



Office of the
Treaty Commissioner

Year in Review 2018-2019

Cover Acknowledgement: Simone Mcleod is a Cree - Ojibway artist born in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She is a member of the James Smith Cree Nation in Saskatchewan.

This work is displayed in the Office of the Treaty Commissioner.

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2018-2019 Year in Review



**Office of the
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Table of Contents

Message from the Treaty Commissioner	4
30 Years Anniversary of the OTC	5
The Treaty Table	6
Treaty Education	6
Treaty Education – Treaty Resource Kit	7
Paying respect to Veterans	8
Noel Starblanket Tribute	8
Speakers Bureau	9
Reconciliation and the Treaty Relationship	10
Appendix A: Selections of gatherings & conferences	11

Message from the Treaty Commissioner



It's an honour to greet you in the annual report marking the end of my first year as Treaty Commissioner Saskatchewan. It has been an incredibly busy time with a focus on increasing understanding of the Treaties, not just historically, but what it means today.

We support reconciliation education through classrooms, workshops and our speakers bureau.

OTC staff and I have traveled across Saskatchewan to be part of community celebrations, learn of successes and hear about plans for the future.

The OTC is committed to engaging in public information and awareness to educate and advance the Treaty goal of good relations.

Reconciliation is a personal journey, within ourselves, our nations, our homes and our families. From these personal journeys we build the foundations for the future of our relations, and our shared histories. Being able to understand each other results in building positive, trusting relationships.

I know the road ahead of us to reconciliation is long, but as I see people coming together to learn I am hopeful for the future.

30 Year Anniversary of the OTC

In 1989 the Saskatchewan Office of the Treaty Commissioner was established to facilitate Treaty discussions between the members of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, the provincial and/or federal governments.

It was created to guide both parties through their differing view on Treaties, by giving recommendations for Treaty land entitlement and education.

Within the initial five-year mandate under the guidance of Commissioner Cliff Wright, the OTC played a vital role in the signing of the Treaty land entitlement agreements between 28 First Nations and the Governments of Canada and Saskatchewan.

With the conclusion of the original OTC mandate in 1996, the FSIN and Canada renewed the OTC under a new mandate and commissioner. The Honourable Judge David M. Arnot was appointed Treaty Commissioner for a ten-year period starting in January 1997. During that time the phrase, "We Are All Treaty People," was coined and treaty education was added to the Saskatchewan curriculum.

Beginning in the summer of 2007, the Honourable Bill McKnight became the Treaty Commissioner. He worked to advance the First Nations Treaty right to livelihood — prosperity, economic self-sufficiency, and independence.

George E. Lafond became Treaty Commissioner in 2012. He has focused on reconciliation as a key theme for the work to build a common understanding of the Treaty relationship.

Today as it was 30 years ago the OTC sits at the Treaty table to facilitate conversation and negotiation between FSIN and government. Under the guidance of the fifth Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mary Culbertson, the first woman to hold the position, the office is furthering Treaty education and Reconciliation to the public.

We are celebrating the past 30 years of Treaty in the fall of 2019.

The Treaty Table

Part of the mission of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan is to support a bi-lateral Treaty Table process between the Government of Canada and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations.

The Treaty Table meets approximately three times per year and has a mandate “to identify options and make recommendations to assist in resolving issues that affect the Treaty relationship, in the following priority areas, including but not limited to: economic independence (including lands and resources; hunting, fishing, trapping and gathering; shelter (housing)); justice; education and child welfare; and health.”

Treaty table meetings for 2018 – 2019 were held at OTC boardroom on the following dates:

March 6, 2018

July 5 & 6, 2018

September 18 & 19, 2018

January 15 & 16, 2019.

Treaty Education

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is pleased to continue enhancing the Teaching Treaties in the Classroom program.

Requests for Teaching Treaty workshops and the teacher resource materials continue at a pace which challenges the OTC’s capacity to meet the demand.

Each year the OTC trains about 500 university students, as well as training for school divisions and Tribal councils, bringing the totals to about 1,000 trained teachers every year. For example, during the summer of 2018, a single workshop saw 42 more educators completed Teacher Catalyst Training with our wonderful facilitators. Over four days, participants took the History of Treaty Making and Teaching Treaties in the Classroom, while working closely with Elders. University of Regina and University of Saskatchewan education students continue to receive a two-day Treaty-awareness training facilitated by the OTC prior to their practicum experience.

Education is an important aspect of Treaty implementation and the Treaty relationship in Saskatchewan. Without a foundational understanding of the history of First Nations in the province and the Treaties it is very difficult to have reconciliation.

