



Office of the Treaty Commissioner

Year in Review 2022-2023

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Message from the Treaty Commissioner



While the 2022-23 year gave us much to celebrate, we are reminded how far we still have ahead of us on our community journey towards reconciliation. It's also been a busy year. There are more people than ever reaching out to our archives for information; our speakers bureau for educational sessions; our reconciliation team to start their action plan processes. We have also seen the creation of the Treaty Learning Journey: Lets Talk Truth, which took the popular Teaching Treaties in the Classroom and made it available to an audience beyond educators.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner worked with the Province of Saskatchewan to see the first ever Treaty boundary signs erected along Highway 11 at the Treaty boundary of Treaties 4 and 6. This celebration marked the culmination of years of hard work, relationship building, and research.

In the past year we have seen two statements from the Vatican - an apology and acknowledgement of the systemic discrimination faced by Indigenous Peoples in Canada, then the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. While these statements have opened a path for some to move forward, we need to continue the journey along this path towards reconciliation, which means continuing the work to seek truth and justice, and raise awareness when it comes to the true history of the genocide that has taken place. Truth comes before reconciliation yet there are still people that deny the existence of unmarked graves and the deaths and disappearances of Indigenous children. The work of Special Interlocutor Kimberley Murray, for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites associated with Indian Residential Schools is vital to the truth. We must all support this work and do our part, whether that is healing of one's self or our nations or doing the work that is so needed.

We have continued to build our relationship with the Treaty Commission in Manitoba meeting with the Commissioner and her team as part of our ongoing work.

In June, we co-hosted the official opening of the Stoney Knoll Interpretive Site in a public ceremony. The Stoney Knoll First Nation tells a story of Indigenous and non-Indigenous relations on the prairies and how two opposing groups found a path of reconciliation through the barriers set up by the past mistakes of the Canadian Government and offer a chance to right these wrongs.

The team at the OTC continues to work on duty consult issues and fighting for the engagement of Indigenous People in the future of Saskatchewan. This work is particularly important with the Sask First Act announced in 2022, where the office continues to call for engagement as laid out in the numbered Treaties, the UNDRIP Articles, and the TRC Calls to Action.

I was honoured to receive the Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal from Saskatchewan Lieutenant Governor Russ Mirasty. During the ceremony he spoke about the importance of Indigenous people stepping into public spaces to "claim our right to be there and be able to express ourselves, our world view and really educate people about who we are, why we are here, and ultimately we belong."

I believe this fully. This truth, the truth of Indigenous People in Canada, must be honoured and cannot be ignored. We must understand the intergenerational impact and harms of residential schools and other breaches of Treaty. Our hearts must always be seeking compassionate understanding of what Indigenous people have had to and continue to endure.

It was an honour to serve as your Treaty Commissioner. Migwec, Tiniki, Hiy Hiy

- Mary Musqua-Culbertson

MEET THE TEAM AT OTC



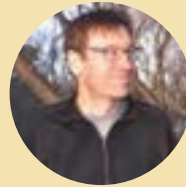
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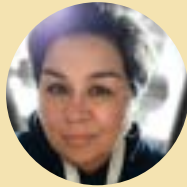
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Operations at the OTC

In 2022-2023, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner remains busy and dedicated to working across Saskatchewan with all of our Treaty partners. We continue to navigate in the pandemic and ensure we are providing a safe workplace for all employees. Our departments of Treaty Education, Reconciliation and Community Partnerships, and Research and Archives are committed to continuing to promote respect and understanding of Treaties across the province, which is done in a variety of ways.

This past year we welcomed a new Director of Treaty Education, we also added a few new team members to our Reconciliation department, and hired mentorship and summer students.

We've had many success stories this year with past mentorship students taking on full-time roles in our office. One is working on our reconciliation team, as the truth and reconciliation community coordinator, actively engaged with all the reconciliation circles in Saskatchewan. Another former mentor now works as the truth and reconciliation data coordinator, and a third is our research and archives digitization technician.

