



**Office of the
Treaty Commissioner**



**Office of the Treaty Commissioner
and
Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba**

**Treaties 1 – 11 Gatherings
Research Archive Project
2011-2012**

2005

Prepared by Marion Meadmore CM



2005

Name: 1st Annual Treaties 1 – 11 Gathering

Theme: Protecting Our Sovereignty



Date: September 27 – 29, 2005

Location: Enoch First Nation, Alberta

Hosts: Treaty 6
Treaty 7
Treaty 8

Organizers: Enoch First Nation

Contacts: Brenda Joly
Regina Crowchild (Phone: 403-998-9786)
Marlene Poitras
Chris Henderson (Phone: 204-943-8532)
Darlene Plamandon



Subject: Declaration of Unity between the Treaty Nations of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11.

WHEREAS Treaty Chiefs, Headmen and members of the Nations from Treaties No.1- No.11 did meet in a duly convened gathering September 27-29, 2005 in the City of Edmonton, Alberta – Treaty No. 6 Territory; and

WHEREAS the Treaty Chiefs of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 do hereby declare the non-recognition and eminent erosion of our Treaties and by this Resolution do fully assert and enforce the true Spirit and Intent of the Treaties no. 1 to No. 11; and

WHEREAS the Treaty Chiefs of the Indigenous Nations of Great Turtle Island in what is now known as Canada, honour the signing of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 by our ancestors, and as member Treaty Nations, agree to uphold the duty as the collective Treaty Keepers; and

WHEREAS the Treaty Chiefs of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 agree through the establishment of a Treaty Chiefs Secretariat to uphold the protection, promotion and enforcement of the promises and terms of our Treaties, as told through the oral history of our Elders from Treaties No. 1 to No. 11; and

WHEREAS the Treaty Chiefs of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 are totally committed to work together in honour and respect to act on the responsibilities of our solemn duty to uphold the traditional and spiritual aspects as Inherent Keepers of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 as signed by our ancestors.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Treaty Chiefs in attendance at the Gathering of Treaty Nations of Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 establish and mandate an interim Treaty Chiefs Council, representative of all Treaty Territories of Treaties No.1 to No. 11.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treaty Chiefs select an Interim Principal Spokesperson for this Treaty Chiefs Council to represent all Treaty Chiefs present at the Edmonton Assembly of Treaty Chiefs No. 1 to No. 11; prepare and organize the Spokesperson & the Treaty Chiefs Council to partake in meetings important to Treaty First Nations, i.e: FMM (First Ministers Meeting) Conference in BC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Treaty Chiefs hereby reaffirm our commitment to the Inherent Right to Self-Determination and Self-Government as set out in the following 1981 Declaration of First Nations

We the Original Peoples of this land know the Creator put us here.

The Creator gave us laws that govern all our relationships to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

The Laws of the Creator defined our rights and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs, our languages, our culture, and a place on Mother Earth which provided us with all our needs.

We have maintained our Freedom, our Languages, and our Traditions from time immemorial.

We continue to exercise the rights and fulfill the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the land upon which we were placed.

The Creator has given us the right to govern ourselves and right to self-determination.

The rights and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other Nation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Treaty Chiefs in assembly do hereby establish a Treaty Chiefs Council Secretariat to gather any and all material related to our Treaties for the purpose of a rolling living Draft to be finalized at a Treaty Chiefs gathering of the Treaties No. 1 to No. 11 at Lower Fort Garry in Manitoba in the Moon of the Melting Snows of 2006;

Moved By: Chief Sanford Big Plume, Tsuu T'ina Nation

Seconded By: Chief BillyJo DeLeRonde, Pine Creek First Nation

Question Called

Vote: For: 54
Against: 0
Abstentions: 4

RESOLUTION CARRIED

*"OUR TREATIES ARE SACRED. WE MUST PROTECT THEM!
...AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE RIVER FLOWS AND THE GRASS GROWS" —
CONFEDERACY OF TREATY SIX FIRST NATIONS ELDERS.*

**ENOCH RIVER CREE DECLARATION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS NATIONS TREATY SUMMIT
NOVEMBER 12 – 13, 2006
ENOCH CREE NATION, TREATY NO. 6 NATIONS' TERRITORY**

**FOR PRESENTATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS EXPERT SEMINAR ON TREATIES,
AGREEMENTS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ARRANGEMENTS
NOVEMBER 14-17, 2006, MASKWACIS CREE TERRITORY**

