

ACKNOWLEDGING LAND AND PEOPLE



- TREATY 4
- TREATY 6
- TREATY 7
- TREATY 8
- TREATY 10

- ∞ Métis Settlements
- Regional Zones Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA) Association
- Cities and Towns

LANGUAGES SPOKEN BY FIRST NATIONS

- Cree
- Dene
- ◇ Cree/Saulteaux
- △ Stoney/Nakoda/Sioux
- ^ Blackfoot

* Although the Stoney Nakoda Nation (Wesley) land is in Treaty 6 territory, it is a signatory of Treaty 7 and part of the Stoney Nation.
 ** Heart Lake First Nation is considered part of Treaty 10

Note: This map shows the approximate locations of the First Nations and the approximate area of treaty land as there is no consensus between rights holders and stakeholders about exact treaty boundaries.
 Adapted from Alberta Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs



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The Alberta Teachers' Association

WHAT IS A TREATY?

“The Government of Canada and the courts understand treaties between the Crown and Aboriginal people to be solemn agreements that set out promises, obligations and benefits for both parties.”¹

From the perspective of First Nations, treaties are built on respectful, cooperative and nation-to-nation relationships between First Nations and the Crown on behalf of present and future generations. Treaties outline the rights, obligations and benefits of the signing parties to each other. The intention of the Crown was to gain title to the lands for their own claim. First Nations had other beliefs surrounding the negotiations of the treaty. To the First Nations these treaties are about sharing the land and resources and not extinguishment of title. The intent and provisions of the treaties do not end. This was acknowledged through a ceremonial and sacred agreement that incorporated the spirit and intent for treaties to last, “as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and rivers flow.”²

TREATY 4 1874

Treaty 4 covers the southern part of present-day Saskatchewan with small portions in western Manitoba and southern Alberta. No First Nations from present-day Alberta signed Treaty 4.

TREATY 6 1876

Treaty 6 is an agreement between the Crown and the Dene, Cree, Nakota Sioux and Saulteaux. Treaty 6 covers central Alberta and Saskatchewan.

TREATY 7 1877

Treaty 7 is an agreement between the Crown and the Blackfoot Confederacy (Kainai, Piikani and Siksika), Stoney-Nakoda and Tsuu T’ina First Nations. Treaty 7 covers southern Alberta and a small portion of Saskatchewan.

TREATY 8 1899

Treaty 8 is an agreement between the Crown and the Cree and Dene in what is now known as Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

TREATY 10 1906

Treaty 10 covers the present-day areas of the northern part of Manitoba, northeastern Saskatchewan and a small portion of east central Alberta. Heart Lake First Nation is a party to Treaty 10.



Adapted from AADNC www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-HQ/STAGING/texte-text/htoc_1100100032308_eng.pdf

*Note: This map shows the approximate area of treaty land as there is no consensus between rightsholders and stakeholders about exact treaty boundaries.

NOTES

1. Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC). “Treaties and Agreements.” Government of Canada website. www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231 (accessed June 28, 2019).
2. Alexander Morris, *The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories: Including the Negotiations on Which They Were Based, and Other Information Relating Thereto* (Toronto: Willing & Williamson, 1880), 96.
3. Métis Nation of Canada, <http://www.metisnation.ca/> (accessed June 19, 2019).
4. Canadian Geographic, *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*, “Métis Settlements and Farms,” <https://indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca/article/metis-settlements-and-farms/> (accessed June 19, 2019).
5. Métis Nation of Alberta, “About,” <http://albertametis.com/about/> (accessed June 19, 2019).

∞ MÉTIS

The advent of the fur trade in west central North America during the 18th century was accompanied by a growing number of offspring of First Nations women and European fur traders. As members of this population established distinct communities separate from those of First Nations and Europeans and married among themselves, a new Aboriginal people emerged — the Métis people — with their own unique culture, traditions, language (Michif), way of life, collective consciousness and nationhood.³

MÉTIS SETTLEMENTS

Alberta has the only government-recognized Métis land base in Canada, which comprises eight Métis settlements. Covering 512,121 hectares, the settlements are dispersed throughout east-central and northern Alberta. The settlements emerged from the social and political action of Métis leaders in the 1920’s and 30’s who diligently advocated for the rights of Métis during a time of social persecution and landlessness.⁴

MÉTIS NATION OF ALBERTA REGIONAL ZONES

Métis Nation of Alberta (MNA), established in 1928, is the Métis Government for Métis Albertans. The MNA is governed by an elected provincial council, which includes an elected provincial president and vice-president. Governance for the MNA is further divided into six regional zones, each with an elected president and vice-president. The MNA governing bodies work with community to “promote and facilitate the advancement of Métis people through self-reliance, self-determination and self-management.”⁵

Acknowledging Land and People is a publication of the Alberta Teachers’ Association **Walking Together Project** intended to support certificated teachers on their learning journey to meet the First Nations, Métis and Inuit Foundational Knowledge competency in the Teaching Quality Standard.

Walking Together would like to acknowledge the contributions of First Nations, Métis and Inuit community members within Alberta in developing these resources.



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For additional resources and information on Walking Together, visit www.teachers.ab.ca.

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