TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF MANITOBA

TREATY EDUCATION

BACKGROUNDER

January 2025

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM) reached a milestone in 2019-20 by completing one decade of Treaty education service supporting schools across all jurisdictions and geographic regions in Manitoba. This goal was made possible through the dedication of the Council of Elders, Treaty Commission partnerships with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs (AMC), Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning (MEECL), and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre (MFNERC), complemented with broad support from professional educators' associations.

Treaty Education began in 2009-10 as an initiative that grew in leaps and bounds across the province engaging provincial, First Nations, independent schools, and Division scolaire franco-manitobaine schools. For the past fifteen years, the TRCM has been:

- providing Treaty education professional development training;
- developing a variety of resources to support the integration of Treaty education across the K-12 curricula subject areas;
- providing in-school classroom supports, and an annual land-based Summer Institute;
- expanding the Treaty education continuum to include a Grade 12 school-initiated course, land-based post-secondary education training, and community outreach;
- supporting sectors beyond education who have an interest in promoting teaching and training that advances the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- secured a five-year funding agreement with the Province of Manitoba in 2019 to advance K-12 Treaty Education for All;

Treaty education remains responsive to changes by modeling a variety of training methods beyond face-to-face, to include a combination of classroom and on-line learning through our Treaty Education Virtual Classroom.

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's vision to develop a Treaty education life-long learning continuum is now becoming a reality. Critical elements to this vision are balanced perspectives of the oral and written history so that the original spirit and intent of Treaties is captured. The Council of Elders continue to be instrumental in supporting the ongoing work. In this process, reconciliation of the Treaty relationship is an important theme across Treaty education.

The overall 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 promoting the understanding and appreciation that "We Are All Treaty People".

TRCM continues to generate excitement by promoting Treaty education as a way for all peoples to come to embrace and reconcile their own Treaty Story and to begin applying a Treaty lens to all that they do in their personal and professional lives. Manitobans from all walks of life are beginning to make these connections.

June 2023 marked the beginning of a new journey for ***Treaty Education For All*** as a requirement for all students in Manitoba, which was made possible through our partner, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. This means that students from all jurisdictions across the province will be required to take Treaty education as part of the Grade 12 graduation diploma requirements. This is a celebration for all the original partners along with the present and former Treaty Commissioners who contributed to giving life to Treaty education since it began in 2009.

Moving forward, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba will embrace new opportunities to support mandatory Treaty education through its public education mandate. The TRCM is committed to finding new ways to engage Manitobans, New Canadians, and our relatives in conversations that promote a deeper understanding of the original spirit and intent of the Treaties and how this has continued to benefit us all in our daily walk. To this end, the TRCM will ensure that Treaty education student learning and teaching materials, professional development, and community engagement opportunities remain evergreen and responsive to changing times, as the Treaties have been since they were made.

The TRCM wishes to acknowledge the Assembly of Manitoba's Council of Elders who continue to make significant contributions to Treaty Education in Manitoba, and to the Government of Manitoba for supporting mandatory Treaty education for Grade 12 graduation diploma requirements.

The TRCM also wishes to thank and congratulate all its partners, associates, schools, education authorities, school divisions, collaborators, and affiliates who continue to actively support the understanding of Treaties and the Treaty relationship across this land. Your commitment and

For more information on Treaty Education please contact the TRCM via telephone (204) 777-1871 or regularly watch this website (www.trcm.ca) for updates and announcements.

WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE