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Speakers Bureau, have been kept busy by the demand for Treaty knowledge from, not just the general public, but our own people who want learn more about their history and the true meaning of the Treaty relationship.

Treaty Commissioner, Loretta Ross, has also had a very busy year. She has received invitations to events and meetings from all across Canada and has been tireless in her efforts to attend whenever her presence, knowledge and experience is requested. The Council of Elders have had had the great pleasure of having been able to work by her side for over a year and we have seen the diligent efforts she puts forth to ensure the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba attains its goals. We have been working with our Treaty Education team on a post-secondary course which will be coming in to the 2019–2020 year and look forward to its implementation in the summer of 2019. As an Elders Council, we have also noticed an increase in demand for time with the Council and believe that this is a reflection of the understanding and appreciation of the role of Knowledge Keepers as we move

towards a deeper understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship. We are confident that the Treaty Commissioner, Elders Council and the rest of the TRCM team, will be heading into another busy year filled with exciting new opportunities and initiatives.

Although there is still much promise ahead, this year has been a particularly difficult one, marked by the passing of family members, friends and co-workers. We lost two great spirits in Elder Elmer Courchene and Elder Doris Pratt, who sat many years on the Council of Elders and provided so much of their valuable input, time and friendship. They were not just members of the Council, they were family to us and we have felt their absence keenly at each meeting since their passing.

Miigwech



**ELDER  
HARRY BONE**  
Keeseekoowenin  
First Nation –  
Treaty No. 2

## MESSAGE FROM THE TRCM

I am pleased to present the 2018–2019 Annual Report on behalf of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba. It has been another busy year for the TRCM and myself as Treaty Commissioner. We have seen continued growth and requests in our Speakers Bureau as well as our Treaty Education Training. Treaty Education now includes focus on development of post-secondary training as well as corporate, government, religious institute and individual training. We are conscious that much of the requests tend to come from the southern part of the Province of Manitoba and so we continuously reach out to the northern population to encourage them to access our services as well. The positive feedback we have received regarding our radio show, Let's Talk Treaty, has shown us that it has been a helpful tool in providing some of this accessibility by offering short but informative snapshots on various topics related to Treaties.

2018 saw the TRCM partner with Oscar Lathlin School and Frontier Collegiate to offer a Grade 12 course on Treaties. We are extremely proud of this initiative and it is our hope that other schools will implement similar courses which focus on local Treaty history. Our Elders are firm in their belief that we need to know our history as it provides the platform required to begin to move forward in building strong communities and Nations.

The TRCM is also proud to continue to work with Immigration Partnership Winnipeg (IPW), Manitoba Association of Newcomer Services and other newcomer agencies. The TRCM has been working with IPW in providing Newcomers with a better understanding of Treaties and the Treaty relationship and their roles and responsibilities to that relationship. Our team is currently working toward incorporating Treaty information into all levels of Newcomer education services and we look forward to seeing the results of our joint efforts in developing educational curriculum, resources and tool kits and providing workshops to Newcomers and Newcomer service providers.

The TRCM continues to find itself on a national agenda as well where interest in understanding the Treaty relationship has resulted in requests for sharing our knowledge from coast to coast. We have also been mindful of our inter-provincial extension

of the Treaties and, in that regard, have been pleased with the strengthening of our relationship with the Office of The Treaty Commission of Saskatchewan, and those First Nation communities whose Treaty transcends the provincial boundaries.

The TRCM has also continued to build positive relations between First Nation and non-First Nation governments and we have made every effort possible to gain a better understanding through participation at the various Treaty tables in the Province of Manitoba. The facilitative role of the TRCM is one that we hope to expand and enhance in the next fiscal year.

Our Council of Elders continues to provide valuable guidance to the Commission and to me on a personal level as well as my role as Treaty Commissioner. I treasure their teachings and direction and I am excited to be a part of the 2019 Treaties Post-Secondary Course that the Elders, along with the TRCM Treaty Education team, have been developing. This will be the first Treaties course ever accredited by First Nation Elders and I believe this will move us beyond simply Indigenizing our institutions and into a true First Nations approach to providing First Nation knowledge and teachings to all. As excited as we are about the new year ahead, it will be with tremendous sadness that we will have to move forward without Elders Elmer Courchene and Doris Pratt and the immeasurable advice and guidance they

provided. My heart and prayers go out to the family and friends of our Elders who have journeyed home to their ancestors. They will be forever missed and we are grateful for the selfless words of wisdom and experience they gave to us in the time we enjoyed with them.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our TRCM team and welcome the new members that have joined us this past year. Jeremy Daniels came to us in April as our Speakers Bureau and Outreach Coordinator and Brittany Thomas joined us in November as our Receptionist. We also bid farewell to Kathy Boulanger-Budd who served as Administrative Assistant for many years at the TRCM but has moved on to a new and exciting adventure. We wish Kathy all the best in her new position.

Miigwech and I look forward to seeing what wonderful, new and exciting things this next year brings for the TRCM.



**COMMISSIONER  
LORETTA ROSS**  
Hollow Water First Nation –  
Treaty No. 5

## TRCM STAFF AND ASSOCIATES



**AMANDA SIMARD**  
Education Manager



**MONIQUE LARIVIERE**  
Research & Public Policy



**JAIME WOLFE**  
Operations Manager



**JEREMY DANIELS**  
Speakers Bureau and  
Outreach Coordinator



**KATHY BOULANGER-BUDD**  
Administrative Assistant



**BRITTANY THOMAS**  
Receptionist



**CYNTHIA BIRD**  
TEI Advisor



**CONNIE WYATT-ANDERSON**  
TEI Lead Facilitator



**RENEE MCGURRY**  
TEI Facilitator

# About the TRCM



At the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, our goal is to foster a greater understanding of the significance of Treaties and the Treaty relationship to Manitobans today. We do this in a multitude of ways. Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross is frequently invited to speaking engagements. Our Speakers Bureau members are busier than ever and have presented at events and classrooms across the province. Our resource library has been used to respond to many inquiries about the Treaties, and our Learning Centre has been the site of countless workshops and speaking events. Our Treaty Education Initiative team has provided Treaty education for thousands of teachers and school administrators. At the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, we have the tools, resources, knowledge and expertise to advance the public's understanding of the relationship between First Nations and Canada in a safe and inclusive environment.

Furthermore, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has developed successful initiatives such as the "We Are All Treaty People" campaign, the Treaty Education Initiative to train kindergarten to grade 12 classroom teachers all across Manitoba, the "Let's talk Treaty!" radio program, and the Oral History Project, which led to the publication of four volumes of the Treaty Elders' Teachings. Each of these initiatives have contributed to the success of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, as is evident through increased requests for engagement and a progressively higher level of understanding in participants.

## COUNCIL OF ELDERS

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba receives invaluable guidance and support from its Council of Elders. Our esteemed Elders are historians, teachers, spiritual caregivers, language experts, and cultural advisors and their commitment to the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba is integral to the work we do. Their contributions, support, and guidance provide us with a deeper understanding of the First Nations perspective and the spirit and intent of the Treaties. In addition to the research initiatives, Council of Elders advise us on curriculum development, leadership forums, and are an important part of our Speakers Bureau.

