**ACKNOWLEDGING LAND AND PEOPLE**

Languages Spoken by First Nations:
- Cree
- Dene
- Cree/Saulteaux
- Stoney/Nakoda/Sioux
- Blackfoot

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.
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.”

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.”

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 Tsuut’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, northern parts of Saskatchewan and a small portion of east central Alberta. Heart Lake First Nation is a party to Treaty 10.

NOTES

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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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.

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.

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.”

Walking Together EDUCATION FOR RECONCILIATION

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

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