Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba & Canada’s History Society Webinar Series

Session 4: A Geographical Perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada
Presenter: Connie Wyatt Anderson, TEI Facilitator, TRCM
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017
PURPOSE OF SESSION

This webinar will:

- provide a geographical perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada;
- identify where the Numbered Treaties are located;
- explore traditional indigenous place names;
- examine traditional territory acknowledgments;
- and review the learning resources found in the Treaty Education Kit that support these themes.
Let’s Consider....

- Geography is the place where history happens.
- Latitudes not attitudes: geography explains history.
- An atlas is like a long-term forecast - it sees history before it happens.
- What is where? Why there? Why care?
What is where?
- Where are features located on the surface of the Earth?

Why there?
- Spatial Distribution?
- Processes?
- Interrelationships?

Why care?
- Importance?
- Relevance?
- Action/reaction?
Between 1871 and 1921, eleven Numbered Treaties were negotiated between the Crown and First Nations.

These Treaties encompass an area from present-day Ontario to Alberta and portions of British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.
Treaty No. 1 is located in south central Manitoba.

A few of the Canadian communities sharing the obligations and benefits of Treaty No. 1 include: Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage La Prairie, Selkirk, Steinbach, Lundar, Grand Beach, Emerson, Winkler and many more.
The larger portion of **Treaty No. 4** is found in Saskatchewan; however, a small part of western Manitoba is covered by Treaty No. 4, as is a part of southern Alberta.

Manitoban communities that share in the benefit and obligations of Treaty No. 4 include: Birch River, Mafeking, Swan River.

Saskatchewan: Regina, Yorkton, Weyburn, Moose Jaw...

Alberta: Cypress Hills area
Treaty No. 6 represents most of the central area of Saskatchewan and Alberta. [Two Manitoba First Nations signed treaty adhesions in 1898].

Saskatchewan communities that share in the benefit and obligations of Treaty No. 6 include: Saskatoon, Prince Albert.

Alberta: Edmonton, Red Deer
- **Treaty No. 9** covers almost two-thirds of the area that became northern Ontario.
- It covers most of present-day Ontario north of the height of land dividing the Great Lakes watershed from the Hudson and James Bay drainage.
- Communities that share in the benefit and obligations of Treaty No. 9 include: Moose Factory, Timmins, Kapuskasing
Treaty No. 11 is the last of the Numbered Treaties, signed in 1921.

It covers more than 950,000 km² of present-day Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Fort Simpson and Yellowknife are both in Treaty No. 11 territory.
In 1867 the Canadian government had control over internal/domestic affairs.

Confederation included terms relevant to western Treaty making:

1. One was the provision for entry of new territories such as Rupert’s Land and the North-western Territories;

2. And the second was the assigned jurisdiction over “Indians and lands reserved for Indians” to the Parliament of Canada.
OWN YOUR OWN HOME IN CANADA and apply for a READY-MADE FARM to the nearest CANADIAN PACIFIC AGENT

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Why There?
Indigenous Places Names

► Before the arrival of Europeans, First Nations and Inuit peoples gave names to places throughout the country to identify the land they knew so well and with which they had strong spiritual connections.

► For centuries, these names that described the natural features of the land, or commemorated significant historical events, passed from one generation to the next.