In November, to mark the 10-year of the Treaty Resource Kit, a new resource was launched for Kindergarten to Grade 9 classrooms across Saskatchewan. The Kindergarten to Grade 9 Treaty Education Learning Resources were developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Elders and educators, and include suggestions for integrating Treaty education into a range of subject areas at each grade. The kit is comprised of grade-by-grade teacher activities, support videos and books. The Treaties in the Classroom Workshop is a professional development activity aimed at raising the awareness of non-aboriginal and aboriginal teachers and administrators about Treaties. The theme is “We are all Treaty People.”

Treaty Education - Treaty Resource Kit

The "We Are All Treaty People" message takes many forms, etc.ca has a wealth of information where teachers can find resources and activities for use in the classroom. The OTC's Treaty Resource Kit is also displayed at several local, regional and national conferences every year.

The Treaty Resource Kit for Secondary Students includes:

Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Grades 7-12

Treaty Essential Learnings: We Are All Treaty People

Treaty Elders of Saskatchewan

Bounty and Benevolence

Statement of Treaty Issues: Treaties as a Bridge to the Future

Little Pine and Lucky Man: A History 1866-1885

Treaty Promises, Indian Reality: Life on a Reserve

maskoko-sakahikanihk: 100 Years for a Saskatchewan First Nation

In Their Own Land: Treaty 10 and the Canoe Lake, Clear Lake and English River Bands

People of the Buffalo: How the Plains Indians Lived

"And They Told Us Their Stories"

Askiwina: A Cree World

Making the Connections: Cree First Nations Kehte-ayak

Thoughts on Education

From Dreams to Reality: The Story of Treaty Land Entitlement

We Answered the Call: A Story of Sask. First Nations

Contribution to Canada's Freedom and Democracy

The Land is Everything: Treaty Land Entitlement

The Story of the Dakota Oyate and the People of Standing Buffalo

Wahpeton Dakota Nation: The Story of the the Dakota Oyate in Canada

Wa Pa Ha Ska: Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Treaty Video Library I

Treaty Video Library II

Allen Sapp's Art: Through the Eyes of the Cree and Beyond (DVD and Guide)

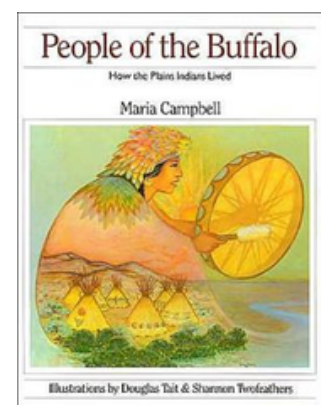
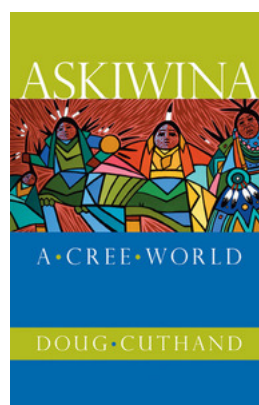
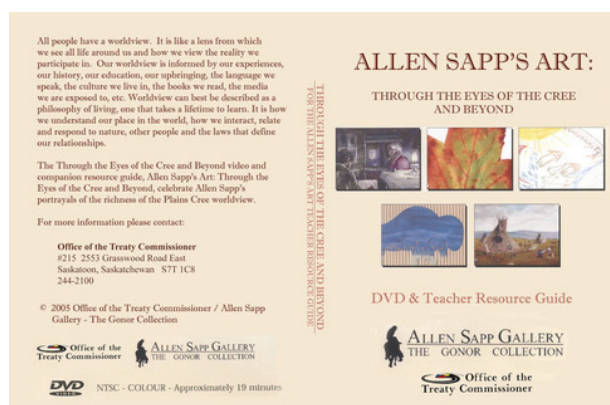
Photocopy Versions of Treaties 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10

The Learning Circle: ages 12-14 and 14-16

Map of Historical Treaty Boundaries of Canada

Poster Set: We Are All Treaty People Treaties 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10

12" Plastic Replica Treaty Medal



Veterans

First Nations men and women continuously answered call to support Canada in the military: World War I, World War II, Korean Conflict, Vietnam Conflict, U.S.- Iraq War, U.S.-Afghanistan War, and peacekeeping missions.

On August 23, 1876 Alexander Morris said to the Cree Nations, “in case of war you ask not to be compelled to fight. I trust there will be no war, but if it should occur I think the Queen would leave you to yourselves. I’m sure she would not ask her Indian children to fight for her unless they wished, but if she did call for them and their wives and children were in danger they are not the men I think them to be, if they did not come forward for their protection.”

