

MINUTE FOR RIGHT RELATIONS

April 2025

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory – Treaty 6

Written by Rev Teresa Jones, DM (Feb 2024)

I moved west to Saskatchewan from the Robinson-Huron Treaty Territory in 2021. I spent my early growing years on a farm in Saskatchewan but I was never sure which Treaty it was signed under. I never came across a Treaty map that was definitive enough to locate our farm on it. But just last month, I found such a map, clearly indicating that the farm lies within Treaty 6 territory!

As a child, I remember discovering tipi rings and marveling over the arrowheads and hammers my father brought home after cultivating this land, homesteaded by my settler grandfather. From a young age, I was aware that Indigenous people had lived on this land that my family now farmed.

Over the years, my understandings have deepened and continue to do so. I am now not only aware that this land is in Treaty 6 territory but since returning here, I have learned it is the Traditional Territory of the Nêhiyawak, the Nahkawé, the Dene and the Nakota, and the homeland of the Dakota, Lakota and Métis peoples. This is land that these Indigenous peoples have lived on and stewarded from time immemorial and, who continue to make, their home.

As we acknowledge Traditional Territory and pay our respects to the First Peoples of this land, as a settler, I now see this land in a new way. I no longer think of our farm as "our land." As I walk on this prairie soil once again, I now think of the preciousness of the river and creeks, the beaver, the chickadee, the fragile grasslands. I think of the relationship we have as all earth beings, and the relationship we all share as Treaty People.

This land and all peoples of this land are in dire need of healing. Territorial acknowledgements are an expression of intent, to live in right relationship as Indigenous and settler peoples, in relationship with all creation so that this healing may be accomplished!
May it be so.

Nêhiyawak = Ne/hia/walk

Nahkawé = Na/kaw

Submitted by Rev. Teresa Jones, on behalf of the CSRC Right Relations Resource Team.