



TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF MANITOBA



# 2019-2020

*Annual Report*



# **Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba**

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**2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

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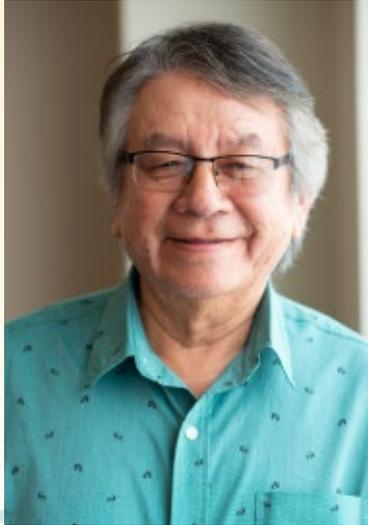
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## Message from the Council of Elders



Tansi,

On behalf of the Elders AMC/TRCM Council of Elders, I would like to thank everyone who has participated with us this year on projects and events. You have all had an important role in educating Manitobans on the history of First Nations people and the First Nations perspective of the Treaties. This work is very important, as many barriers to the implementation of Treaties still exist today.

In order to overcome some of these challenges that we face, it is important to have a more balanced understanding of the Treaties. We must continue to educate and promote the importance of Treaties so that the youth today will grow up with a deeper understanding of the relationship between First Nations and non-First Nations that includes the true spirit and intent of the Treaties. This is an on-going process that is made even more challenging by issues of systemic discrimination, but we must not give up.

In July of 2019, we successfully piloted a post-secondary course based on the teachings of the Elders from the different Treaty areas of Manitoba. I was proud to support this initiative, as it brings us one step closer to a seeing First Nations based learning recognised for credit toward future careers.

In December, we welcomed two new Elders to the Council: Elder Katherine Whitecloud, a Dakota Elder from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and Elder Sherry Copenace, an Anishinaabe Elder from Ojibways of Onigaming First Nation in Treaty 3. We look forward to working with these knowledgeable and respected Elders. Their perspectives and insights will be invaluable to the work of the Council of Elders and will greatly benefit the TRCM.

We had planned to attend a Treaty Summit in March of 2020 but COVID restrictions forced us to postpone the event. The end of last year was difficult due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. We had to isolate our communities in order to preserve the health of our most vulnerable people. We know from so many different experiences with disease in the past that we will need to continue these efforts that help to keep our communities safe and healthy. The TRCM Elders Council is doing its best to maintain its support for the TRCM throughout all of these transitions.

I am excited to see what the future will bring for our Elders Council and the TRCM. There is still a lot of work to do, but we are resilient and can adapt to changing times. We will find ways to help the Treaty relationship move closer to the original spirit and intent while ensuring that our communities and Elders remain safe and healthy.

Ekosi,

**Elder D'Arcy Linklater,**  
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation – Treaty No. 5 Adhesion

# Message from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs

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## Grand Chief Arlen Dumas

MATHIAS COLOMB CREE NATION - Treaty No. 6



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 for successfully promoting and increasing awareness of the importance of Treaties throughout the Province of Manitoba in 2019-2020.

While this past year has seen many challenges, including a global pandemic, it has also allotted many opportunities to rise to the occasion. I can say without hesitation that all involved at the Commission have worked hard to ensure that the organization's mandate is continually fulfilled.

With creative techniques and innovative ideas to share information about Treaties, the Commission has remained committed to helping both First Nation and non First Nation children, adults and seniors learn more about the shared responsibility we all have when it comes to honouring the Treaties and agreements in Manitoba.

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. I commend the curriculum and other educational resources you have created and made available for public use as well.

In addition to this work, you have continued to create strong partnerships with organizations and educational institutions. Building partnerships is vital, especially in a particular year of so much change and uncertainty. I commend you for the efforts you have put into forging and maintaining these valued partnerships. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs remains committed to supporting the important work being done by the Commission.

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*  
*Mathias Colomb Cree Nation – Treaty No. 6*

# Messages



## **Commissioner Loretta Ross**

**HOLLOW WATER FIRST NATION - Treaty No. 5**

### ***Boozhoo, Aniin!***

Once again, I am pleased and honoured to present the TRCM Annual Report. 2019-20 started out in a promising and exciting way for us at the TRCM. We launched two new Treaty Education initiatives: the TRCM Grade 12 Treaties course and the Elder accredited TRCM post-secondary course: a one-week course on Treaties and the Treaty relationship based on Elders teachings for Post-secondary students. We are extremely proud of this post-secondary course as it is one of the first of its kind in Canada. The TRCM worked closely with the Elders Council to assist them in designing and delivering the course. We hope this course can be an inspiration to others as well to embrace the First Nation way of teaching and learning in gaining a better understanding of the Treaties.

We continued to attend community events throughout Manitoba as speakers, presenters and participants and continued to work closely with our partners. I was honored to attend the many Treaty gatherings and community events held in historic First Nation sites as well as in urban areas. Our newcomer organization partners continue to be strong supporters and look to us for guidance in their pursuit to ensure positive relationships are created and maintained between First Nations and newcomers in



*Treaty Commissioner Ross, Elder Harry Bone, Elder Jim Cote and Elder Wandbi Wakita, Post Secondary Course, July 2019*



*Marlene Gallagher, Speakers Bureau member, presenting to students at Steinbach Regional Secondary School on Monday, April 2019*



*Niigaanwewidam Sinclair, speakers bureau member, presenting at Oodena Circle, The Forks May 2019*

Manitoba. We participated in workshops, consultation circles, swearing in ceremonies and continued to assist with the multi-organization Indigenous Orientation Toolkit project, set to launch in fall of 2023.

This year we welcomed two new members to the AMC/TRCM Elders Council: Elder Katherine White Cloud, a Dakota Elder from Sioux Valley Dakota Nation, and Elder Sherry Copenace, an Anishinaabe Elder from the Ojibwes of Onigaming in Treaty 3 territory, were appointed to the Council to fill the seats left vacant by the passing of our beloved Elders, Doris Pratt and Elmer Courchene.

We also welcomed some new staff to our team this past year: Paul Sash was hired as the TRCM administrative assistant at the very beginning of the 2019-20 year, bringing with him his ability to research archives and genealogical histories. We were also pleased to welcome Connie Wyatt Anderson as a full-time employee, continuing in her role as a previously contracted facilitator within our education department. Please welcome Paul and Connie to the TRCM team!

Toward the end of this year we encountered some hurdles that we have had to adjust to concerning distance learning opportunities and a new location that is yet to be officially presented to our partners and associates. I am proud to say that we have been

able to keep up the pace of our work while ensuring the health and safety of staff and associates and staying connected with our Elders Council members, who are all doing well and keeping busy. We will continue to do our best to maintain operations in support of our Elders and Speakers.

We have been hard at work finishing up some projects and moving to our new location at Swan Lake business centre in Headingley. Our move fell right in the midst of the city-wide shut down due to the COVID19 virus and it took a bit of work to get everything into the office and organized. We were lucky enough to be able to switch to online meetings, speaking events and training sessions without too much impact. This has not been the case with everyone, as we all know, and our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by this virus, either directly through the loss of a loved one, or indirectly through loss of livelihood.

