



TREATY RELATIONS COMMISSION OF MANITOBA

TREATY EDUCATION

Backgrounder

September 2020

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

The Treaty Education Initiative (TEI) began in 2009-10 and grew in leaps and bounds across the province engaging provincial, First Nations, independent schools, and Division scolaire franco-manitobaine schools. In 2020, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba celebrated the ten years of Treaty Education by acknowledging the inroads and progress that was made and renamed the TEI – simply **Treaty Education**.

Treaty education has moved beyond the original goal of bringing comprehensive K-12 Treaty education to all students in Manitoba. Over the last ten 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, 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.

In addition, Treaty education remains responsive to changes and as evergreen as the Treaties 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 original vision of the Council of Elders to develop a Treaty education life-long learning continuum is becoming a reality. 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”.

As the excitement mounts through engagement, dialogue, and training, the TRCM's is 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.

Moving forward in Treaty education means 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, new Treaty education student learning and teaching materials, and professional development and community engagement opportunities continue to be developed and offered.

The TRCM wishes to acknowledge the AMC's Council of Elders who continue to make significant contributions to Treaty Education in Manitoba.

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

As well, the TRCM offers its gratitude to the Office of the Treaty Commissioner in Saskatchewan for their collaboration and ongoing support.

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