## COUNCIL OF ELDERS



**TREATY NO. 1 – FLORENCE PAYNTER**  
(Sandy Bay First Nation)



**TREATY NO. 2 – HARRY BONE**  
(Keeseekoowenin First Nation)



**TREATY NO. 3 – ELMER COURCHENE**  
(Sagkeeng First Nation)



**TREATY NO. 4 – JAMES COTE**  
(Waywayseecappo First Nation)



**TREATY NO. 5 – ELDER WILLIAM G. LATHLIN**  
(Opaskwayak Cree Nation)



**TREATY NO. 5 ADHESION – D'ARCY LINKLATER**  
(Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation)



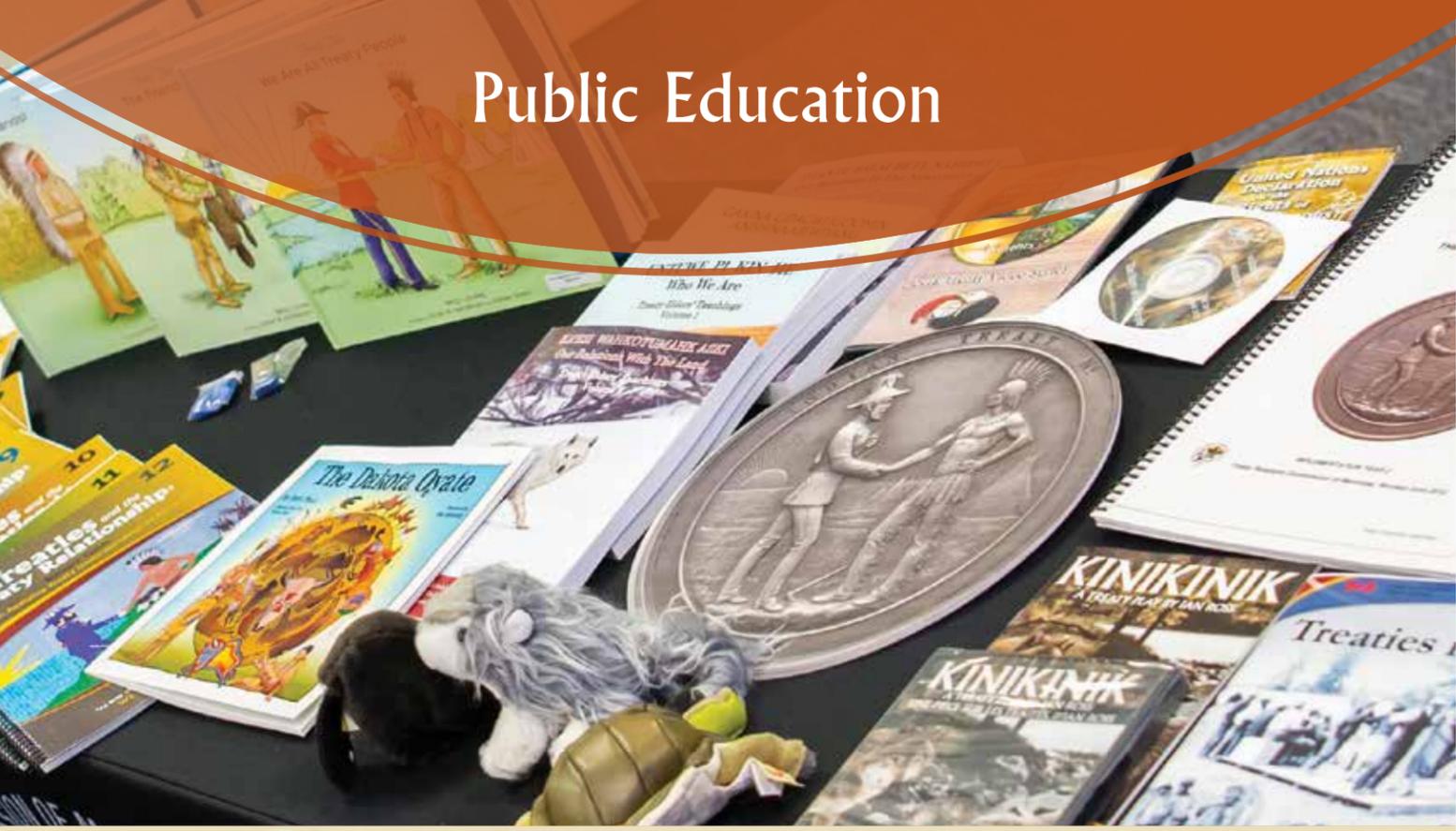
**TREATY NO. 6 – VACANT**

**TREATY NO. 10 – ELDER JOE HYSLOP**  
(Northlands Denesuline First Nation)



**DAKOTA NATIONS – DORIS PRATT**  
(Sioux Valley Dakota Nation)

# Public Education



The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba strives to be the number one resource for all Treaty information in Manitoba through services such as the “Let’s Talk Treaty!” program on NCI FM, Treaty Education Initiative, Speakers Bureau, Learning Centre, and Website ([www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca)). Through public education the TRCM is actively engaging with all Manitobans, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, to rebuild and reconcile relationships and enhance understanding about the unique, vibrant, and fundamental building blocks of Manitoba and Canada – the Numbered Treaties.

## “LET’S TALK TREATY!”, RADIO PROGRAM

“Let’s Talk Treaty” is a 15-minute bi-weekly radio series hosted by Treaty Commissioner Ross. It continues to be a popular way to reach audiences across Manitoba that includes rural, remote, and urban areas. As a public outreach tool, the program aims to discuss various aspects of each of the numbered Treaties in Manitoba. Guests on the program have included students, educators, academics, and Elders. In 2018–19, some of the topics that were discussed on the show include:

- The Treaty of Niagara and Anishinaabe Constitutionalism, parts one and two, with Aaron Mills
- Canada’s History Magazine special issue on Treaties with Mark Reid



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross hosting an episode of “Let’s Talk Treaty!”



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross (centre) with Aboriginal guests from Australia, Gregory Phillips (left) and Jodie Sizer (right)



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross (left) and Elder Fred Kelly (right) of the Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in Treaty 3.

- Women and Governance with Dr. Maureen Matthews, Elder Doris Pratt and Elder Florence Paynter
- The Dene with Elder Joe Hyslop
- The Treaty Education Initiative with Cynthia Bird
- Island Lake Adhesion to Treaty No.5, parts one and two, with Elder John Mason and Sharon Mason
- The TRCM Speakers Bureau with Jeremy Daniels
- The Historical Context for Treaty No. 1, parts one and two, with Dr. Jean Friesen
- Land, Language and Treaty with Dr. Maureen Matthews and Roger Roulette

- Choosing a Learning Path, parts one and two, with Dawnis Kennedy
- Youth Perspectives on Treaties and Reconciliation with Wapistim Harper
- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the Treaty Relationship with Dr. Karine Duhamel
- Treaties and Treaty-Making in Australia with Greg Phillips and Jodie Sizer
- Land Acknowledgements with Dr. Harry Bone

## TREATY EDUCATION INITIATIVE (TEI)

The Treaty Education Facilitation team continues to receive guidance from the Council of Elders and the Treaty Commissioner, as Treaty Education training evolves. The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba is committed to increasing knowledge and understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship for all kindergarten to grade 12 students in Manitoba through the TEI, which includes teacher resources and a Treaty Education Kit to compliment curricula and enhance the outcomes for students of all ages across the province.

The Education Manager, TEI Advisor, Lead Facilitator, In-School Support Teacher and members of the Speakers Bureau hold one and two-day training sessions in First Nations controlled schools, provincially funded schools, private schools and other institutional facilities to provide teachers with enough information and context on the Treaties to be confident in introducing Treaty education to their students.

This year, at the recommendation of the Council of Elders, the TEI team began to focus more on First Nation local control schools in order to ensure equitable access to Treaty education throughout Manitoba schools. While Treaty Education will still be available to provincial schools upon request once workplan deliverables have been met, priority has been placed on outreach to First Nation schools. In the past year Seven Oaks and Seine River School Divisions covered the facilitation costs associated with an additional two-day TEI training session and the team was able to focus on two-day training sessions in Tataskweyak Cree Nation, Poplar River First Nation and Hollow Water First Nation schools. The TEI team works hard to encourage schools and teachers to embark on the Treaty Education journey with the long-term goal of every student learning Treaties in the classroom. In 2018–19 thirteen provincial schools have asked for additional in-school supports, and there are continued requests for the in-school support teacher following training sessions.