*Miigwetch,*

**Loretta Ross**  
Treaty Commissioner

# TRCM Staff and Associates

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**Amanda Simard**  
*Education Manager*



**Monique Lariviere**  
*Research & Public Policy*



**Jaime Wolfe**  
*Operations Manager*



**Jeremy Daniels**  
Speaker Bureau Coordinator



**Brittany Thomas**  
Treaty Education Administrative Assistant



**Cynthia Bird**  
TEI Advisor



**Renee McGurry**  
TEI Facilitator



**Connie Wyatt Anderson**  
Facilitation Lead

\*Not Pictured

**Paul Sash**  
Administrative Assistant

# About the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has moved to a beautiful new office located in Headingley, Manitoba, just outside Winnipeg.

At the Treaty Relations Commission Manitoba, it is our goal 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 a multitude of 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 TRCM, 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, inclusive environment. This past March we moved to Swan Lake Business Centre in Headingley and have lost the ability to hold in-house sessions in our Learning Centre. However, we are working hard to deliver the same quality of training, workshops and presentations via virtual platforms.

Over the years we have developed successful initiatives such as the "We Are All Treaty People" campaign, the Treaty Education Initiative (now referred to as Treaty Education) 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.

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

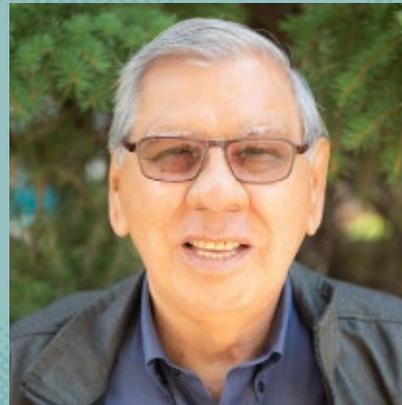
# Council of Elders

We receive guidance and support from the AMC/TRCM Council of Elders. Our esteemed Elders are historians, teachers, spiritual caregivers, language experts, and cultural advisors and their commitment to the TRCM 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 members of our Speakers' Bureau.



**Treaty No. 1**

**Florence Paynter**  
Sandy Bay First Nation



**Treaty No. 2**

**Harry Bone**  
Keeseekoowenin First Nation



**Treaty No. 3**

**Sherry Copenace**  
Ojibwes of Onigaming



**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. 10**

**Elder Joe Hyslop**

*Northlands Denesuline First Nation*



**Dakota Nations**

**Katherine Whitecloud**

*Wipazoka Wakpa Dakota Oyate*

**Treaty No. 6**

**VACANT**

# Elder Welcome

In 2019-20 we welcomed two new Elders to the AMC/TRCM Elders Council: Elder Katherine Whitecloud and Elder Sherry Copenace. Please join us in welcoming them to the TRCM family.

**Elder Katherine Whitecloud** brings with her an extensive knowledge and understanding of the history of the Dakota people in Manitoba. Elder Whitecloud is a mother, grandmother and Knowledge Keeper from the Wipazoka Wakpa Dakota Oyate. Learning from her Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Father, Mother, and her extended family, her greatest passion is to ensure that the language and teachings of our ancestors are shared and continue to live and thrive through the youth of today. Katherine is an Educator, fulfilling roles as Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Director of Education, Superintendent, Education Board Chairperson, and Regional Director of Education. She has been Executive Director for the DOTC, the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, and the Assembly of First Nations. As a Leader, Katherine was chosen by the People of Sioux Valley to be Council Member and Chief, and by the Chiefs of Manitoba for the Role of Regional Chief. She has served as Board member for many Institutions and organizations in support of our First Nations Peoples. Katherine's professional life has been devoted to supporting Indigenous Peoples, her Nation, and most importantly our Children. Her personal life is devoted to fulfilling her responsibilities as a Dakota Winyan, Mother, Grandmother and helper. A strong advocate for children and families, her love for children and understanding that without healthy children, we cannot have healthy families, and without healthy families, we do not have healthy communities, guides her role and responsibility as

a Knowledge Keeper and Grandmother. With a profound faith in the goodness, love and guidance of our Creator, Katherine's message reinforces that without our children, we have no tomorrow. Our greatest gift is to be blessed with new life through the gift of children and the dawning of each new day. Katherine's greatest blessing is the gift of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Elder Sherry Copenace**, Grandmother Saagimaakwe, Atik dodem (Elk Clan) is an Anishinaabe Elder From Treaty 3. She comes to the TRCM from The Ojibwes of Onigaming, a community in Northwestern Ontario, east of Lake of the Woods. She is firm in her ways of knowing and being Anishinaabe, is fluent in her original language of Anisinaabemowin and has a great love for the land, waters and peoples. Since 2011, Sherry has led Makooskewin-Anishinaabe young women coming of age teachings and ceremonies. She is part of a Knowledge Circle at Nanadawegamig (FMHSSM) and helps at Anishinaabe Teaching and Sacred Lodges. Sherry has her MSW degree and is associated with several institutions and organizations who continually engage with her for her knowledge and lived experience. Elder Copenace has previously worked with the TRCM on other projects as well, most recently being the Post-Secondary Course led by the TRCM Elders, which took place just prior to her appointment to the Council.



**“The voices of our First Nations Elders will be the guidance for our people for generations to come”**

*— the late Doris Pratt, Dakota Elder*

# Public Education

We strive to be the number one resource for all Treaty information in Manitoba through initiatives such as the "Let's Talk Treaty!" program on NCI FM, Treaty Education Initiative, We Are All Treaty People Campaign, Speakers Bureau 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.

## Education

Treaty education reached a milestone in 2019-20 by completing one decade of service to schools across Manitoba. This work has continued to involve the Council of Elders and the Treaty Commissioner. Over the last ten years, Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has been providing Treaty education training, developing a variety of resources, advocating for Treaty education across subject areas, and providing in-school classroom supports to schools across the province in all jurisdictions. Recently, this work was expanded to include the development of a Grade 12: Treaties and the Treaty Relationship course to be offered by community schools, a Post-Secondary level course for educators accredited by the Council of Elders, a focus on localizing Treaty education, and community education outreach.

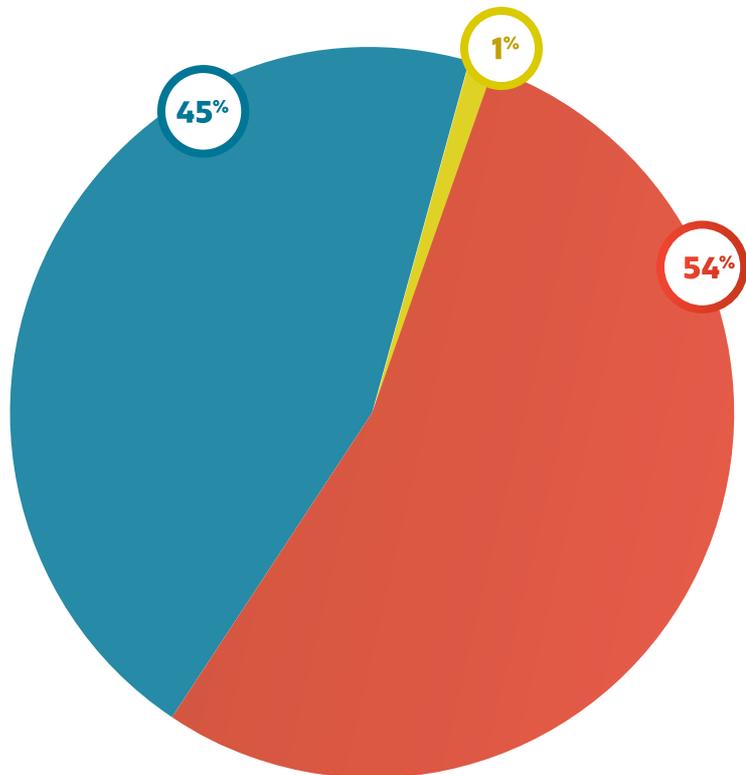
This fiscal year the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba determined that the Treaty Education (TEI) has achieved a level of awareness and commitment by various schools to Treaty education across the province to the point that it has moved beyond being an initiative. It has become part of how education is delivered in all jurisdictions in Manitoba which can be found in

