



Robinson Huron Treaty Confederation November 23, 2019

NIPISSING FIRST NATION

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Acknowledgements

Alan Corbiere,
Historical Researcher

Carol Nadjiwon,
Educator

Treaty Annuities Court
Case Team





- ▶ Trip to the past
- ▶ Two Row Wampum
- ▶ How did we understand ourselves and our relationships
- ▶ Relationship with all Creation

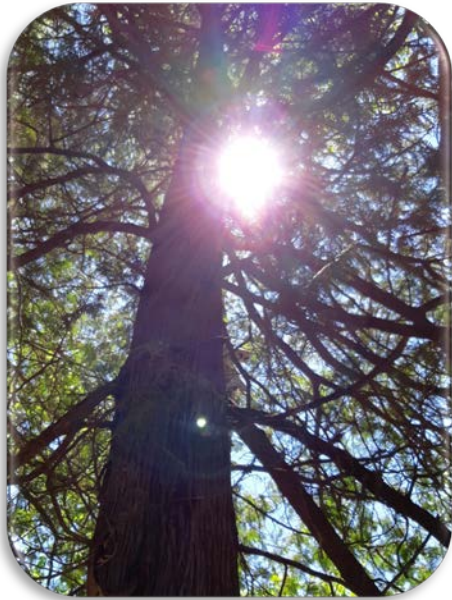
Declaration of First Nations

We the original people of this land know the Creator put us here. The Creator gave us laws to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

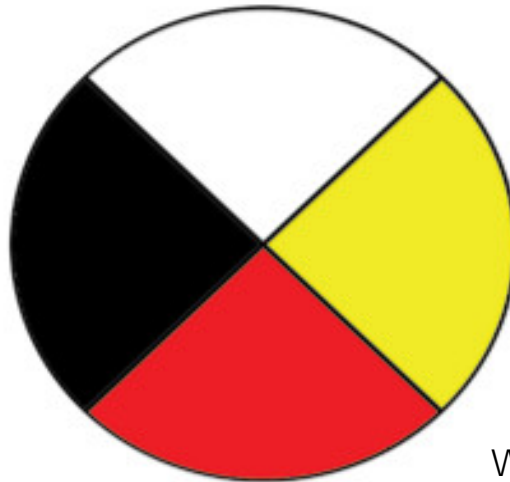
The Laws of the Creator defined our rights and responsibilities

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

Special National Chiefs Meeting of Canada December 1980



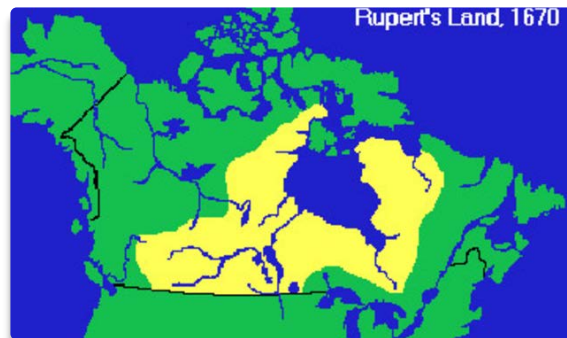
How did we understand ourselves & our relationships



World Views



Relationship with all Creation

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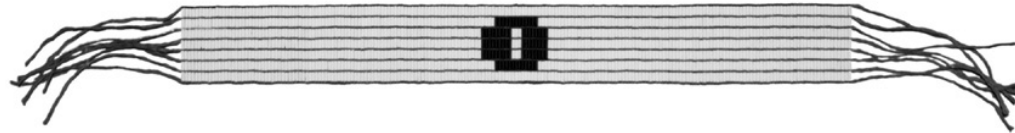


Law, Interaction & the Relationship
between British Crown & Tribal Nations

Wampum Treaties



One dish one spoon



The Friendship Covenant Chain Wampum



The Two Row Wampum



1764 Treaty of Niagara

Treaties and Events 1671 - 1850





Changing World

Education & Civilization





After War of 1812

Manitowaning August 10th 1839

1829 Chief John Aisence of Penetanguishene

What issues and concerns led to 1850 treaties

Events leading to 1850 treaties

Mutual recognition of sovereignty

Bond Head Treaty 1836 & 1862



What did the British Crown want?

Why Did Our Forefathers Enter into the Treaty



What did Treaty Signatories want?

- ▶ Rights to hunt, fish, trap and gather
- ▶ Designated land to live and gather as tribes
- ▶ Compensation
- ▶ Annual Annuities
- ▶ Share benefits from the resources

Huron Chiefs other Demands

- ▶ 10£ per head by way of annuity
- ▶ Large reserve tract
- ▶ Secure half breeds a free grant of 100 acres (for fighting as an ally in the War of 1812)



Language Barriers



- ▶ "As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, as long as the rivers flow downhill, and as long as the sun rises in the east and sets in the west"

- ▶ "Freely, and voluntarily surrender, cede, grant and convey unto Her Majesty, her heirs and successors forever, all their right, title and interest to, and in the whole of, the territory"

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

The Creator gave us laws to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

The Laws of the Creator defined our rights & responsibilities.