With the understanding that we as Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous Nations are a critical and integral part of the universal family of Peoples and Nations; and

Recognizing that the **INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS NATIONS TREATY SUMMIT** held in Enoch Cree Nation, was attended by Chiefs, Leaders, Elders and other authorized representatives of Indigenous Nations and Peoples from North, Central and South America, Africa, and the Pacific; and

Affirming that the fundamental sacredness of our Indigenous understanding of our treaties and the relationships they represent is based on our traditions, histories, our ceremonial ways, our relationships with our lands that are reflected in our creation stories, blood and sacrifices of our ancestors; and

Affirming also that Treaties and Agreements between states and Indigenous Nations are to be regarded from our respective spiritual understandings; and

Understanding that the inherent rights, responsibilities and relationships encompassed in treaties impact every aspect of our lives, including our health, cultural practices, means of subsistence and food sovereignty, access to and protection of our sacred sites and our rights to our lands, territories and natural resources, to self determination and free, prior and informed consent; and

Considering that the legally-binding Nation to Nation Treaties which were freely, entered into by Indigenous Peoples with non-indigenous governments constitute an important body of international law; and

Recognizing the vital contribution and role of the United Nations Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements and the work of its Special Rapporteur Miguel Alfonso Martinez, and strongly endorsing its conclusions and recommendations; and

Reaffirming the call by the UN Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements for the international recognition of our Treaties with states, as well as effective and accessible mechanisms to provide international redress for Treaty violations and abrogations; and

Appreciating the important recent advances in this regard by international bodies and mechanisms including the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the UN Human Rights Committee, and the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Court; and

Calling attention to the reality that Canada and other states continue to undermine our Treaties and related Treaty Rights, specifically by:

- 1) Failing to honour their treaty obligations to Indigenous Peoples by denying their rights to land, such as those who have had their reserves illegally surrendered in Canada and through similar actions in other parts of the world.
- 2) Developing policies and laws designed to extinguish states' legal recognition and responsibility under Treaties and Agreements made with Indigenous Peoples.
- 3) The unilateral passing of laws and regulations terminating and limiting the exercise by Indigenous Peoples of Treaty and Land Rights, for example, Canada's gun registry legislation.
- 4) Interpreting Treaties as domestic rather than as international agreements and establishing so-called "settlement" processes based on unilateral decisions by the state parties.
- 5) Attempting to diminish the legal standing of Treaties by referring to modern negotiated settlements and even unilateral, non-consensual state decisions as "treaties."
- 6) Refusing to recognize the essential rights of free, prior and informed consent, permanent sovereignty over lands, territories and natural resources and self-determination which are implicit and explicit in existing Treaties and agreements.
- 7) Denying, undermining, and diminishing rights recognized and upheld in Treaties to social services, child and family wellness, traditional subsistence, health care, education, culture, spiritual practices and language among others.

- 8) Continuing, in courts and other processes, to disregard and deny Indigenous understandings, interpretations and oral histories regarding our treaties and agreements, as well as the rights affirmed for all Peoples under international law.

The participants in the International Indigenous Nations Treaty Summit meeting in Enoch Cree Nation, Treaty No. 6 Territory, November 12 – 13, 2006

Hereby declare the following:

- 1) To affirm and support the following current struggles of Indigenous Nations to uphold Treaties and the rights they recognize including sovereignty and self determination:
 - a) The efforts of the Onion Lake Cree Nation and other Nations of Treaty No. 6 Territory to assert their sovereignty under Treaty No. 6 and international law.
 - b) The Maori struggle against New Zealand's Foreshore and Seabed Act as well as other domestic legislation that seeks to violate and undermine the Treaty of Waitangi, and in particular the endeavours by the Te Whanau a Apanui to ensure the full measure of their rights in regard to their nation, lands, territories, and natural resources.
 - c) The Yaqui of Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico and their case to the Organization of American States (OAS) to defend their land and water rights and assert traditional Yaqui authority.
 - d) The Lubicon Lake Cree Nation's struggle for their lands.
 - e) The 1868 Ft. Laramie Treaty between the United States and the Great Sioux Nation and the defence of the Sacred Paha Sapa (Black Hills).
 - f) The Western Shoshone Nation's efforts to assert their rights under the Treaty of Ruby Valley in the international arena including at the CERD.
 - g) First nations' efforts to uphold and enforce the Jay Treaty & Lambull Treaty that support First Nations border crossing rights.
 - h) Recognition and full implementation of the Kuna Nation's treaty, land, and resource rights in Panama and Colombia.
 - i) The Moskitia Nation's right under international law to exercise its sovereignty under a new Constitution approved by 386 communities.
 - j) The assertion of land recognition by Treaty No. 7 Nations as presented to the Canadian government.
 - k) The Kakisiwew-Ochapowace and other Treaty No. 4 Nations' assertion of sovereignty under their Treaty and their rejection of Canada's taxation law.
 - l) Full preservation and implementation of the Pimicikamak Nation's self-determination process according to their laws, treaty rights, and Creator-granted rights and powers.