There were nine TEI sessions provided this year, five through the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba workplan and four additional training sessions:

- **April 10 & 11, 2018** – First Nation school on-site training – Tataskweyak, Chief Sam Cook Mahmuwee Education Centre
- **June 20 & 21, 2018** – Divisional TEI training, Seven Oaks School Division Librarians.
- **September 5 & 6, 2018** – First Nation school on-site training, Poplar River First Nation, Poplar River School
- **September 12 & October 17, 2018** – First Nation provincially funded school, Hollow Water First Nation, Wanipigow School, Frontier School Division
- **October 4 & 5, 2018** – First Nations Regional TEI training session in Winnipeg, open only to First Nations local control schools (In partnership with Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre and Circle of Knowledge and Practices)
- **November 6 & 7, 2018** – Regional TEI training session in Winnipeg, open to all educators
- **November 27 & 28, 2018** – First Nation Regional TEI training, Elk Horn Conference Centre
- **January 10 & 11, 2019** – Divisional TEI training, Seine River School Division
- **March 19 & 20, 2019** – School administrator training in Winnipeg

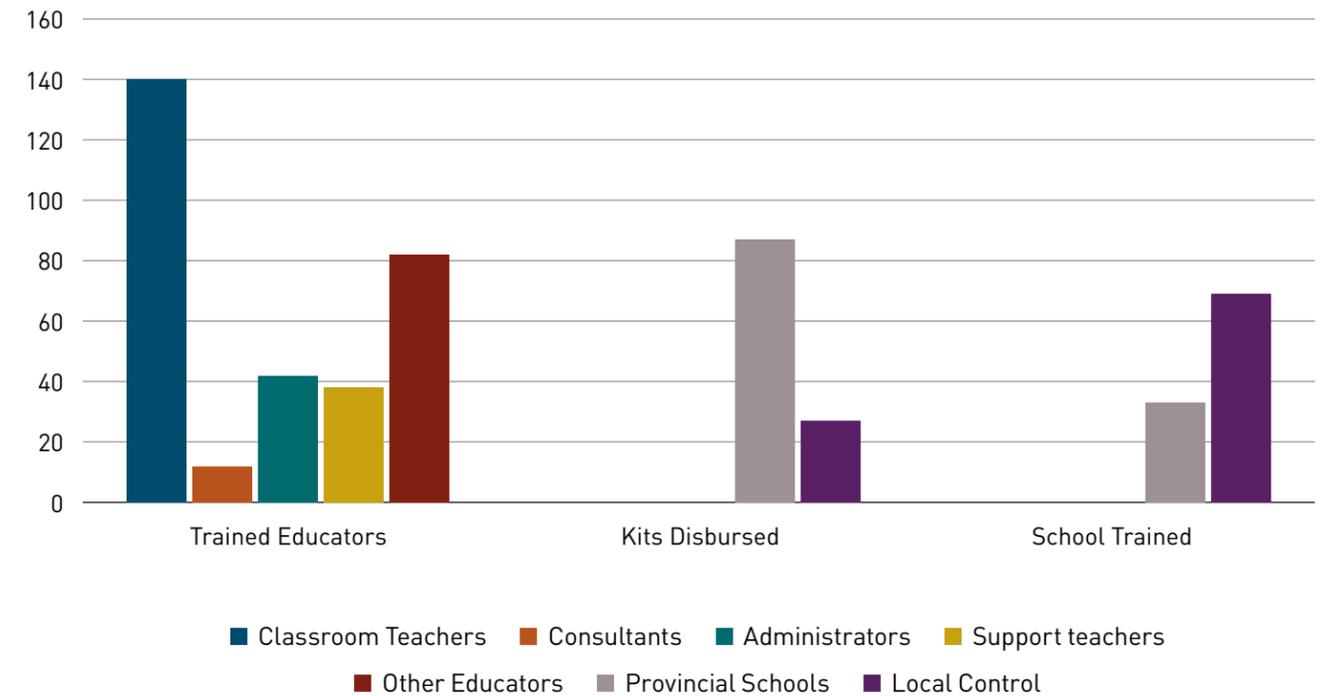
### MANDATORY GRADE 12: TREATIES AND THE TREATY RELATIONSHIP COURSE

One of the goals of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has been to develop a grade 12 Treaty Education course as a necessary requirement for graduation in Manitoba. In February of 2018, the Treaty Education Initiative Internal Team approached northern First Nation band operated schools to pilot the *Grade 12: Treaties and the Treaty Relationship* course and have it registered through Manitoba Education



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross addressing school administrators taking part in TEI training at the Manitoba Teachers' Society

### TRAINING AND KIT DISTRIBUTION



Certification Branch as a school-initiated course. Once registered, there would be opportunity for a northern provincial school to serve as an additional pilot school. Meant as a capstone to the TEI the Grade 12 course will be a stand-alone grade 12 one-credit hour elective course.

The course is framed around five clusters of inquiry:

- Relationships
- Traditional Teachings
- History
- Treaties
- Student Inquiry:
  - Treaties and Reconciliation
  - Treaties and Indigenous Peoples
  - Treaties and the Environment
  - Treaties and UNDRIP
  - Treaties and Canada's Constitutional Law

The first draft of the course was completed and submitted to the TRCM on February 28, 2018. The document is a full curriculum for implementation and meets all Manitoba Education requirements for credit attainment. In the fall of 2018, the TEI team secured two partner schools and identified

two pilot teachers to field test the course during Semester II, January to June 2018/19.

After outreaching to two northern schools, Oscar Lathlin Collegiate in Opaskwayak Cree Nation and Frontier Collegiate Institute in Cranberry Portage, administration in both schools agreed to act as partners in the further development of the course.

The principal at Oscar Lathlin Collegiate registered the course with the Registration Instruction, Curriculum and Assessment Branch of Manitoba Education in June, thus securing a course code for school registration. Both schools identified the two teachers who will field test the course.

As pilot teachers, they agreed to:

- serve as advisors for the *Grade 12: Treaties and the Treaty Relationship* course,
- participate in training and resource sharing;
- evaluate the curriculum document;
- complete bi-weekly evaluations during the implementation phase;
- deliver the course during Semester II 2018–2019;
- liaise with the TEI team during course implementation, offer support and liaise with the other pilot teacher as needed;

- advise on supplementary teaching materials and active learning strategies, including lesson plans, that will help in the delivery of the course;
- and complete a post-course survey.