annual school plans, divisional and school policies, and school procedures that recognize the importance of Treaty. It has also moved into the post-secondary realm, making Treaty Education consistent with the philosophy of life-long education. The TRCM also continues to receive requests from multiple bodies to assist in advising and editing of Treaty related resources to be used in teaching and training in other sectors beyond education - initiatives that are being developed in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. As a result, the TEI will now be referred to as **Treaty Education K-12**. The goal remains to advance Treaty education in all areas of K-12, including at the post-secondary level, and through community outreach to those who share an interest in public education that is inclusive of Treaty education.

## Treaty Education Training Outcomes in 2019-2020

A total of 12 different types of training sessions were held with educators, partners, and newcomer organizations, and 1 celebration of learning with the students from Frontier Collegiate and Oscar Lathlin Collegiate, who completed piloting the Grade 12 SIC Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course.

DATE	TYPE OF TREATY EDUCATION TRAINING SESSION
1 <b>May 15, 2019</b>	<b>Grade 12 SIC Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course Student Celebration of Learning</b> OCN and FSD students
2 <b>June 13, 2019</b>	<b>Partner Training</b> Manitoba Education, Minister and Staff
3 <b>June 27-28, 2019</b>	<b>Community Education</b> Newcomer Training
4 <b>July 22-26, 2019</b>	<b>Post Secondary Course with Council of Elders</b>
5 <b>August 26-28, 2019</b>	<b>Northern Summer Institute</b> Treaty Education Training
6 <b>September 18-19, 2019</b>	<b>Divisional Training</b> Border Land School Division
7 <b>September 25-26, 2019</b>	<b>Grade 12 SIC Teacher Training</b> Peguis First Nation
8 <b>October 17-18, 2019</b>	<b>First Nation Training</b> God's Lake First Nation
9 <b>October 24-25, 2019</b>	<b>Regional Training</b> Flin Flon School Division
10 <b>November 21-22, 2019</b>	<b>Division Training</b> Seine River School Division
11 <b>January 21-22, 2020</b>	<b>Regional Training</b> Frontier School Division (Skownan First Nation)
12 <b>February 6-7, 2020</b>	<b>First Nation Training</b> Chemawawin First Nation
13 <b>March 5-6, 2020</b>	<b>Partner Training</b> Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Grand Chief, Staff, and Entities



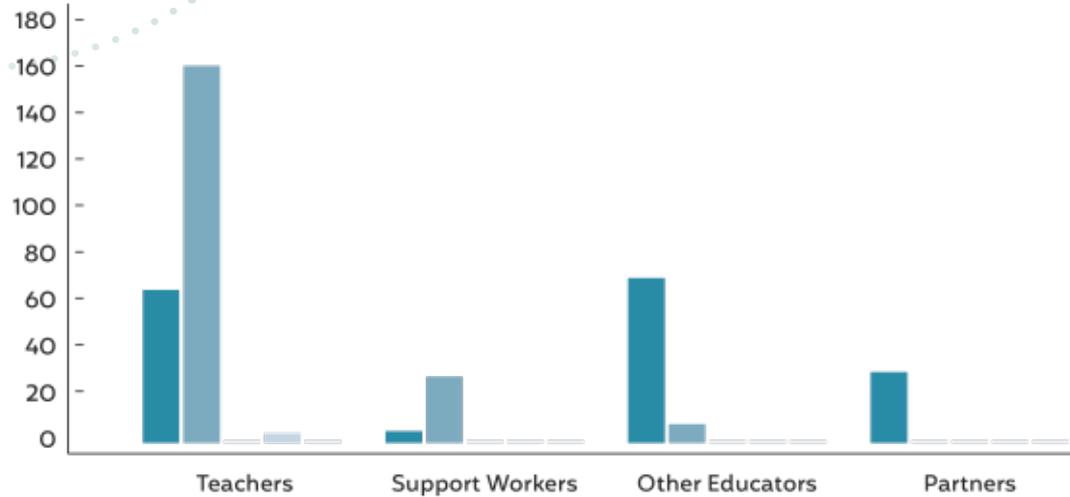
### PARTICIPANTS TRAINED, 2019-2020

- First Nations
- Provincial
- Private, Independent, Out of Province

A total of **393 participants** completed Treaty education training with the TRCM of which **45%** were First Nations educators, and **54%** were provincial educators. The remaining **1%** includes 2 private schools, 2 independent schools and 1 out of province sister school in Saskatchewan. These statistics indicate that the Treaty Commission is working to achieve the goal that was set in 2018-19 to ensure equitable access to Treaty education among all schools in both First Nations and Provincial jurisdictions. The results are very encouraging.



### TYPES OF PARTICIPANTS TRAINED 2019-2020

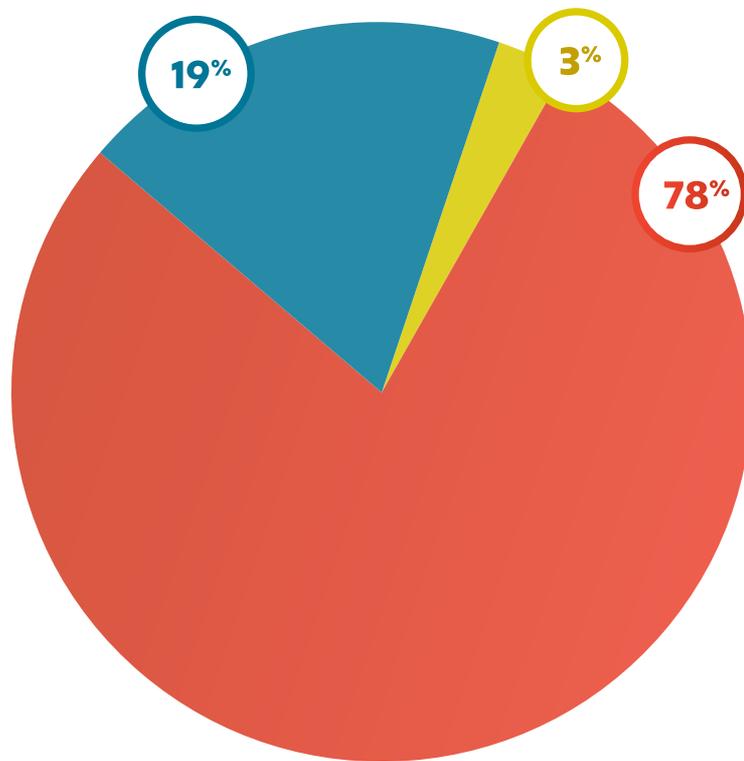


### A total of 14 First Nations schools were reached in 2019-20:

Chemawawin First Nation School; God's Lake First Nation School; Shownan First Nation School; Chief Sam Cook Mahumuwee Education Centre, Tataskewayak Cree Nation; Joe A Ross School, Opaskawayak Cree Nation; Isaac Beaulieu Memorial School, Sandy Bay First Nation; Lake Manitoba School; Mikisew School, Cross Lake First Nation; Peguis Central School, St. Theresa Point School; Neil Dennis Kematch School, Sapotwayak Cree Nation and Fisher River School (Charles Sinclair School & Fisher River

High School). This has been the most First Nations schools reached in any one fiscal year.