- m) The Akaitcho Dene's implementation of their Treaty negotiated and concluded in 1900.
- 2) To actively engage in and support Indigenous Nations' Treaty education initiatives and worldview to protect our future generations against alienation, assimilation, and genocide.
 - 3) To support the development of Treaties between our Indigenous Nations for our mutual support and development.
 - 4) To support the development of aggressive strategies on the national and international levels to target key legal decisions that undermine Treaty Rights.
 - 5) To support the vital need to develop effective international mechanisms to monitor compliance with Treaties between states and Indigenous Peoples and to ensure effective redress in the case of abrogations or violations.
 - 6) To support the recognition of Health, Education, Housing, Subsistence Rights, Land Rights, Peace and Security, Free Prior informed Consent and Permanent Sovereignty over natural resources as well as Self-determination as inherent Rights of all Indigenous Peoples and Nations which are affirmed in Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements.
 - 7) To continue to call upon the United Nations, other international bodies and states to recognize and uphold the rights affirmed in Treaties concluded with Indigenous Peoples and to develop effective mechanisms in this regard with the full participation of the Indigenous Peoples involved.
 - 8) To reaffirm the recommendation that the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights organize, in conjunction with the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations and Indigenous Treaty Nations and Organizations, a World Conference on Indigenous Peoples' Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements to take place during the first half of the Second UN International Decade of the Worlds' Indigenous Peoples.
 - 9) To commit to continue to meet in annual Treaty Nation's Summits to share information, build alliances, develop strategies, and solutions and unite our efforts to defend our rights as Treaty Peoples and Nations internationally and in our homelands.

We further declare that we will continue to advocate for Treaty Rights utilising the United Nations Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements between

Indigenous Peoples and states, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the OAS Inter-American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and any and all other relevant international mechanisms, Conventions and bodies.

Titawiyh saweyhtam Wiyohyawiyimaw mamawo askiyw iyntwaysiynyw wiyihcikewin. Koh itotamahk oma eh aspih kiskisiyahk kakiyh niykanohtakoyahkok nikehteyayiminanak miyna wiyawaw ohcih ayaniskac oteh niykan awasisak.

***May the Father bless this completed Indigenous World Declaration.
We do this in honour of ancestors and on behalf of our future generations.***

***Adopted by consensus this 13th day of November, 2006, Enoch Cree Nation.
Alberta Canada***



South Wind

"The official newspaper of the Manitoba Southern Chiefs' Organization, Inc."

TREATIES 1-11 GATHERING

Message from
Southern Grand Chief
Chris Henderson



Chief Linda Two Heart and Grand Chief Henderson at the March for HELP community event.

There is a growing movement across Indian Country in Southern Manitoba to battle the influx of hard drugs in some SCO First Nations.

On September 21, 2005, the Sagkeeng Anicinabe Nation held a march for HELP (Helping Everyone Live Pure) to draw attention to the issue of drug trafficking and drug addiction. Close to 400 students, elders and citizens, including Sagkeeng's Chief Linda Two-Heart and the Council Members, participated in this first-ever march.

As well, the Fisher River Cree Nation and the Long Plain First Nation have adopted and instituted mandatory drug-testing for its elected officials and government employees.



Community members gather for the Feast and Pow Wow held for the March for HELP.

On September 27, 28, 29, 2005 history was made when Treaties 1-11 gathered in Edmonton, Alberta to discuss the status of Treaties. The assembly was hosted by Enoch Cree Nation-Treaty 6.

Over 10 Manitoba Southern Member First Nation Chiefs were in attendance of the 102 Chiefs present at this historical gathering. As stated by one of the Chiefs present from Treaty 6: "We've been quiet too long, now we've come together to discuss our treaty issues!"