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Declaration of First Nations Special National Chiefs Meeting of Canada December
1980

Some Major Treaty Clauses



- ▶ Crown agrees to pay a perpetual annuity
- ▶ Reservations shall be held and occupied by the Chiefs and their tribes and respective tribes in common for their own use and benefit
- ▶ Should the Chiefs and respective tribes at any time desire to dispose of any part of their reservations, or any mineral or other valuable production, these will be sold or leased at their request by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs

What are the 4 rights and obligations?

1. Full and free privilege to hunt over the Territory (now ceded by them)*
2. Fish in the waters in the habit of doing; (saving and excepting such portions of the Territory as may from time to time be sold or leased)
3. Retain reservations to be held and occupied by the Chiefs and their Tribes for their own use and benefit
4. Increase annuity from time to time

Post 1850's Treaties to Present Time

1500 – Colonization (as far back as 1493 with Papal Bull) Indian Act consolidated & imposed legislation

1850 – started to negotiate/refine territory boundaries

1867 – Founding of the Dominion of Canada

1870 – Indian Act imposed

1951 – Indian Act changes – many changes

1985 – Indian Act Changes – C-31
Abolished Marrying Out; reinstatement of women

1969 – White Paper Policy on Assimilation and Rejection

1976 – 1st Modern Treaty – James Bay Northern Quebec Agreement



Post Treaty Events to Present

1982 – Repatriation of the Constitution

1982 – Protection of Aboriginal Treaty Rights, Section 35

1995 – Inherent Rights Policy (Self government Policy)

1996 – Royal Commission on Aboriginal People

1998 – 2nd Modern Treaty – Nisga'a Nation, British Columbia

2007 – United Nations Declaration of Indigenous People*

2016 – Canada recognizes UN Declaration of Indigenous People

2017 – Indian Act Change – S3 Rights of New Entitlements; correcting gender related issues

2018 – Indian Act Change – Expansion of Eligibility

2019 – Indian Act Change – Further expansion of Eligibility



What has been happening with RHTC

- ▶ Chiefs of 17 signatories have been meeting on a regular basis for 40 years under the auspices of Union of Ontario Indians
- ▶ RHT Chiefs initiated the annuities claim ten years ago and to get ready to take the government to court
- ▶ Chiefs have also come together to address other issues

What are the key issues the Treaty Initiative is addressing?

- ▶ Assert/Protect our Sovereignty as Right holders
- ▶ Deal with Policy Issues regarding resource development in the Treaty Territory
- ▶ Protect Sovereign Rights to all territory ecosystems and all within
- ▶ Nation Rebuilding, Engaging and Educating our FN citizens

Assert and recognize, protect, enforce our Treaty and Aboriginal rights by:

- renewing Treaty Partners Relationships
- Developing Policies/Protocols with First Nations, Crown, Industry
- Protecting and enhancing Anishnaabemowin language, culture, traditions & spiritual values
- Transcribing the Robinson Huron Treaty 1850 Relationship in Anishinaabemowin

Protect Our Sovereign Rights to RHT Territory – Mapping Our Territory

- Develop Treaty Based Area Map utilizing GIS mapping:
- Deal with overlapping boundaries by other treaties
- Deal with the overlap of boundaries by shared waters
- Deal with the Metis Nation issues within the Treaty territory.

Assert/Protect Our Sovereignty & Nation Building

What do the Treaty Rights mean for us today

Land set aside for FN – lands, commonly held, used for farming, housing, gathering

Hunting – as prior to Treaty throughout the territory

Fishing – traditional harvesting activities are to continue and guaranteed to all beneficiaries.

Trapping – ensures a livelihood for citizens

Gather – sustainable food supply medicines

Annuities – payable to individuals

- ▶ Reserves still have much land that is commonly held and continue to use land for agriculture and other purposes. CPs introduced with Indian Act.
- ▶ Continues today – always a threat of criticism
- ▶ Commercial fishing is viewed as exercising this right today
- ▶ All traplines once owned by Treaty people – now small areas set aside for FN trapping areas or not at all.
- ▶ A return to traditional gathering practices seen throughout area
- ▶ Working toward increasing the annuities payment with recent court case

What can you do

- Educate yourself and learn about the RH Treaty initiative
 - Learn about our Rights and Obligations
 - Share information with family and friends
 - Participate in Treaty engagement events
 - Support your Chief and leaders on Treaty initiatives
 - Contribute to the land use and occupancy mapping exercise
- ▶ Engaging and educating our FN Citizens of all ages
 - ▶ Developing education packages
 - ▶ Facilitating community education
 - ▶ Getting input and feedback from people like you
 - ▶ Developing and expanding a research centre



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