

Treaty Resources for Teachers Media Backgrounder

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner in conjunction with its partners (the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of Saskatchewan) has completed the development of the following treaty resource materials for schools:

- A Treaty Resource Guide for Kindergarten to Grade 6, and
- Treaty Essential Learnings: We Are All Treaty People.

These resources provide teachers with the basic information needed to teach about treaties. They also supplement the Grade 7 to 12 Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Treaty Resource Kit, already in schools.

The K – 6 materials are comprised of one Treaty Resource Guide for each grade level. The Guides are bound in the form of booklets ranging from 75 to 145 pages in length.

Every teacher will receive the guide appropriate to the grade level(s) they teach. In addition, each school and school system will receive a binder containing all of the K – 6 Resource Guides for inclusion in their resource centers. Distribution will be to all First Nations and provincial schools.

The materials are a Field Test Draft version. Plans for finalizing the material will be developed based upon the initial reaction to the materials and within the context of revisions to the overall Teaching Treaties in the Classroom Resource Kit.

The K – 6 resource guides are intended for teachers and contain:

- A theme for each grade.
- Four topics per grade which support the theme.
- A synopsis of the treaty information to be taught.
- Reference to the provincial curriculum connections.
- Suggested activities for teachers.
- Appendices containing teacher and student support material; including maps and posters.
- A glossary of terms and further references.

The development process began in 2005 but, entered the final phase in the fall of 2007.

Since last fall the development process involved the following contributors:

- Susan Beaudin, Circle of Learning Consulting, was the principal author.
- Eight elders provided direction and advice on the project.
- A resource development team was comprised of representatives from Tribal Councils, the FSIN, the Ministry of Education and Saskatchewan Public and Catholic schools.
- Twenty one teachers, three at each grade, pilot tested the material during January to March 2008.

The Treaty Essential Learnings document identifies the basic knowledge all students should know about Treaties and First Nations people by the end of school K – 12. The six Treaty Essential Learnings are:

- The Treaties
- Worldviews
- The Treaty Relationship
- Symbolism in Treaty Making
- The Historical Context of Treaties
- Contemporary Treaty Issues

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is an independent office created through agreement between the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Government of Canada. Its mission is to coordinate bilateral discussions to reach common understanding about Treaties 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10.