At the end of the assembly, a Treaty Council of Chiefs, a Treaty Secretariat, and the selection of an Interim spokesperson was formed and decided. Chief Sandford Big Plume of the Tsuu T'ina Nation, Treaty 7, was selected as the Interim Spokesperson, who will represent Treaties 1-11 at the upcoming First Ministers Meeting scheduled for November 25, 2005 in Kelowna, BC, with the five national Aboriginal organizations.

During the assembly, the sacred pipe stem originating from the original signing of Treaty Six was present. Elders, Chiefs and observers were honored with the sacred bundle being placed within the assembly for the daily talks.

Rolling River First Nation's Chief Morris Shannacappo addressed the assembly by inviting all Treaty Chiefs to gather "after the melting snows" in Lower Fort Garry, Manitoba, to continue the unity shared and begin strategizing on how to implement our inherent and Treaty rights.

Southern Grand Chief Chris Henderson was in attendance at this assembly and gave his support to the Manitoba Treaty Chiefs of Numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.



l.-r. Grand Chief Henderson, Chief Morris Shannacappo, Rolling River First Nation, Chief Sandford Big Plume, and Elder adjourn the sacred pipe stem out of the Assembly.



Chief Sandford Big Plume
Interim Treaty Spokesperson
Tsuu T'ina Nation - Treaty 7

The Tsuu T'ina, which means "a great number of people", are a strong proud nation possessing a remarkable cultural heritage. The current chief of the Tsuu T'ina Nation is Chief Sandford Big Plume.

Family of Matthew Dumas outraged at the findings of the Winnipeg Police Services investigation



Matthew Dumas 1986-2004

Recently, the family met with members of the Winnipeg Police Service to discuss the findings, conclusions and recommendations of their internal investigation into the shooting. The family was informed that Matthew was not involved in the initial event and had simply been walking down the street when he was approached by a Winnipeg Police Service Officer. Matthew was shot and killed soon after.

"Our family has many more questions and concerns about what actually happened between the officer and Matthew before he was shot and killed. We want to have the opportunity to publicly clear Matthew's

name and reputation," stated Jessica Paul, sister of Matthew Dumas.

"The shooting death of Matthew Dumas by the Winnipeg Police Service and the subsequent conclusions of their internal investigation, in which no criminal negligence or liability has been found, illustrates that in Canada there are two justice systems in effect. One that operates by oppressing and the other by maintaining its power and control over our people. Police consistently target and classify our people to the point its not even safe to walk down the street," stated Chief McIvor, SCO Justice Portfolio holder earlier.

About the Researcher

Mrs. Marion L. Meadmore CM
(b.1935)

University of Manitoba, LL.B. 1977

Cree native Marion Meadmore was a major leader in Canada's Aboriginal community before she became the nation's first Aboriginal woman lawyer in 1978.

Born on the Peepeekisis Reserve in Saskatchewan, Meadmore started out teaching elementary school on the reserve in 1953. Not yet 20 years old, she organized the first Indian intramural sports event for schools in the district, one of many firsts in her career. Soon after, she co-founded the Indian Metis Friendship Centre in Winnipeg, Canada's first Aboriginal centre, and the Urban Indian Council of Winnipeg.

In 1960, she formed the National Indian Council of Canada, the first national Aboriginal organization, now divided into the Assembly of First Nations and the Metis National Council of Canada. Meadmore also founded and managed the nation's first urban Indian non-profit housing corporation.

She studied science, arts and accounting at university and community college before entering law school in 1973. As a practicing lawyer, working with Indian organizations on the Constitutional Act, she founded the Canadian Indian Lawyers Association and the National Indian Liberal Caucus. She also established the Indian Business Development Group to help Winnipeg's Aboriginals start 22 businesses.

In the 1980s, she co-founded the Kirkness Adult Learning Centre for Aboriginals in Winnipeg and started Arrowfax Canada Inc., which has published 15 directories of Aboriginal services. Meadmore has served on several national advisory councils. She is a Member of the Order of Canada.

Updated: March 2005

Source: <http://umanitoba.ca/honours/index.php?s=gq&pg=ppl&det=215>

1st Annual Treaties 1 – 11 Gathering

Researcher's Notes

Attendees: approximately 850 (per Ovide Mercredi)
 6 chiefs from Manitoba (per Chris Henderson)

Temporary spokesperson appointed: Chief Sandford Big Plume