**The majority of participants trained were teachers,** followed by other educators who were Education Assistants in First Nations' schools, and school administrators and support teachers.



### KITS DISTRIBUTED TO SCHOOLS, 2019-2020

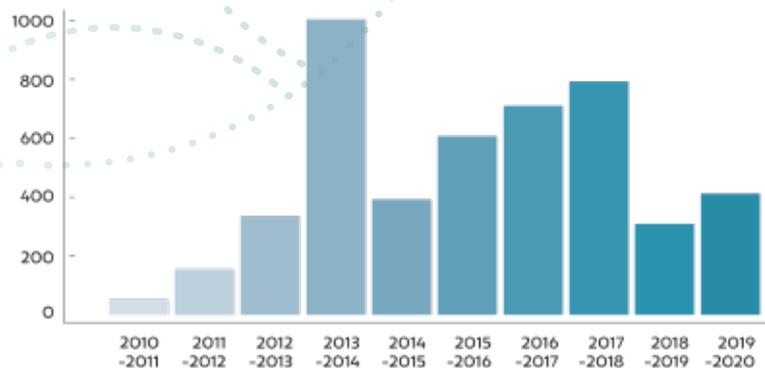
- First Nations
- Provincial
- Private, Independent, Out of Province

### 124 Treaty Education Kits were distributed to schools across the province.

**18%** of the kits went to 11 First Nations schools and **78%** went to 60 provincial schools from 14 different school divisions. The remaining **1%** represents 4 kits distributed to 1 independent school, 2 private schools, and 1 out of province school. Kits are distributed as 3 kits per school (early years, middle years, senior years) with additional kits provided to resource teachers/consultants who work with K-12 teachers across schools and divisions.

Since 2010-11, the TRCM has trained a total of **4,486 educators** and distributed over **1524 Treaty Education Kits** to schools across Manitoba.

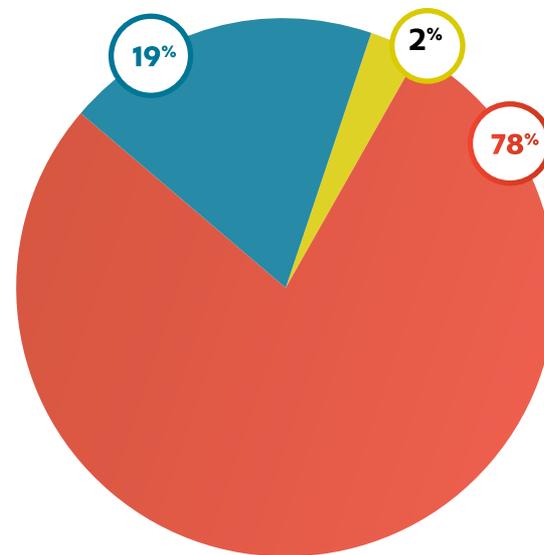
## Total Educator Trained Annually 2010-2020



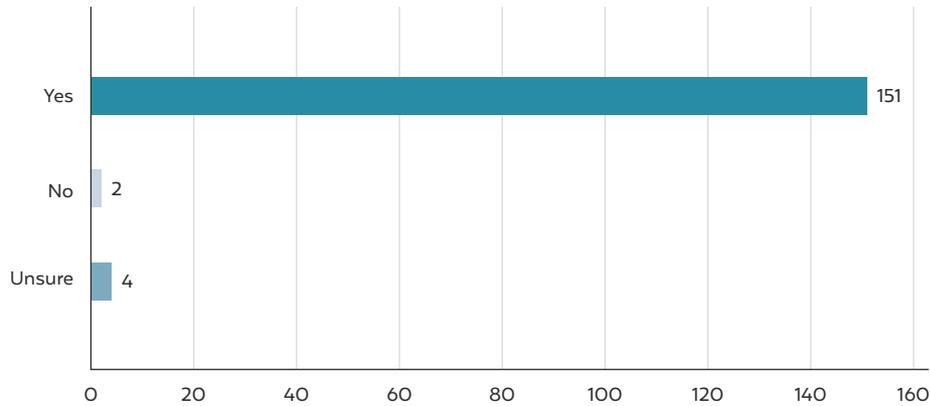
Evaluation feedback from participants to all TRCM Treaty education training sessions remains critical to the quality of sessions that are offered and to ensure that agendas and engagement processes remain relevant and current with education practices and Treaty education knowledge. Although we continue to have repeat participants, there continues to be a number of participants that have not accessed prior Treaty education training. Upon completion of one and two-day training sessions, participants continue to value the training and indicate they will very likely work to implement Treaty education into their classrooms. The next few graphs provide a sample of typical participate feedback.

## How Likely will you be implementing Treaty Education in your Classroom

Creating a comfortable learning environment remains a goal for all the Treaty education training sessions, as it is understood that participant comfort levels vary depending on their prior knowledge of Treaties. To date, participant feedback remains very positive each year. As their confidence grows over the two days of training, their resolve to implement Treaty education in their classrooms remains high.

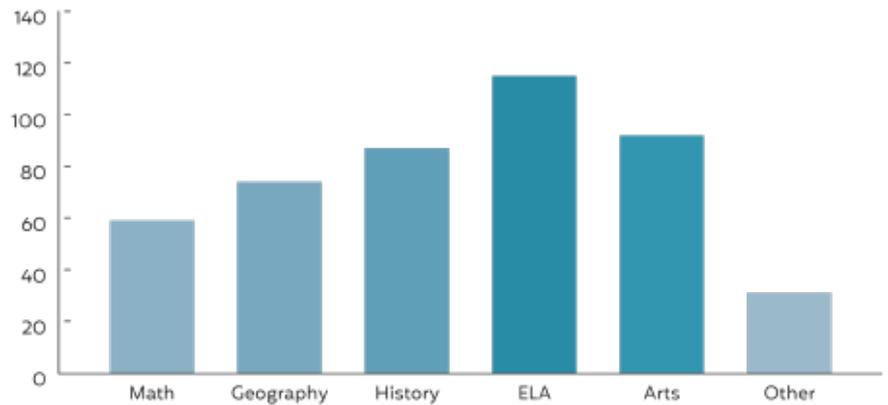


## Did this session increase your awareness and comfort level to begin teaching about the Treaties?



## In what other subject areas do you integrate Treaty Education topics or materials?

Over the years, TRCM has seen the growth in classroom teachers' abilities to integrate Treaty education across subjects beyond history and geography. This has become most evident in the last few years as evidenced in the responses represented in the following graph.