A professional development session was delivered and aimed at setting context and preparing teachers to field test the course. The TEI team provided an overview of the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, the TEI, and a walk-through of the TEI Kit, and detailed time was spent reviewing the Grade 12 course: thematic clusters, inquiry questions and enduring understanding, models of assessment and the requirements of a pilot teacher. Pilot teachers were provided with a TEI Kit, a copy of *Treaty Essential Learnings and Bounty and Benevolence*, and a copy of Canada's History magazine special publication, *Treaties and the Treaty Relationship*, as class sets.

Oscar Lathlin Collegiate and Frontier Collegiate Institute are both very excited to be part of the *Grade 12: Treaties and the Treaty Relationship* field validation and both pilot teachers are keen to act as on-the-ground advisors for its further development, and Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba is grateful that both schools participated in this exciting initiative.



TEI Facilitator Renee McGurru providing Treaty education training to a group of teachers from Poplar River in September 2018

## POST-SECONDARY COURSE

Since 2017, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has explored several different approaches to implementing a post-secondary course on Treaties and the Treaty relationship. Ultimately it was felt that the best way to learn about Treaties and the Treaty relationship was to learn through a First Nations lens approach, thus the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has taken “*a build it and they will come*” approach to the development and piloting of a *Post-Secondary Course on Treaties* in collaboration with the Council of Elders.

The development of the post-secondary course on Treaties and the Treaty Relationship is based on the Treaty education training experience team teaching model. This captures the authenticity of the oral tradition through Elder involvement bringing a balanced interpretation of Treaty-making complemented by the written word of academics/historians, combined with practical hands-on lesson plan demonstrations and activities led by educators. The diversity of Treaty-making experiences across the province continues to be captured through Elder involvement from different Treaty territories. This type of engagement brings to life the spirit and intent of the Treaty-making process and is an added dimension to respectful truth-telling of our shared history.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE POST-SECONDARY COURSE

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has identified resources to support the implementation of the pilot course this summer 2019 for student teachers and educators interested in delving deeper into teaching Treaties in the classroom. Course content would be similar to a two-day Treaty education training with more in-depth teaching and learning experiences that includes a day of land-based teachings and several grade level lesson plan demonstrations that show how teachers can utilize the Treaty Education Kit resources at the Grades K–4, 5–8, and 9–12 levels. There will also be a focus on localizing Treaty education to demonstrate how teachers can bring more meaning to their students so that they can better understand their own Treaty story.

The Instructional Team members for the course possess knowledge of their respective Nation's histories, languages and protocols, Treaty-based and Indigenous-Canadian historical research on Treaties, as well as lived experiences and acquired western post-secondary education experience as lawyers, historians, political scientists, classroom teachers, education consultants, librarians, and technicians.

The course is scheduled for July 22–26, 2019 to be delivered at the TRCM Learning Centre with at least one land-based site which is to be confirmed.



Connie Wyatt Anderson, TEI Lead Facilitator, addressing school administrators at the Manitoba Teachers' Society

To ensure the integrity of the highly specialized nature of Treaty knowledge, Treaty related concepts in the Indigenous languages, land-based cultural knowledge, role of ceremony in Treaty, and Treaty education pedagogy, the course will be accredited by the Council of Elders and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

## WEBINARS

As an external partnership two years ago, TEI partnered with Canada's History Society and developed a series of educational webinars. This fiscal year, TEI will be developing and hosting a complete *TEI Webinar series*, utilizing the existing “Let's Talk Treaty!” radio series. The first of ten webinars was offered beginning in September, 2018. These webinars were offered at 12:15 pm – 1:00 pm so that teachers can attend during their lunch hour. Each of the websites can be found on the TRCM website.

## EVALUATIONS

Annually, TEI seeks out external contractors to conduct a teacher survey and evaluation on the TEI resources and training received. This year, TEI undertook to conduct a *Student Evaluation* and the contractor began to gather information

from students that were in the classrooms of the initial pilot school teachers back in 2010–2011. These students should now be in grade 11 or 12. It is hoped that students that were in grade 5 or 6 during the initial pilot year, continued to learn about the Treaties in higher grade levels. The evaluation is expected to conclude in June 2019.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Following the continued request for general *Public Education Resources* that can be used outside classroom teachers, the TEI team identified the need for additional handbook/guide to inform the general public about what the Treaties are and why they are still relevant today. This finished resource booklet can also be used with the post-secondary course currently being developed.

## SPEAKERS BUREAU

While working closely with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Speakers Bureau Coordinator, it became apparent that following TEI training, requests for speakers from schools was a constant. This fiscal year, a *TEI Speakers Bureau* component was created.

## SPEAKERS' BUREAU AND OUTREACH

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's Speakers' Bureau now has 28 active members that include 7 Elders and 3 TEI Speakers from the various Treaty territories in Manitoba, who are well versed with knowledge and experience about the history of the Treaties within Manitoba. Through dialogue and information sharing, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Speakers Bureau is working to create a better understanding of the historical and contemporary issues relating to Treaties and the Treaty relationship.

### SPEAKERS BUREAU OBJECTIVES:

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

This year we added two new members to the TRCM Speakers Bureau:

- Dr. Karine Duhamel
- Dr. Maureen Matthews

The 2018–2019 Speakers Bureau made 200 presentations to approximately 6,700 participants.