Yet when the First World War broke out in 1914, First Nations peoples answered the call. First Nations men and women enlisted to serve Canada as soldiers and as nurses overseas. First Nations families in Canada raised money for Red Cross and Salvation Army; knitted socks to help raise money for the Belgian Relief and the Soldier’s Tobacco Funds. Nov. 11, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the signing of the armistice. About 300 of our soldiers never made it home. We thank them for their service and sacrifice.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner would like to honour those veterans we lost in 2018-19:

Eugene Baldhead

Wilson Hennie

Richard “Dickie” Greyeyes, and his wife Georgina Greyeyes

Ray Sanderson

Noel Starblanket Tribute

It was with heavy heart that the Office of the Treaty Commissioner acknowledged the passing of respected leader, elder and knowledge keeper Noel Starblanket in April 2019. We send our condolences to his children, his grandchildren, his spouse, his siblings and his nation of Starblanket.

“It is hard to say goodbye to a mentor, a kind man and a brave survivor. This is an incredible loss, but we will be left with memories of Noel,” said Treaty Commissioner, Mary Culbertson.

Noel rooted his life in culture and tradition, he believed in Reconciliation and spoke about its importance, and he shared his knowledge through leadership and as an educator.

Through his work as a speaker in the OTC’s speakers’ bureau, and as an elder for the Teaching Treaties in the Classroom, Noel reached hundreds of educators in the oral history of treaties.

“If you want Treaty education to succeed, your message cannot be about bitterness, anger or resentment, your message has to be about hope and moving forward together,” said Elder Noel Starblanket.

His message is used across Canada in Nova Scotia, his impact and influence has been far reaching and will not be forgotten.

Speakers Bureau

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner continues to promote the Treaty relationship through various public information sharing sessions and public engaging initiatives, which is primarily supported by the Speakers Bureau. Our services promote and provide awareness and education that is to support the implementation and honoring of; Treaty history, Treaty rights, the Treaty relationship, culture of Indigenous Treaty partners, positive race relations, Reconciliation, and the Calls to Action. The bureau explores and engages in opportunities to bridge information gaps and dispel stereotypes and misconceptions about the Treaty history, the Treaty relationship and the Treaty partners, through educational information sharing. We work to achieve good relations in the Spirit and Intent of Treaty through awareness and education sessions aimed at helping to understand the Treaty relationship and the Treaty responsibilities we as Treaty people all have.

The Speakers Bureau is a collective of Knowledge Keepers from various nations/communities across the province who share their teachings and wisdom with the Treaty People of Saskatchewan. The Speaker's Bureau is made up of over 30 appointed members and continues to grow. Members are added to reflect the various Treaty territories and language groups in Saskatchewan and based on knowledge, as well as their ability to present material in an engaging and thought-provoking manner.

The Speakers Bureau receives at 180 requests a year, and presents at minimum 144 times per year at various events and locations across the province. Between April 2018 and end of March 2019, we have reached at least 3,000 Saskatchewan residents through our information sharing initiatives.

Many of these events are built on partnerships between the OTC and organizations:

- Prairie Rivers Reconciliation Committee partnered with the OTC to create a Rural Reconciliation Day, which provided a day of events including an understanding of Treaty history, worldview and culture of the Indigenous Treaty partners, as well as principles of reconciliation and the Calls to Action specific to the organization's needs. The event included, education information sessions, breakout sessions, interactive activities and film screenings. Feedback generated from the event evaluations has allowed this day of learning to become an annual.
- The Speakers Bureau has been working with Corrections and Policing to provide Indigenous Perceptions Training not only for new correctional workers, but also officers and guards who have been in service for 10+ years and would have not had a prior opportunity to participate in this training.
- The Speakers Bureau has supported staff of Great Plains College in their understanding of their roles and responsibilities as Treaty partners. GPC has a strategic alliance with OTC, and within that 2018-19 was spent focusing on the learning of the staff and program administrators, including three information sessions provided at each of three campuses. The first session focused on the history of the alliance with GPC and OTC and a brief chronology of Treaty history. The second was on Treaty history, culture of Indigenous Treaty partners, the Indian Act, Residential Schools, intergenerational effects and traumas and current issues. And the third session focused on Principles of Reconciliation, the Calls to Action and ways in which the college can be more responsive and inclusive of their roles and responsibilities as Treaty people.
- In 2018 an Indigenous Studies Class was developed for newcomer groups of the Open Door Society of Saskatoon. These classes ran once a week for 16 weeks and provided a chronology of Treaty history that includes an understanding of the history, worldview and culture of the Indigenous Treaty partners, the principles of reconciliation and the Calls to Action.
- A strategic alliance was signed with Provincial Library Systems in October of 2018. The goal is to educate library systems staff on the history of Treaties, culture of Indigenous Treaty partners, principles of reconciliation and the Calls to Action, so they can integrate this into their library programming.

Reconciliation and the Treaty Relationship

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner has developed a common vision for Truth and Reconciliation in the Treaty territories of Saskatchewan, built from the ground up by Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Based on the Spirit and Intent of Treaties, truth and reconciliation is each citizen walking together on a journey to create a new, shared future for our children and grandchildren, one in which we have: An Understanding of Our History; Authentic Relationships; Vibrant Cultures and Worldviews; and Equitable Systems.

Through collective impact we can improve lives by: facilitating this vision for the future that everyone can agree on; building a shared framework for measuring progress towards that change; and improving relationships, collaboration and communication to better implement our intentions.

The interest in improving the Treaty relationship and exploring Truth and Reconciliation has really started growing in the winter of 2018 in municipalities and Indigenous communities across the province.

In the Battlefords and in Yorkton, the OTC has facilitated three meetings bringing together Indigenous and non-Indigenous champions to explore ways to improve the Treaty relationship in those communities. Roughly 50 community leaders on average have braved icy weather to come together to develop joint objectives, shared principles for working together, and explore what reconciliation activities are currently underway in their communities. Most importantly perhaps, relationships are being developed and trust is being built.

These two burgeoning coalitions are in addition to the six coalitions the OTC is also partnering with to promote reconciliation: in Saskatoon, Regina, Heart of Treaty Six (Lloydminster, Onion Lake, Frog Lake, Poundmaker), Yellow Quill/Kelvington, Prince Albert and Prairie Rivers Reconciliation (Warman, Martensville, One Arrow, Osler). We've also met with a group meeting to discuss reconciliation in Nipawin.

With these groups we are taking the time to look at what the groups have accomplished so far, discuss where they think they are now, and make plans for the future. By having an idea of what success looks like and where we are, we can continue the journey for Reconciliation.

Based on the visioning work, the OTC is also developing tools for communities and organizations to measure and learn from their truth and reconciliation efforts. All of this work contributes to action, coordination and innovation in communities across the province. The OTC has developed a plan to build on these successes and scale the model out across the Treaty territories of Saskatchewan



Appendix A: Selections of gatherings & conferences

OTC staff attend the second annual Treaty 10 Gathering at English River First Nation's La Plonge reserve near Beauval.

In the summer of 2018, the Treaty 10 Gathering brought together friends and officials to share stories, thoughts and create bonds that are necessary for future work in Treaty implementation. It was also an exciting year for Treaty 10 as they unveiled their new flag, and it was raised for the first time during the Gathering.

Getting ready for Treaty adhesion anniversary

It has been great to host the planning committee for the 130th anniversary celebration of the Woodland Cree negotiated adhesion to Treaty 6. Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mary Culbertson, says she is honoured to be part of the commemoration celebration and its planning. On Feb. 11, 1889, Woodland Cree negotiated adhesion to Treaty 6 on the Ice of Montreal Lake.

Professional development at the OTC

The OTC is pleased to share knowledge to promote Treaty education and Reconciliation throughout Saskatchewan, but staff is also always expanding their own knowledge. During the 2018-19 year we were privileged to learn about the Treaty 4 and Treaty 6 songs. After Treaty 4 was signed on Sept. 15, 1874, Chief Piapot composed a flag song to mark the Treaty's creation. It can only be sung by people who have the rites to sing it. Aaron Tootosis is one of those people and he shared his learnings at an event with the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in late February.

The Treaty 6 song was designed as a universal song. It can be used everywhere, recorded, and be sung by everyone. While the two songs are named for different Treaty territories, they do not refer to particular Treaties, but rather for the region where the composer lived.

Commemoration

OTC staff was in Fort Battleford on National Indigenous Peoples Day in 2018 for the commemoration of the eight Indians that were hanged in the fall of 1885, Western Canada's largest mass execution. There was no proper trial and they were buried in a mass grave. There is still no signage of story about the eight. That will change as we move forward in the name of justice and Reconciliation.

Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mary Culbertson, spoke at the event.

"Remembering and honouring significant events in the course of Canada being shaped, is essential to repairing the fractured reality of the Treaty relationships," she said after the event. "It's this education and this kind of commemoration that is the foundation of repairing relationships on the continued road to reconciliation. We can't give up."