Students at the TRCM school-initiated grade 12 Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course, Opaskweyak Cree Nation, May 2019



Course Photo, TRCM school-initiated grade 12 Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course, Opaskweyak Cree Nation, May 2019

## **In-School Classroom Support**

The in-school classroom support is provided by the TE Classroom Support Teacher. The goal of this support is to follow-up with schools who complete the two-day Treaty education training sessions to offer in-school classroom support to groups of teachers at the different grade levels (early, middle, senior years) who are working to integrate Treaty education in their classrooms/school, to support school-initiated and school-led Treaty education training for staff, to demonstrate how the Treaty Education Kit resources can be used to teach about Treaties and the Treaty relationship across the subjects, and to demonstrate how Treaty education can be localized.

The TE Classroom Support Teacher continues to visit schools across the province at their request and deliver presentations to schools through the TRCM Speakers Bureau. The majority of schools who contact the TRCM for support have been schools who participated in previous Treaty education training workshops. An evaluation tool was implemented in this current fiscal year to track and expand supports, with a view to ensure that TRCM remains responsive to the Treaty education needs of the schools.

Going forward, a larger team of TE Classroom Support Teachers is required and is expected to be implemented in the new fiscal year.

## **Grade 12 School Initiated Course (SIC): Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course Pilot**

The pilot of the Grade 12 SIC was successfully completed by Oscar Lathlin Collegiate and Frontier Collegiate in the second semester of the 2018-19 school year. The course is intended to be a capstone to the K-12 TE. It is a stand-alone Grade 12 course with an equivalent to a one-credit hour elective course.

A student celebration day was held on May 15, 2019 at the Kikiwak Inn on Opaskwayak Cree Nation to showcase the students work and share the teaching and learning experiences between the two schools. Guests from Kelsey School Division, Frontier School Division, the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, and the TRCM Council of Elders were present to share in the celebration. The work of the teachers and students inspired the school divisions that were present to consider implementing the course in their schools.

To support the ongoing implementation of the course, the TRCM provided a 2-day training session for schools interested in offering the course in the 2019-20 school year. This invitation was extended by Peguis First Nations School following a presentation that was made to the Manitoba First Nations Education Directors in the Spring of 2019. Thirteen teachers participated in this training session that provided specific information on the Grade 12 Course Package, supplementary materials, and a modified version of the Treaty Education Kit geared toward high school students from Grades 9-12. Schools that made expressions of interest were supported by the TE Lead Facilitator

The outbreak of the COVID-19 virus seriously impacted the intentions to complete the course offering. The 2019-20 experience will have to be assessed once life returns back to what may be a new normal. The TRCM remains committed to the goal of getting the course offered by Manitoba Education as a necessary requirement for Grade 12 graduation in Manitoba.



*Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross, Connie Wyatt Anderson and Elder William Lathlin during the TRCM school-initiated grade 12 Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, May 2019*



*Chief Christian Sinclair, Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross and Elder William Lathlin during the TRCM school-initiated grade 12 Treaties and the Treaty Relationship Course, Opaskwayak Cree Nation, May 2019*



*Jeremy Daniels, Treaty Commissioner Ross, Elder Jim Cote and participants, Treaty Education Post Secondary Course, July 2019*



*Post Secondary participants at Manito Api (Bannock Point) Petroforms, Whiteshell provincial park, July 2019.*

## **Post-Secondary Course: Understanding Treaties and the Treaty Relationship**

The TRCM expanded Treaty education into the post-secondary level in 2019-20 by offering an introductory five-day pilot course from July 22-25, 2019 at several significant Treaty place-based sites: Niizhoziibeau (The Forks), Manitou Api (Bannock Point Petroforms), and Lower Fort Garry, with tours of Upper Fort Garry and the TRCM Learning Centre.

This course is a new and exciting area for TRCM and the educators who attended it, as it was developed, delivered and accredited by the Council of Elders with support from an Instructional Team. The Council of Elders determined that it was and is their responsibility to protect the authenticity and integrity of the knowledge transfer they were proposing.

The significant Treaty-place sites were a key component to the Elders teachings, as well as the sequencing of the knowledge they wanted to share. Their knowledge transfer methods included storytelling, protocols, ceremony, song, experiencing land and water, Indigenous languages, and the written historical record to teach about Treaties, the complexities of the historic and contemporary Treaty relationship, and how they impact our lives today.

Twenty-eight participants completed the course with overwhelming and resounding accolades for the Elders and the learning experience they created and provided for them. Participants were mostly educators and educational leaders from different jurisdictions and institutions, including schools, school divisions, educational support organizations, such as the MFNERC. They came with a variety of previous education as student teachers, and educators with completed undergraduate and graduate

degrees, including doctorates. They also came with open minds to experience the Elders teachings and embrace a new learning opportunity on the land.

The course is part of a series of four increasingly complex courses to be offered through the TRCM on a variety of Treaty-based land sites each July, with funding from the federal government. The second course is currently being planned for July 20-24, 2020 which hopefully will not be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Treaty Education Resource Development

Keeping Treaty education evergreen remains a goal of the TRCM. Developing new and engaging Treaty education resources continues to be part of this work which is being led by the TE Facilitation Lead. This has included preliminary work related to historically significant Treaty sites in Manitoba that are lesser known, such as Manitoba House and The Crossing, and the development of a Treaty Education textbook.

## Community Education Outreach

The TRCM completed a two-day community education training session with staff from Newcomer organizations in June 2019. This session was part of the ongoing relationship developed with Newcomers. Additional community education resources such as a guide, pamphlets, and infographics are being developed that will serve to better inform community groups interested in learning more about Treaties and the Treaty relationship. Community education outreach will continue to be part of the work of Treaty Education going forward.



*Elder Jim Cote, Elder Wanbdi Wakita and Elder Wayne Scott at Post Secondary course, July 2019.*



*First year Post Secondary course class photo on the final day of the course, the Forks Market, July 2019*

# Public Relations and Awareness

## We are all Treaty People

### — What's your Treaty Story?

"The TRCM We are all Treaty People poster campaign has become a well-known initiative and the phrase "We are all Treaty People" has become fairly recognizable in Manitoba. To compliment We are all Treaty People and move toward a new level of knowledge, the TRCM is working on a secondary campaign with the intent to prompt thoughtful dialogue with the public sectors that are unaware of how they benefit from the Treaties. Currently, Currently, the TRCM has hoodies, T-shirts and toques available for purchase at the TRCM public relations booth and in the TRCM office. These items have the TRCM logo and bear the phrase "What's your Treaty Story?" The TRCM would like to see this merchandise available for sale on the website once it is up and running. In conjunction with the Merchandise, TRCM is working to include an area on the website and social media for people to write about their Treaty Story and what Treaty means to them.





(left to right) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Commissioner Qajaq Robinson, Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross and Dr. Karine Duhamel at the Working In Support of Women (W.I.S.E) annual breakfast, October 2019 – Elder Harry Bone at Keeping the Fires Burning, June 2019 – Swan Lake Treaty Days booth, August 2019

## Community Events

TRCM participated in, or contributed to, several events throughout the 2019-20 to promote public awareness of the TRCM and its Mandate to provide public education on Treaties. These events included:

- Keeping the Fires Burning – TRCM sponsored a table and attended the event in honour of Elder Harry Bone, Chair of the AMC/TRCM Council of Elders, who received an award for his work in the Community
- Working in Support of Equality Breakfast – Commissioner Ross co-chaired the breakfast and Speakers Bureau member, Karine Duhamel, gave a presentation on her work with the MMIW inquiry
- We are All Treaty People Celebration – TRCM operations manager was invited to speak, booth materials were provided for display

# Speakers' Bureau and Outreach

The TRCM's Speakers' Bureau currently has **twenty active members** that include **six Elders** and **two Treaty Education Speakers** as well as knowledge keepers and scholars from the various Treaty areas in Manitoba who are well versed with knowledge and experience about the history of the 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
- Enhance the Treaty relationship

## The number of presentations made this year:

The 2019-2020 Speakers Bureau made 235 plus presentations to approximately over 5,660 participants. Requests for Speakers Bureau increase each year and this year we experienced just under 40 additional requests from the previous year.

## Presentations were made to the following:

- First Nation Communities/Organizations
- Educational Institutes and School divisions
- Post-secondary institutions
- Adult Education Centres
- Provincial & Federal Government
- Churches & Religious Organizations
- Conferences
- Youth Organizations
- Child and Family Services Organizations
- Others, Wpg Police/RCMP, Financial Institutes, Museums & Historical Society

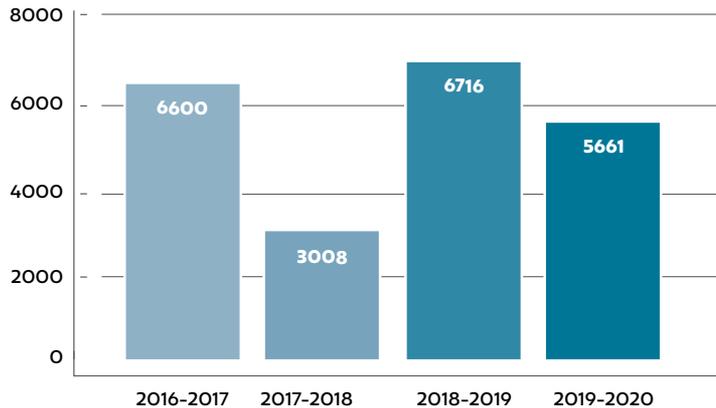
## Educational Institutes and Out of Town Engagements:

- 95 school engagements, approximately 8 per month and 5 less overall than last year. (Keeping in mind that March events were rescheduled or cancelled after March 15th due to COVID-19 restrictions)
- 50 out-of-town engagements, approximately 4 per month, and 10 more overall from last year

## Speaker Bureau Evaluations

Speakers Bureau evaluation feedback has been very positive, and some participants will request the same Speaker multiple times to return to their school or organization to expand on their discussions.

## Speakers Bureau April 2016 – March 2020



Graph illustrating the overall audience members reached by Speakers Bureau events from 2016-17 to 2019-20



Speakers Bureau Member Chris Henderson presents to Red River College students in the TRCM learning Centre, November 2019

## Audience comments and feedback:

**"The presentation reassured the importance of sharing this information"**

*–Jessica Dumas, Speaker Elder Harry Bone*

**"Thank you for the providing this opportunity to our school staff, we are grateful for the opportunity to learn"**

*–Montrose School, Speaker Allen Sutherland*

**"The efforts and hard work of the TRCM is very appreciated especially the Speakers who carry much knowledge and give their time so that others may learn"**

*–Shawn Smith (WPG Police Service), Speaker Marlene Gallagher*

## Speaker Spotlight – Brenda Gunn

Brenda L. Gunn, Associate Professor Robson Hall Faculty of Law. She has a B.A. from the University of Manitoba and a J.D. from the University of Toronto. She completed her LL.M. in Indigenous Peoples Law & Policy at the University of Arizona. She articulated with Sierra Legal Defence Fund (now Ecojustice Canada). She was called to the bars of Law Society of Upper Canada and Manitoba. Brenda also worked at a community legal clinic in Rabinal, Guatemala on a case of genocide submitted to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights. She has also worked with First Nations on Aboriginal and treaty rights issues in Manitoba.

As a proud Metis woman she combines her academic research with her activism to push for greater recognition of Indigenous peoples' inherent rights as determined by Indigenous peoples' own legal traditions. Her current research focuses on promoting greater conformity between international law on the rights of Indigenous peoples and domestic law. She is actively involved in the international Indigenous peoples' movement, regularly attending international meetings, including the review of Canada before CERD.



She provided technical assistance to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the analysis and drafting of the report summarizing the responses on the survey on implementing the UN Declaration. She developed a handbook on understanding and implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that is quickly becoming one of the main resources in Canada on the UN Declaration ([http://www.indigenousbar.ca/pdf/undrip\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.indigenousbar.ca/pdf/undrip_handbook.pdf)) and has delivered workshops on the Declaration across Canada and internationally.

In 2013, Brenda participated in the UNITAR Training Programme to Enhance the Conflict Prevention and Peacemaking Capacities of Indigenous Peoples' Representatives, which continues to impact her research.



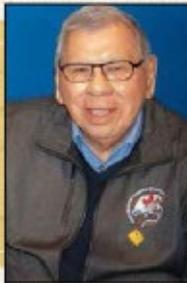
## TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF MANITOBA LEARNING CENTRE Brown Bag Lunch Series

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) invites you to attend the Brown Bag Lunch Series at the TRCM Learning Centre!

**TOPIC:** "Spirit and Intent of the Treaties"  
– Elder Harry Bone

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 21, 2019

**TIME:** 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm



The TRCM Brown Bag Lunch Sessions are *free* Speakers Bureau presentations offered on a first come, first serve basis. Pre-registration is required to a maximum of 20 participants per session. The TRCM takes photographs during the session for future promotion; please consider prior to registering.

Please call 204 777-1871 or email Jeremy Daniels at [speakersbureau@trcm.ca](mailto:speakersbureau@trcm.ca) to confirm your attendance. Bring your lunch and *remember to register early!*



Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba  
400–175 Hargrave Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R8  
P 204 777-1871 • F 204 777-1874 • TOLL FREE 1 866 296-3228 [www.trcm.ca](http://www.trcm.ca)

WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE

### Brown Bag Lunch Series:

The Brown Bag Lunch Series is held in our Learning Centre during the lunch hour for the general public once a month. The series allows Speaker Bureau Members to present on topics outside their usual Treaty related content. We have had the privilege to hear more diverse topics throughout the series:

- Spirit and Intent of the Treaties
- Historic and Contemporary Issues
- Anhisnaabek connection to Turtle Island
- Legal Aspects of Treaties and Treaty Relationships
- History of the Numbered Treaties
- The Importance of Oral History
- United Declaration of Rights for Indigenous People
- Reclaiming Power and Place" Inside the National Inquiry into MMIWG

Presentations have been live streamed and uploaded to our social media outlets and available for further public viewing. This has been a very popular way of delivering the series for those not able to attend in person. We have gained an additional 6,900 viewers through Facebook and our YouTube channel since uploading our first presentation.