Presentations were made to the following:

- First Nation Communities/Organizations
- Schools
- School divisions
- Post-secondary institutions
- Education Centres
- Provincial & Federal Government
- Churches & Religious Organizations
- Conferences
- Youth Organizations
- Others, Wpg Police Services, RCMP, TD bank, MB Museum & Lac du Bonnet Historical Society

Educational Institutes and Out of Town Requests:

- School requests are the highest number of requests at 100 events this year
- There were over 40 out of town request

The TRCM also engaged in the following cost shared events:

- Sunrise School Division
- Seine River School Division

- University College of the North-Onikaniwak – The Pas
- Province of MB – Sustainable Development – Certificate of Indigenous Relations Program
- Parks Canada

Feedback received from the Speakers Bureau Evaluations continues to be very positive, and some participants have requested the same Speakers to return to their schools/organizations. This past year Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has put more emphasis on out-of-town outreach, to encourage participation in events and teachings outside of Winnipeg and its surrounding area. By doing this the TRCM hopes to ensure equitable access to all Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba services and information.

### TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF MANITOBA EXHIBITOR BOOTH

The TRCM strives to provide information at various events around Manitoba. We welcome everyone to visit our Exhibitor Booth and have a discussion, pick up some information and maybe play a game or pick up a Treaty pin or some other free gifts.

Exhibitor Booth participation:

- Manitoba Day (Manitoba Museum)
- Vision Quest Conference & Tradeshow
- Swan Lake First Nation Treaty Day
- Manito Ahbee Indigenous Marketplace and Tradeshow
- Indigenous Day Live at The Forks
- Treaty 1 Commemoration
- Folklorama – First Nation Pavilion
- Kildonan – St. Paul Community BBQ for MaryAnn Mihychuk (Member of Parliament)
- MFNERC – Circle of Knowledge Conference
- Working in Support of Equality Breakfast
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs – General Assembly



DR. KARINE DUHAMEL

## SPOTLIGHT – DR. KARINE DUHAMEL

Dr. Karine Duhamel is Anishinaabe-Métis and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Allison University, a Bachelor of Education from Lakehead University and a Masters Degree and Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Manitoba. She has over ten years of experience and knowledge in scholarly research and public history, with a focus on Indigenous activism and Treaty rights.

Dr. Duhamel's PhD dissertation combined archival research and oral history, examining the history of pan-Indigenous rights movements in Canadian and international contexts. Dr. Duhamel was formerly Adjunct Professor at the University of Winnipeg where she developed and taught courses on the history and legacy of residential schools and on Indigenous relationships with the state. She was previously the Director of Research

for Jerch Law Corporation, conducting research related to a number of Indigenous rights cases as well as cases related to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement IAP process. She has also worked as Program Administrator with Canada's National History Society.

Most recently, Dr. Duhamel is the Director of Research for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, drafting the Final Report, as well as managing both the Forensic Document Review Project and the Legacy Archive. Dr. Duhamel is a member of the Board of Directors for the International Council of Museums, a board member for the Facing History Board of Scholars and Co-Chair of the Expert Group on Indigenous Matters for the International Council of Archives.

### LEARNING CENTRE

The Learning Centre is available to anyone as a space to learn about the Treaties and Treaty Relationship. Workshops can be booked through the Speakers Bureau Coordinator. A Brown Bag lunch/Speakers Series is held in the Learning Centre and is open to the public. The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba encourages members of the public to visit the office for a tour and information.

This year, 8 events were held with more than 150 participants for the following organizations:

- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Certificate of Indigenous Relations Program
- Circles for Reconciliation
- Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations
- Morden Adult Education Centre
- Manitoba Indigenous and Northern Relations

- University of Manitoba
- University of Winnipeg
- West Kildonan Collegiate

It has been another successful year, and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba looks forward to more events through the Speakers Bureau.



# Research



## RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Treaty Relations of Manitoba Elders Council receives many requests for oral historical information including the oral history recordings and transcripts obtained during the Oral History Project. Many of these interviews have already been published in the Treaty Elders' Teachings Volumes 1–4, but a great deal of oral history remains unpublished. As the Elders who participated in the Oral History Project desired their teachings be shared for the benefit of future generations, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba will be working to develop additional volumes of Elders' Teachings.

## RESOURCE LIBRARY

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's Resource Library continues to grow, as we regularly add new books and journal articles. In 2018–19 TRCM received the assistance of a practicum student from Red River College, Courtney Myron. Courtney organized, labeled and catalogued newly purchased publications into our Library World database and made recommendations regarding the streamlining of our catalogue and the development of additional library resource materials.

## INFORMATION REQUESTS

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba continues to receive an increasing number of information requests from organizations and members of the general public. Many requests are related to land acknowledgements and the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba provides guidance and support for these requests. We encourage those who are developing land acknowledgements to create statements that are based on research and reflection. The information requests that we receive are becoming increasingly more complex as the public increases its knowledge and awareness of Treaties. Questions are based on both historical and contemporary issues and come from individuals representing a variety of organizations and institutions such as education, agriculture, government, the arts, business, religion/faith-based groups and First Nation organizations.

## TREATY COMMEMORATIONS

Each year the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba provides commemoration funding to organizations wishing to hold events that honour the Treaties, strengthen the Treaty relationship, or commemorate historical events pertaining to the different Treaties and Treaty areas in Manitoba. In addition to providing monetary support, the TRCM participates

as much as possible, whether through speaking engagements with the Treaty Commissioner or Speakers Bureau members, volunteering or participating in the event itself or providing TRCM information at the exhibitor booth. To learn more about Treaty Commemorations, please visit the TRCM website at [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca).