► Indigenous place names honour the past, serve as a way to document Indigenous heritage and are a step to reconciliation.
Indigenous Places Names
Cree Communities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional Name of First Nation</th>
<th>Interpretation of First Nation Traditional Name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamboondee (Oxford House)</td>
<td>Derived from Pimpawmups which in Cree means the water falls and dips. There is an area in Oxford Lake which seems to dip or fall.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheewawawin (Easterville)</td>
<td>Cheewawawin in Cree means fishing with two canoes across from each other pulling a net.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kinawiswi Sipi (Norway House)</td>
<td>River with lots of fish.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kichewaskahkegan (York Landing)</td>
<td>Refers to the trading post at York Factory. Kiche waskahan means the mana house in Cree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kisipiakakamaak (Brochet)</td>
<td>Kisipiakakamaak in Cree means “the water ends”. Brochet is located at the North East end of Rendeer Lake.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kiremaatawa (Shounatwa)</td>
<td>Where two rivers meet together.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Makaso Sakikana (Fox Lake)</td>
<td>Makaso is the Cree word for Fox and Sakikana is the Cree word for lake. It said that there were a lot of foxes in the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitou Sakikana (God’s Lake)</td>
<td>Manitou is the Cree word for God and Sakikana is the Cree word for lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manitoo Sipi (God’s River)</td>
<td>“Manitoo” means God in Cree and “Sipi” means river.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marcel Columb (Lynn Lake)</td>
<td>Named after a community leader.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathias Cobun (Paksawagow)</td>
<td>Named after the first Chief of the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Misipawistik (Grand Rapids)</td>
<td>“Misii” means bag and “Pawistik” means rapid in Cree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moosene (Ifford)</td>
<td>Moosakwa means the Cree word for moose and eese is Cree for nose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moseshikenk (Moose Lake)</td>
<td>“Mosakwa” is Cree for Moose and Sakikana is lake in Cree.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitschayawashek (Nelson House)</td>
<td>Where the three rivers (Footprint Rat/Bumwood) meet.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochekwi Sipi (Fisher River)</td>
<td>Named after the annual Fisher.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okwamewitahkwa (Granville Lake)</td>
<td>Okawak is the creek word for pickerel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opaskawayak (Opaskwayak)</td>
<td>Opaskwayak in Cree means the place where there is upward growth of trees/vegetation brush.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O-Pigan-Ne-Pirrin (South Indian Lake)</td>
<td>Winter camp along the shores of South Indian Lake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finnicikanak (Cross Lake)</td>
<td>Where the rivers cross.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sopitawakwan (Pelican Rapids)</td>
<td>Sopitawakwan means the water or river runs through.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tastawayak (Split Lake)</td>
<td>Where the lake/river splits into two passage ways.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wasuwi Sipihk (Birch River)</td>
<td>Wasuwi is “Birch” in Cree.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traditional Territory Acknowledgments

- An increasing number of institutions across the country have started making verbal land acknowledgments to the Indigenous groups who traditionally occupied the territory.
- These brief reminders of Canada’s history, tucked into the routines of everyday life, are meant as small acts of reconciliation.
- Many reference Treaties.
Traditional Territory Acknowledgments

- **Université de Hearst** (Hearst, ON) - We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Treaty 9 territory and the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Ojibwe/Chippewa, Oji-Cree, Mushkegowuk (Cree), Algonquin, and Métis peoples.

- **University of Manitoba** (Winnipeg, MB) - We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that we are in Treaty 1 territory and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

- **University of Alberta** (Edmonton, AB) - We [I] wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous Peoples, including Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, and Nakota Sioux.
Lesson plans:

A geographical perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada.
Treaty Education Kit - Resources

Maps:

A geographical perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada.
Treaty Education Kit - Resources

Teacher’s Portal:
Visit: www.trcm.ca

A geographical perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada.
Printable Tiled Map:

A geographical perspective on the Numbered Treaties in Canada.
‘We Are All Treaty People’

Treaty Days at Leila North School/Seven Oaks S.D., Winnipeg, MB

From the Students:

“This week I learned that we are all Treaty people it doesn’t matter whether we are born here or not, we are still a part of the Canadian Treaties because we live on the land.”

“When I look at people and the world, I feel like we are all connected and I feel like everything could change with just a handshake.”
Further Research:


- The Numbered Treaties (1871-1921)/Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada: [https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1360948213124/1360948312708](https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1360948213124/1360948312708)

- Indigenous place names/Canadian Museum of History: [http://www.historymuseum.ca/cmc/exhibitions/aborig/fp/fpz2d_1e.shtml](http://www.historymuseum.ca/cmc/exhibitions/aborig/fp/fpz2d_1e.shtml)
