TREATY RELATIONS
COMMISSION OF MANITOBA

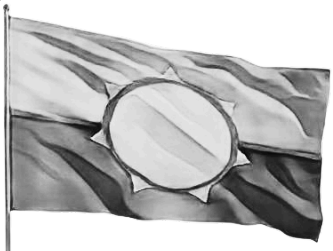
LET'S EXPLORE

# TREATY TURNING POINTS

WHAT ABOUT ..?

## TREATY 1 FLAG

# TREATY 1 FLAG



The **Treaty One fla**g incorporates that original spirit and intent of the Treaties: the green, to represent the grass; the blue, to represent the waters; and the yellow, to represent the sun.

## HISTORY OF FLAGS

Flags have been used for centuries as a form of communication and identification. By many accounts, they have been in existence for over 3000 years.

In Europe and other parts of the world, flags were essential on the battlefield, distinguishing friend from enemy. Today, flags are now much more common as symbols of countries, states and provinces, and organizations.

The colours and designs selected for flags usually are not arbitrary but rather stem from the history, culture, or traditions of an area. Historians and others have considered flags to be expressions of culture at certain times and in particular places. Flags can bring foward strong feelings like pride, patriotism, and nostalgia, and even anger and hate. Flags can also grow awareness and foster unity.

For Indigenous nations in the Americas, Treaty nation or tribal flags are relatively new concepts. In recent decades, flags have they been widely adopted by many First Nations in Canada and the United States.

## INDIGENOUS FLAGS IN CANADA

Dozens of Indigenous nations, communities, Treaty areas, and organizations have flags to represent them.

The white infinity symbol on a blue (or red background) has been the flag of the Métis nation since 1816. The flag of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, adapted from the Hiawatha wampum belt, has been around since the 1980s. The Musqueam Nation's flag, an arrowhead in the centre depicting a salmon leaping above a net on a teal blue background, was designed in 2019 by Musqueam artist Susan Point, who also helped design the flag of Nunavut.

In a spirit of reconciliation and recognition of Treaty relationships, many government organizations, schools, and public spaces in Manitoba have begun to fly Treaty flags. These fly alongside the Canadian, provincial, and municipal/city flags.

# TREATY 1 FLAG



The **Canadian Native Flag** was designed by Kwakwaka'wakw artist Curtis Wilson in 2022. Wilson said, " The design speaks for my love and visions of my heritage and the country I live in– standing together in support of each other".

## TREATY 1 FLAG

The Treaty 1 Nation is composed of the seven First Nations who are signatories to the first of the Numbered Treaties, Treaty 1, signed on August 3, 1871. Signatories included representatives from the Crown, Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) and Nehiyaw (Cree).

Treaty One Nation comprises seven First Nations:

- Brokenhead Ojibway First Nation;
- Long Plain First Nation;
- Peguis First Nation (formerly St. Peters Band);
- Roseau River Anishinaabe First Nation;
- Sagkeeng First Nation (formerly Fort Alexander Band);
- Sandy Bay First Nation (1876 adhesion); and
- Swan Lake First Nation (1876 adhesion).

The Treaty 1 flag was adopted in May 2020. It was designed to represent the signing of the Treaties 'As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow.' The colours represent this imagery. There are seven signatories to Treaty 1 represented by the sun's rays and the red outline represents Indigenous people.

## SHARE YOUR UNDERSTANDINGS

- What symbolism is depicted in the Treaty 1 flag?

- In what ways can the Treaty 1 flag bring about awareness of Treaties and the Treaty relationship?