We are so pleased that these youth completed their one-year mentorship program with OTC and then gaining full-time employment, which is the focus of the federal program. Moving forward, we are happy to continue working with the current mentees. This program has been a wonderful addition to our office building.

Several different agencies, organizations, and businesses are currently working with the OTC using our Truth, Reconciliation through Treaty Implementation Growth Model training program. Our Research and Archives team stays busy fielding calls and requests about Indian Residential School records and other documents, all the while continuing to do their daily workplans. Our Treaty education team takes people on the Treaty Learning Journey as well as continues to support educators with teaching about Treaties in their classrooms, using the curriculum which became mandatory in 2008. Our speaker's bureau continues to grow as well and the different speakers travel across the province to educate schools, businesses, and other groups on the Treaties and many other topics such as Indian Act, Residential Schools, 60's Scoop, Elders/Knowledge Keepers protocols, and more.

We look forward to 2023-2024 with hope, optimism, and enthusiasm to continue the great work all of our all departments do on a daily basis at the OTC.

Kinanâskomitinan (we thank you)

Treaty Education at the OTC



This has been a busy year for the Treaty Education department at the OTC -- Elaine Sutherland began as the new Director of Treaty Education, Treaty Learning Journey public education sessions were launched, the speaker's bureau continued to grow.

To answer to public interest and to further the reach of the popular Teaching Treaties in the Classroom training, the Treaty Learning Journey was designed and launched this year. Kicked off in winter of 2022, it walks people through history of Treaty in Saskatchewan. The journey starts with Before Treaty, featuring sessions on Indigenous worldview and Indigeneity; At Treaty, with sessions on the Spirit and Intent of Treaties, Peace and Friendship Treaties, and the numbered Treaties; Breaches of Treaty, with sessions on the Indian Act, Residential schools and inter-generational trauma, and it culminates with Today, including sessions on contemporary Treaty and indigenous issues such as, the TRC Calls to Actions, UNDRIP, MMIWG2S. The multi-day sessions are in high demand and have been offered to independent groups as well as online for the general public.

Our speakers' bureau continues to grow in an effort to keep up with demand. Not only are the speakers available for private events, they support public OTC events including for February Storytelling Month; Pride Month; Treaty Learning Journey and more.

In 2022-23 the office continued nurturing our long-standing Strategic Alliances with government, business, and community groups, while creating and expanding new strategic partnerships and alliances. These partnerships bring more depth and long-term strategy to the knowledge sharing for these organizations, building their understanding of Treaty and Treaty relationships.

Our ongoing partnership with Saskatchewan Ministry of Education included updating Treaties and the Law with backgrounder documents, a teacher guide, and resource list. As well as curriculum reviews of Energy and Mines 10, 20, 30, and Agriculture 10, 20, 30.

While the 2022-23 year was very busy, we look at doing even more in the coming year including hosting a Treaty Education Conference, a youth gathering on Treaty, and creating a Treaty Recognition Week with resource sharing.

Reconciliation through Treaty Implementation



The 2022-23 year saw the establishment of the OTC Community of Facilitators, a group of 12 people that will help the OTC to increase its ability to work with organizations across the province in the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Through Treaty Implementation (TRTI) framework, a process to develop action plans for truth and reconciliation.

We started collaborations with key organizations and institutions such as the Saskatoon Police Service, the Law Society of Saskatchewan, and the

Saskatchewan Prevention Institute to help them develop their action plans to advance and measure their truth and reconciliation efforts. Guided by the call from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the MMIWG2S Calls to Justice, and foundations for United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the collaborations challenge organizations to look into their pasts and at their systems, to build a future based on authentic relationships.

The reconciliation team is collaborating with Reconciliation Saskatoon in the creation of an online learning platform called ConnectR, that can help individuals and organizations to increase their reconciliation-based knowledge including on Indigenous ways of knowing, anti-racism, intergenerational trauma, etc.