2018–19 Treaty Commemorations:

- May 24 – 27, 2018 – Nibi (Water) Gathering in Manito Api, Bannock Point, Whiteshell Provincial Park (Treaty Commissioner and staff in attendance and volunteering)
- July 19 – 22, 2018 – Zuguzwediwin (Lifting of the Pipe commemoration) Turtle Lodge, Sagkeeng First Nation (Sponsorship of Elders to attend and provide teachings)
- July 29 – Aug 1, 2018 – Treaty No. 10 Gathering in English River First Nation, Saskatchewan (Commissioner Ross, Elder Harry Bone and Elder Joe Hyslop in speaking to the participants)

- Aug 3, 2018 – Lower Fort Garry Commemoration of the Signing of Treaty No. 1
- Aug 15 – 18, 2018 – Folklorama First Nations Pavilion sponsorship (TRCM staff in attendance at exhibitor booth)
- Nov 22, 2018 – Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Scholarship



Treaty One Commemoration at Lower Fort Garry

TREATY No. 1										
Shoal River Band Paid at their Request 11th August 1906										
No.	NAME	Amount					REMARKS	PAID	REMARKS	PAID
		1	2	3	4	5				
2	John Brady H.D.		1	1	1		4	30	4	Committed
6	Edward Komatch		1	1	1		3	15	3	
4	Jack Easter		1	1			2	10	2	
10	Chi. chi. mee. caw John Simolan		1	1			2	10	2	
11	Minich Island		1				1	5	1	
15	Peter Moore		1	1	3	5	2	40	2	
16	Chi. chi. ma. tay		1				1	5	1	
14	Mane. ma. che		1	1	2		4	20	5	Amount paid to Mane and Samuel Appert
18	Sague Keeie		1	1	3	4	9	45	9	
19	Konach. caw. caw.	1	5	1905	1		1	5		Wanted to be paid and paid 18th 1905 with the same Jan 27 1906 and so
20	The Pelican		1				1	5	1	
22	To. ta. mach		1	1			2	10	2	
23	Sagunas John Booth		1	1	1	1	4	20	3	
25	William Looch		1	1	2		3	25	5	Sub bond

# Facilitation



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross with Alex Bear, Sergeant (left) and Lester V. Houle, Corporal of the RCMP Aboriginal Policing Services, "D" Division (right)

## TRCM FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS

The TRCM is dedicated to the partnerships that it has created in its efforts to strengthen, rebuild and enhance the Treaty relationship. The partners commit to ongoing dialogue and support the TRCM in its efforts to provide 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. Formal partners that we engaged with this fiscal year include:

1. Royal Canadian Mounted Police – "D" Division
2. Parks Canada
3. Brandon University
4. Winnipeg Police Services
5. Manitoba Human Rights Commission
6. Mennonite Church Canada
7. University of Manitoba
8. The Manitoba Museum

We are deeply appreciative of our partners and the initiatives produced through their collaborative work and dedication to promote education on Treaties and the Treaty relationship.

## TRCM INFORMAL PARTNERSHIPS

TRCM has also established informal partnerships and collaborated in a myriad of areas related to Treaties and the Treaty relationship. Informal partners that we worked with this fiscal year include:

1. Immigration Partnership Winnipeg
2. Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
3. Manitoba School Boards Association
4. Manitoba Teachers' Society
5. Province of Manitoba – Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning (MEAL)
6. Winnipeg Free Press

## PARTNER RELATIONS

The TRCM maintains regular communications with its partners through meetings and attendance at partner events. This year TRCM focused on newcomer sector engagement as our province has seen an exponential increase in newcomers over the last few years. The TRCM believes that the newcomer groups present many fresh perspectives on the Treaty relationship and wishes to provide access to education for newcomers to create a well-informed and positive base for the Treaty relationship they here entered into.

## MANITOBA MUSEUM

The Manitoba Museum continues to collaborate with the TRCM Elders Council on a two-year project to refurbish major galleries in the museum. One of the objectives is the introduction of Indigenous Manitobans as part of contemporary Manitoba History.

Plans are in place to move the complete set of Manitoba Treaty Medals to the Orientation Gallery where they will become the first thing visitors will see upon entering the museum along with the "We are all Treaty People" message. The current Treaty Exhibit in the Parklands Gallery will be converted to tell a more elaborate story about the signing of Treaty 3.

Upon completion of the changes in 2020, the museum plans to have a new "We are all Treaty People" exhibit at the front of the museum and three specific exhibits further into the galleries on Treaties 1, 2 and 5. With the opening of the "We are all Treaty People" Exhibit five years ago the Museum began a tradition of an annual feast of the eight pipes in Roseau River First Nation. This year the Ceremony took place December 5th and was attended by Commissioner Ross, TRCM and AMC staff and Roseau River students and community members.

Dr. Matthews has met with TRCM to discuss options lend some of the First Nations artifacts, currently housed in the vault at the museum, to the TRCM on a short-term basis to broaden the scope of the TRCM and allow visitors to better experience the Treaty relationship on a historical level.

## IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP WINNIPEG (IPW)

TRCM has held regular meetings with IPW and has begun working with other newcomer organizations such as Manitoba Association of Newcomers Services Organization (MANSO) to incorporate Treaty education in newcomer education services like English as a second language (EAL) online learning curriculum.