*Nehethowuk tent at the Manitoba First Nations Languages Land-Based Gathering, September 2019*

## **Outreach/Community Involvement**

Public engagement with community members in both Urban and Indigenous community settings, to promote engagement and encourage involvement by information sharing with community members.

This past year we have reached over **4,400 public individuals** through community visits, conferences, community events and Treaty days.

### **2019-20 jointly held sessions:**

- Manitoba Government Department of Finance
- Manitoba Sustainable Development
- Manitoba Indigenous Relations (Justice)
- Red River Basin Commission
- Office of the Auditor General
- City of Winnipeg
- Manitoba Agriculture
- Manitoba Agriculture and Resource Development
- Financial Management Institute of Manitoba
- East Interlake Watershed District

## Exhibitor Booth participation:

- MFNERC – Lighting the Fires
- Vision Quest Conference & Tradeshow
- Indigenous Day Live at The Forks
- Treaty 5 Summit (Black River First Nation)
- Long Plain First Nation Treaty Day
- Treaty 1 Commemoration at Lower Fort Garry
- Folklorama – First Nations Pavilion
- Brokenhead Treaty Day and Health Information Fair
- Institute of Public Administration of Canada Conference
- Swan Lake First Nation Treaty Day
- National Gathering of Elders
- Paramedicine Across Canada Expo
- First Nation Health Social Secretariat of Manitoba – Annual Members Meeting
- MFNERC – Circle of Knowledge & Practices Conference
- Manitoba Social Studies Teachers Association
- Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
- Deer Lodge Community Club Winter Carnival
- Manitoba First Nations Languages Land-Based Gathering

## Learning Centre:

The Learning Centre is for everyone to use the space to learn about the Treaties and Treaty Relationship.

There were 8 Events with over 120 participants

- Certificate of Indigenous Relations Program
- University of Manitoba
- University of Winnipeg
- MB Indigenous and Northern Relations
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Manitoba Association of Newcomer Serving Organizations
- Morden Adult Education Centre
- West Kildonan Collegiate

# Research

## “Let’s Talk Treaty!” Radio Program

“Let’s Talk Treaty” is a 15-minute bi-weekly radio series hosted by Treaty Commissioner Ross. Each episode discusses various aspects of the Treaties with students, community members, scholars, and Elders. As NCI airs in urban, rural, and remote communities the show reaches audiences across Manitoba. Over the last year we have enhanced the online presence of the show. Each of the episodes can be streamed or downloaded from the TRCM website. As of March 31, 2020, 54 episodes of the program have been recorded. In 2019-20, the following episodes were aired:

- Two Student Perspectives on the Treaty Relationship: **Storm Koostachin-Baker** and **Jasmine Nault**
- TRCM’s Post-Secondary Treaty Education Course: **Cynthia Bird**
- Grade 12 Course on Treaties and the Treaty Relationship: **Connie Wyatt Anderson**
- A Student-Led Initiative to Build an Outdoor Indigenous Learning Space at Kildonan East Collegiate: **Jada Ross, Madison Anderson and Luke Klassen**
- Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls: **Karine Duhamel**
- The Former Kapyong Barracks: **Chief Dennis Meeches**
- Interview with **Ry Moran** at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Responsibilities and the Treaty Relationship: **Elder Harry Bone**
- The Importance of Oral History: **Elder David Courchene**
- National Indigenous Veterans’ Day: **Connie Wyatt Anderson**
- The History of St. Peter’s: **Niigaan Sinclair**
- The Seven Teachings: **Elder David Courchene**
- Treaty 2 Research: **Jason Bone**
- Newcomers and Indigenous Relationships: **Hani Ataan al-Ubeady**
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: **Brenda Gunn**

(Below) Treaty Commissioner Loretta Ross and Hani Ataan Al-ubeady at Aliraza Alidina NCI FM recording episode 52 in the Let’s Talk Treaty radio series, “Newcomers and Indigenous Relationships,” January 28, 2019



## Research Projects Timeline

In 2018, *Kakiige Pimatisowin – Life That Never Ends*, a historical timeline from the perspective of First Nations, was created by TRCM in collaboration with Cynthia Bird. We took the timeline to a designer and the resultant creation was a book that could double as a timeline poster for classrooms. Each page has a continuous flow into the next so the pages can be removed and placed end to end creating the poster. As of March 2020, TRCM and the Council of Elders have approved a final design concept and the projected release for the timeline is fall of 2020.

## Resource Library

The TRCM Resource Library continues to acquire books, theses, dissertations and journal articles for its library. With the assistance of Library and Archives Canada, TRCM also obtained Treaty Pay lists for each of the Treaty areas between the years 1877 – 1910. In addition to genealogical information, the pay lists contain many details of the early relationship between the Treaty partners.

In 2019-20 TRCM contracted Courtney Myron, originally with the TRCM in 2018-19 as a practicum student, to continue her work in the resource library. Courtney organized, labeled and catalogued newly purchased publications into our Library World database and created a library world manual.

## Information Requests

We continue to receive information requests from government, organizations, First Nations and members of the general public. Land acknowledgements and Calls to Action continue to be popular information requests, and the TRCM continues to provide individualized support. Other requests were based on specific Treaty areas or specific promises included in the Treaties. The TRCM was also approached by numerous post-secondary students who were conducting Treaty research. And finally, the TRCM has been asked to provide feedback on different projects and educational initiatives such as courses, plays, and literature.

## 2019-20 Treaty Commemorations:

**May 23 – 26, 2019** – Nibi (Water) Gathering in Manito Api, Bannock Point, Whiteshell Provincial Park

**July 29 – Aug 1, 2019** – Treaty No. 10 Gathering in English River First Nation, Saskatchewan

**Aug 13 & 14, 2019** – Island Lake 150th anniversary commemoration at Old Post

**Aug 3, 2019** – Lower Fort Garry Commemoration of the Signing of Treaty No. 1

**Aug 15 – 18, 2019** – Folklorama First Nations Pavilion sponsorship

**Nov 22, 2019** – Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards Scholarship



(left to right) Tipi Display at the First Nations Pavilion, Folklorama, August 2019 – Aboriginal School of Dance performers at the First Nations Pavilion, Folklorama, August 2019 – Commissioner Ross with commemorative monument at the Old Post Gathering, August 2019

## Treaty Commemorations

Each year we provide 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.

# Facilitation

## Formal Partnerships:

### MANITOBA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Manitoba Museum (TMM) remains an active partner to TRCM regarding exhibits and events relating to Treaties and Treaty Relationships and has met with TRCM to renew its formal partnership in the coming months

## Informal Partnerships:

### IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP WINNIPEG (IPW)

TRCM has met several times with IPW and it is anticipated that a formal partnership will be arranged in the next fiscal year.

### CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION OF MANITOBA (CSC)

Treaty Commissioner Ross has met several times with Anna Schmidt to discuss the possibility of forming a partnership in hopes of developing mandatory Treaty Education modules for Manitoba Civil Servants through the Organization and Staff Development (OSD) learning system.