We also continue working with communities across the province to assist local reconciliation efforts. The OTC hosted a two-day gathering of over 60 Indigenous and non-Indigenous representatives from 10 reconciliation circles, including Elders, to re-energize as we come out of Covid, strengthen relationships, and together identify ways to continue growing grass-roots led truth and reconciliation in Saskatchewan. The OTC has also assisted the communities of Melfort and Tisdale to begin their community reconciliation journeys, and the City of Humboldt, Heritage Saskatchewan and Aboriginal Friendship Centres of Sask to create a pilot for communities to examine their true history, as a crucial step towards reconciliation.

The OTC Library and Archives team continues to focus on completing research requests, supporting the OTC speaker's bureau, and continuing our Treaty Highway Signs project with the Province of Saskatchewan.

We completed our renovated OTC Library and Archives reading room, which includes two work stations. We also added some key equipment to our archives: a microfilm digitization station and photo scanner to ensure we can continue to save and share our resources in an accessible way.

The highlight of the 2022-23 year was establishing the Office of the Treaty Commissioner Elders and Youth Council funded under the Council of Library and Information Resources. This group is developing Research Ethics and Protocols Guidelines to define how we share archival resources and Treaty Oral Histories. The Elders and youth selected by the Treaty Commissioner come from all Treaty areas of Saskatchewan.

The group met four times in 2022-23: September 2022 at Wanuskewin; December 2022 at the OTC offices; January 2023 at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon, and March 2023 in North Battleford where the Elders were also able to attend Pelican Lake First Nation Elder Jacob Bill's 99th birthday celebrations.

The OTC digitization technician is leading a microfilm scanning project in partnership with Sask Lung and historical Tuberculosis Sanitorium records, and the archives assistant is completing an oral history publication on well-known Beardy's And Okemasis Treaty Elder Angus Esperance.

The partnership with the U of S Indigenous Studies department allowed the OTC to receive some SSHRC funding to start archival research on Indian Residential Schools in Saskatchewan, including includes a partnership with the University of Regina to translate Oblate records written in French.

The Research and Archives staff also attended the Digital Collections Symposium on October 12-13 in Baltimore MD. This was funded by the CLIR and a great opportunity to learn Library digitization techniques.

A Year with the Treaty Commissioner of Sask.



April 2022

- Treaty Medal Installation at Bishop Murray High School
- Flag raising St. Kateri Tekawitha Elementary School
- Child Welfare Compensation Forum
- 2022 Awasis Inter-agency Education Conference In Saskatoon
- Racism & Discrimination Summit in Regina

May 2022

- Duty to Consult in North Battleford
- Treaty Medal Installation
- Parkland College Graduation to speak to graduates

June 2022

- Treaty 4 Ceremony
- Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Pow Wow
- Poundmaker Relay Days
- Pine House and LLRIB Community visit
- Piapot Solstice Ceremony
- Stoney Knoll Interpretive Site opening
- Ranch Ehrlo Awards Night in Prince Albert



July 2022

- Restoring Our Spirit Through Healing & Wellness Convention on the George Gordon First Nation
- Back to Batoche Days



August 2022

- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations building grand opening
- St. Michael's residential school Survivor's Gathering
- Dawson Creek Treaty 11
- Buffalo Treaty Signing in Sweetgrass
- Woodland Cree Gathering

A Year with the Treaty Commissioner of Sask.

September 2022

- Fort Qu'appelle Treaty 4 Gathering
- BC Treaty Commission visit
- Treaty Highway Signs Bladworth
- OTC Elders Council Gathering in Wanuskewin
- Battlefords Industrial School Walk for Orange Shirt Day



October 2022

- Thriving Together, the OTC Reconciliation Circle Leadership Gathering
- PAGC WC
- Throne Speech in Regina
- Walking with Domestic Violence Survivors Forum
- Red Earth Community visit

November 2022

- Indian Residential School Survivor and Domestic Violence Conference
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Conference
- National Gathering on Unmarked Burials in Winnipeg

December 2022

- Indigenous Identity: The Impact of Pretendians in the Academy at the U of S
- Pelican Lake First Nation Signing Ceremony for Urban Reserve Agreement
- Winter Solstice Ceremony at the Legislative Building in Regina



A Year with the Treaty Commissioner of Sask.



January 2023

- National Gathering: Affirming Indigenous Data Sovereignty in Vancouver



February 2023

- Elder Angus Esperance Queen's Platinum Jubilee Medal Ceremony in Duck Lake
- Adhesion to Treaty 6 Celebration at Montreal Lake Cree Nation
- Invitation to appear from the Senate Committee on Indigenous Peoples
- Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations Assembly
- Sakewe School visit in Edmonton



March 2023

- Elders Queens Platinum Jubilee Medal Ceremony AND Elder Jacob Bill's 99th birthday celebration in North Battleford
- Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal presentation Ceremony for OTC staff and members of the speakers bureau
- Touchwood Agency Tribal Council Muskowekwan

Talking with the Community



FACEBOOK

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner has 4,830 Followers on Facebook a growth of 17 per cent in the 2022-23 year, where we share news and information around Indigenous rights, Treaty implementation and Treaty Issues, and reconciliation. In a daily posting we share articles, upcoming events, and suggested ways for people to engage with their community.



TWITTER

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner has 3,611 Followers on Twitter, growing 4 per cent during the 2022-23 year. The content that we shared was retweeted 1,264 and liked 3,339 times over the past year. We share the latest news and information on Indigenous, Treaty rights and reconciliation as well we event information six-plus times per day.



E-NEWSLETTER

Once a month the Office of the Treaty Commissioner shares information about the work of the office, upcoming events, and highlights from our social media. We also have a separate monthly email that details the upcoming events. We had 1,801 subscribers to the emails by end of the 2022-23 year, 368 new subscribers over the last year.



OTC.CA

At otc.ca, the Office of the Treaty Commissioner shares the latest updates on the work of the office and the team, as well as stories of Reconciliation in Action. There is a form to have the Research team support with research requests and to request a speaker from our Speakers Bureau. We also have links to resource websites and to order resources and books.



Healing Together Through Kindness Conference



A conference hosted by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan and Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations, Healing Together Through Kindness, talks about rights and healing.

Nov. 9 focuses on Lateral Violence/Lateral Kindness and Nov. 10 on the United Nations Declaration on Right of Indigenous Peoples.

“Before we talk about the rights agenda we need to talk about healing,” said Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson.

“We need to talk about healing within ourselves or within our nations and that starts with kindness.”

By being kind to one another, we can tackle the legacy of residential school, the broken Treaty promises, and change the systems that weren’t built for everyone, she said. Reminding people that how we treat each other is what youth see.

The conference gives attendees from across Saskatchewan the opportunity to share their stories, as well as educate and support one another.

“We heal people by the way we treat people,” said FSIN Chief Bobby Cameron during the opening session.

“Those acts of kindness go a long way, not only for ourselves, but for those who are healing.”

Sisters In Spirit Walk



On Oct. 4, people gathered at Saskatoon City Hall for a flag raising hosted by iskwewuk e-wichiwitochik (Women Walking Together).

The Sisters in Spirit Flag Raising and Walk was in support of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit people. The group walked from city hall to the monument outside Saskatoon Police Service headquarters where they held a moment of silence.

This event is held annually to offer support to grieving family, friends, and communities, and provide opportunities for healing, raising awareness, and educating the public about the history and underlying issues that fuel the violence.

A Sisters in Spirit walk was held in Regina the same afternoon.

OTC celebrates Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier

The Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mary Culbertson, was thrilled to attend the event for the event to celebrate Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier. Canada Post launched a stamp recognizing her achievements and service to her community on June 15 on Treaty 4 territory.

As leader of the Okanese First Nation in Saskatchewan, Chief Marie-Anne Day Walker-Pelletier served the most consecutive terms ever by an elected First Nations chief in Canada.

She is a committed advocate of social reform, and an inspiration to women leaders across the country. Day Walker-Pelletier was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 2018 and invested in 2019. She also received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2021.

We thank her for her perseverance, for kindness, for role modelling the principles in her leadership at home, regionally, nationally, and on the international stage.



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