The TRCM regularly participates in events held by IPW and MANSO to provide knowledge and understanding of the Treaties and the Treaty relationship to newcomers and newcomer service workers. Some of these events in 2018–19 include:

- November 17, 2018 – Building Bridges Forum, bringing together First Nations, non-First Nations and newcomers to create common bonds
- February 11, 2019 – Full day workshop with Speakers Bureau members, providing information to MANSO employees and other newcomer agency workers



Elder Harry Bone presenting at the "We are all Treaty People" exhibit at the Manitoba Museum

# TRCM Governance and Organizational Structure



Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross with Chief Francine Meeches of Swan Lake First Nation on their annual Treaty Day

informal partnership between the TRCM, Canada’s History Society and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) with the intent to create new publications through a grant awarded by the Winnipeg Foundation in January of 2019.

## FACILITATION OF DIALOGUE

In 2018–19 Treaty Commissioner Ross attended several Treaty gatherings including Treaty 5 and Treaty 10 in English River First Nation, SK.

In addition to the gatherings, the Treaty Commissioner Ross attended the Island Lake Communities of Red Sucker Lake, Wasagamak, Garden Hill and St. Theresa Point, to discuss, with Chief and Council, Elders and community members, the various aspects of the adhesion to Treaty No 5 and their perspective on the Treaties.



Elder D'Arcy Linklater being gifted a painting by a young member of Red Sucker Lake First Nation

## PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

**Newcomers Toolkit Curriculum Component** – The TRCM education department, Amanda Simard, Cynthia Bird and Connie Wyatt Anderson, has teamed with Immigration Partnership Winnipeg and Manitoba Association of Newcomer Service Organizations to create curriculum with Treaty information components for newcomer training and education to be incorporated into the newcomer toolkit.

**Why Treaties Matter Publication** – The TRCM met with Steven Heinrichs of Mennonite Church Canada (MCC) and Darren Courchene to create a call for submissions to select for the partnership project “Nanabush and Buddha Link Arms: Why Treaties Matter”.

**Canada’s History Magazine** – The Treaties publication released in April 2018 was so popular a second printed was commissioned and prompted further discussion resulting in an

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba was created through a joint partnership between the Government of Canada and the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) with a mandate to **strengthen, rebuild and enhance** the Treaty relationship and mutual respect as envisaged by the Treaty parties.

## TRCM MANDATE

The TRCM’s Mandate is to focus on enhancing and improving Treaty Relations and government cooperation by strengthening, rebuilding and enhancing the Treaty Relationship.

Through the examination of existing public education information, the TRCM searches for gaps of information about the Treaties and the Treaty Relationship. The TRCM then conducts research of those gaps to create opportunities for new facilitation opportunities in all sectors of our mandate. From facilitation opportunities, the TRCM then continues to create public education and awareness materials for all Manitobans.

1. Public Education
2. Research; and
3. Facilitation.



The leadership of Red Sucker Lake First Nation presenting a painting to Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross

## TRCM VISION STATEMENT

We Are All Treaty People sharing and shaping mutually beneficial and prosperous relationships for all Manitobans.

## TRCM MISSION STATEMENT

The TRCM encourages and facilitates cooperation, dialogue, and understanding to strengthen and enhance Treaty Relationships to **Inspire Individuals, Empower Change, and Build Canada.**

## TRCM VALUES

The TRCM values: respect, knowledge, balance, collaboration, honour and integrity, traditions and protocols, and passion and commitment.

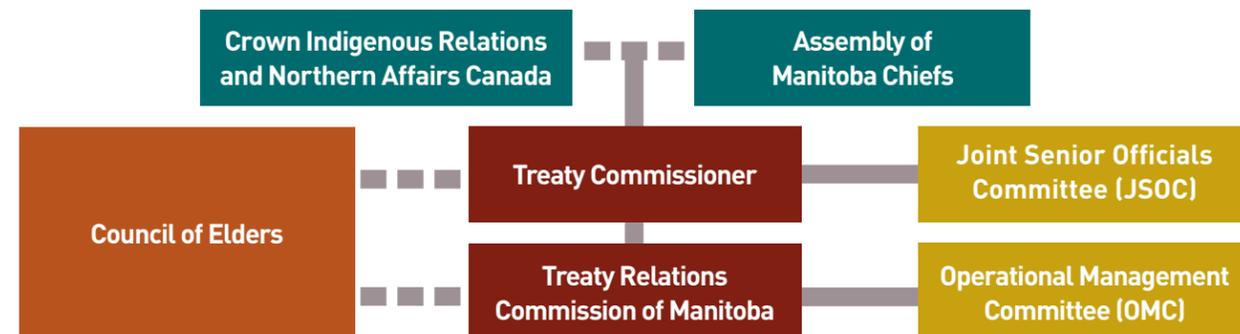
## TRCM PRINCIPLES

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

- Treaties are a fundamental part of the relationships between First Nations Treaty signatories and the Crown;
- The involvement of First Nation 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;
- The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba shall be based on mutual respect, operating at arm's length from the Parties as a neutral body;
- Respect for Treaty and Inherent rights is an important part of maintaining the honour of the Crown in its relations with First Nations; and
- Recognition that in order to advance the Treaty Relationship it will be necessary for the Parties to share information and fully participate in the process.

## TRCM ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK

The following organizational chart reflects the current accountability framework of the TRCM:



Within this structure, the Minister of Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) and the Grand Chief of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC) have the overall responsibility of the Treaty Commissioner.

The TRCM is accountable to the following:

- A Joint Official Steering Committee (JSOC) comprised of senior executives from INAC and senior executives from AMC who provide direction and advice to the Treaty Commissioner; and
- An Operational Management Committee (OMC) comprised of representatives from CIRNAC, AMC, and the TRCM who provide policy direction to the TRCM.

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

WE ARE ALL  
TREATY PEOPLE



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