



Media Backgrounder

Treaty Education Resource Materials

- In 2002, the Office of Treaty Commissioner published the first resource package: *Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Resource Guide 7-12* and *Teaching Treaties in the Classroom: Teacher Resource Kit*. The kit consisted of a multimedia collection of videos, posters, books, maps, activity guides, and art work to complement the existing material in the subject areas of Social Studies, Native Studies, and History.
- In the fall of 2008, the *Teaching Treaties in the Classroom: Teacher Resource Kit* was enhanced with two additional publications: *Treaty Essential Learnings: We Are All Treaty People* and *Teaching Treaties in the Classroom: K-6 Resource Guides*. Copies of these materials were distributed to approximately 880 provincial and First Nations schools. Every Kindergarten to Grade 6 teacher in Saskatchewan received a copy of the resource guide at their grade level, amounting to approximately 7,000 teachers.

Treaty Education Survey, 2009

- The survey was conducted by the Office of the Treaty Commissioner with support from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Canadian Council on Learning, and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to develop baseline data about student treaty understanding and to help inform future decision-making around resources and instruction.
- The 2009 survey had two components:
 - Modification of the 2008 Grade 7 Student Survey to include all Grade 7 students in both First Nations and provincial schools; and,
 - Survey school administrators, Grade 4 teachers and Grade 7 teachers to determine the level of implementation of treaty education resources as well as the perceived quality of the treaty education resources by the users and the level of teacher satisfaction with the OTC resource materials.
- In the spring of 2009, 9,339 students participated in the Grade 7 Survey of Treaty Knowledge and Understanding, over 9,200 students from the provincial school system and about 100 students from First Nations schools.
- The participants were from all over Saskatchewan, with over 460 schools in 29 school divisions and 16 schools in eight Tribal Councils.
- At the same time, over 1,500 Grade 4 and Grade 7 teachers as well as school administrators participated in a survey regarding treaty education resources. Participation included 532 administrators (18 from First Nations schools), 579 Grade 4 teachers (15 from First Nations schools), and 649 Grade 7 teachers (18 from First Nations schools).
- When students were asked their perception of when they last studied information about treaties, about half of the students indicated that they studied treaties this year, followed by a third of the students that indicated they remembered studying about treaties in school during Grade 1 to Grade 6, and 15% indicated that they never studied about treaties. When comparing this result to the 2008 survey, there was an indication of an upward shift with a 117% increase of the percentage that remember studying in Grade 7 as well as a 58% decrease in the percentage that do not remember studying about treaties at all.

This change provides a strong indication that students are receiving more learning opportunities related to treaty education.

- Most First Nations and northern region administrators indicated that their schools have mandatory treaty education as part of the school's learning improvement plan as compared to less than half of the administrators in the central and southern regions. This finding could be considered good baseline targets and positive in light of the introduction of mandatory K – 12 treaty education in September of 2008 when most administrators would have had a school learning improvement plan already in place.
- A large majority of the administrators and teachers that did use and receive the OTC resource materials were in agreement that the materials support mandatory treaty education and curriculum goals.
- Overall, a majority of administrators and teachers agree that they require more training about teaching treaties, 66% of the administrators, 61% Grade 4 teachers, and 59% of the Grade 7 teachers.
- In the fall of 2009, the Office of Treaty Commissioner intends to provide sessions related to the results for administrators and teachers in both the provincial and First Nations schools.
- Survey results, specific to each participating school division and Tribal Council, will be sent to the respective school division and First Nations officials.
- The Ministry of Education will assume responsibility for conducting the survey in future years to continue monitoring the commitment of treaty education.

For more information about teaching treaties in the classroom, visit <http://k-12treatyeducation.gov.sk.ca/>.