### MENNONITE CHURCH OF CANADA (MCC)

TRCM continues to be an active participant, providing advice and support to various sectors of the MCC



Treaty Commissioner Ross and Allen Sutherland at Indigenous Awareness Session with Parks Canada staff in Churchill, May 2019

## Partner Relations:



### MANITOBA MUSEUM

The Manitoba Museum is now in the seventh year of a useful and creative relationship with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, one of our most important partners. This year, we have worked closely on planning for the refurbishment of the Welcome and Prairies galleries - due to open in October 2020. The new Welcome gallery will feature an exhibit which stands as a permanent Treaty acknowledgement statement. Designed and written with the help of the TRCM and the Council of Elders, this will be the first exhibit visitors encounter as they enter the Museum. It will contain 8 Treaty medals, one for every Treaty in Manitoba, and a George III Peace Medal that acknowledges Dakota communities in Manitoba. As the Elders Council have recommended and with the assistance of Elders and teachers from Roseau River First Nation, these medals will be paired with pipes and pipe bags to signify the sacred nature of promises made in Treaty. The Manitoba Museum would especially like to thank Elder Charles Nelson and Elder Josephine Hartin for conducting the necessary ceremonies to make the exhibit of sacred pipes possible.



(left) Elder Harry Bone, Treaty Commissioner Ross, Chief Clint Wuttunee and Maureen Matthews in Red Pheasant for the repatriation of Treaty number 4 Treaty medal – (right) Photo of Pipe bags for new exhibit at the Manitoba Museum

When the current gallery renewal is complete, visitors to the Manitoba Museum will have the opportunity to view a total of five Treaty exhibits including the main exhibit in the Welcome gallery, all of them developed with the help of the TRCM. The existing Treaty No. 5 exhibit is familiar to visitors. Starting in October 2020 there will be a new Treaty No. 3 exhibit in the Parklands Gallery and entirely new Peguis/Selkirk Treaty and Treaty No. 1 exhibits in the refurbished Prairie Gallery. Each exhibit tells a different story about Treaty making in Manitoba and taken together these exhibits will form a powerful statement about First Nations Treaty rights and histories. They will also form the basis of a strengthened Treaty education program at the Museum developed in collaboration with the TRCM.

The Curator of Cultural Anthropology, Dr. Maureen Matthews, is honoured to continue to be a member of the Speaker's Bureau of the TRCM and the Museum as a whole is grateful for the warm and productive relationship between our two institutions.

### IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP WINNIPEG (IPW)

TRCM staff 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.

## Partnership Projects:

### NEWCOMER TOOLKIT

The curriculum for the toolkit, created in partnership with Immigration partnership Winnipeg (IPW), Manitoba Association of Newcomer Service Organizations (MANSO), KAIROS and University of Manitoba, has been completed and it continues to be developed for completion by the project launch in 2023.

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### Canada's History Magazine

The TRCM continues to distribute the publication through education kits, booths and by request.

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### Facilitation of Dialogue

In 2019-20 Treaty Commissioner Ross attended several Treaty Gatherings, including Treaty 5 and Treaty 10 in English River First Nation, SK.



Dancer at the Treaty 4 Gathering in Fort Qu'appelle Saskatchewan, September 2019



*Roger Roulette, Anishinaabe linguist, has worked with the TRCM on two projects; teaching staff beginner Anishinaabe language lessons and creation of the Treaty Words Glossary*

## **Professional Development:**

The TRCM staff continue to be involved in Anishinaabemowin lessons through the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre.

Treaty Commissioner Ross and TRCM Staff participated in workshops and spiritual ceremonies at the 2019 NIBI (Water) Gathering at Manito Api (Bannock Point) in Whiteshell provincial park. TRCM contributes financial support to the gathering annually.

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## **Winnipeg Partnership Accord**

The TRCM signed on to the Partnership Accord in June 2017 and staff attend the All Partners Gathering and annual Accord signing ceremonies. A report on the TRCM's commitments to addressing the Calls to Action can be found here: <http://www.winnipeg.ca/indigenous/WIA/PartnerGoals.stm#10>

# TRCM Governance

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## TRCM VISION STATEMENT

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

## TRCM MISSION STATEMENT

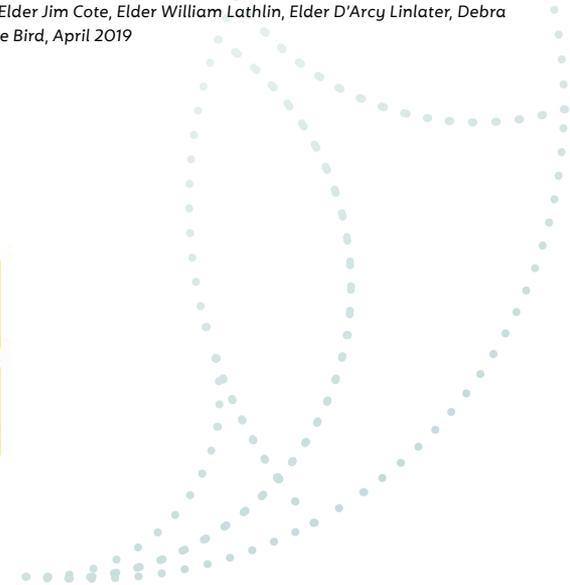
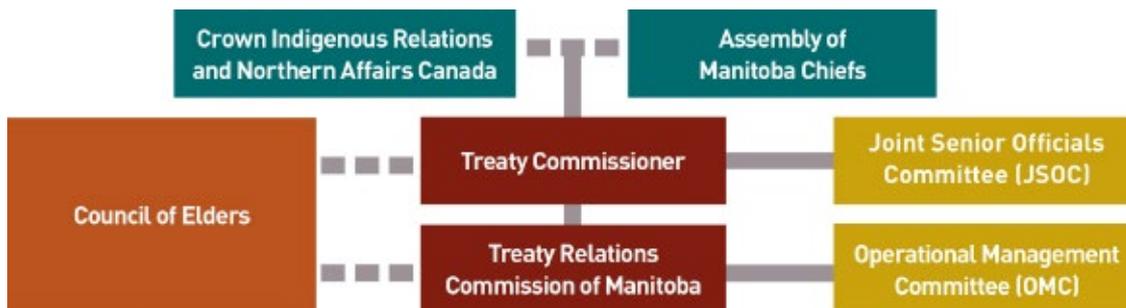
The TRCM encourages and facilitates cooperation, dialogue, and understanding to strengthen and enhance Treaty Relationships to **Inspire Individuals, Empower Change, Build Canada.**

## TRCM VALUES

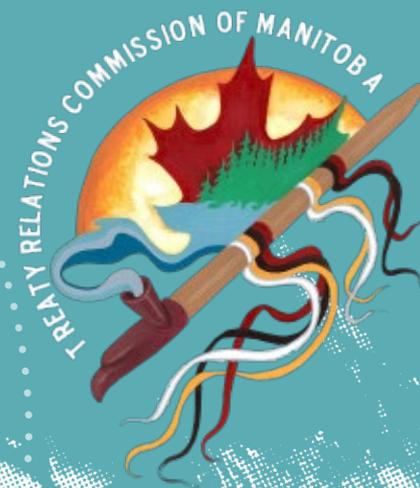
The TRCM values: respect, knowledge, balance, collaboration, honour and integrity, traditions and protocols, and passion and commitment.



*JSOC meeting/Elders Meeting with Gail Flett, Elder Jim Cote, Elder William Lathlin, Elder D'Arcy Linlater, Debra Alivisatos, Elder Harry Bone and Dennis White Bird, April 2019*







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