

MI'KMAQ

WIKEWIKU'S HISTORY MONTH OCTOBER

Mi'kmaq History Month

The theme of the 2021 Mi'kmaq History Month is *Treaties*. There are a lot of references to treaties in Crown-Indigenous relations, but what are they, and why do they matter? In this month's newsletter, we hope to answer some questions about treaties and help you build awareness.

What are treaties?

Treaties are constitutionally recognized agreements between the Crown and Indigenous peoples. Many of these treaties were exchanges of goods, payments, obligations, and sometimes land. There were many different types of treaties signed across modern day Canada. The map below shows some of the different types of treaties signed across modern day Canada. You will also note that in the Maritimes, Peace and Friendship Treaties were signed.

What are Peace and Friendship Treaties?

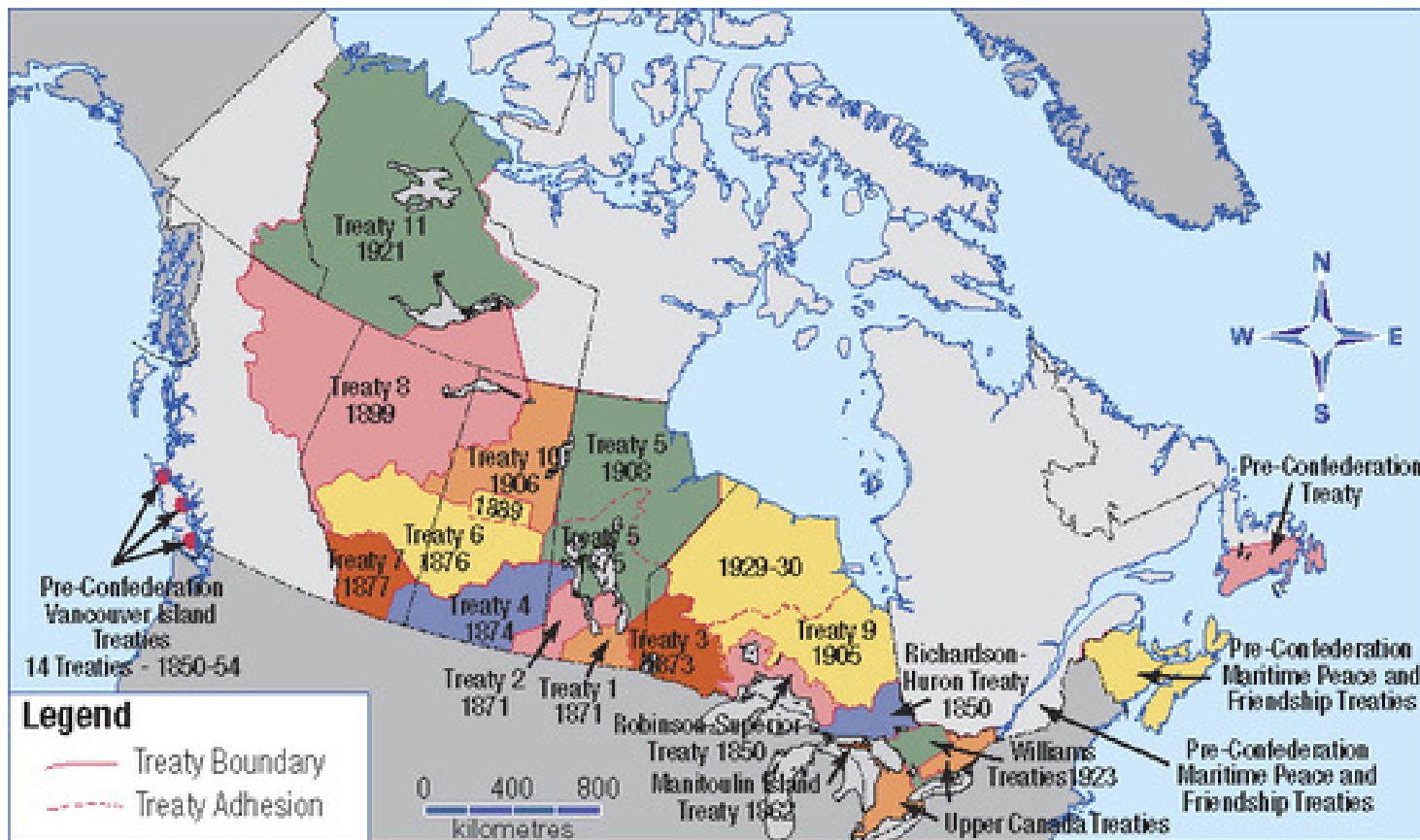
Like the name suggests, the Peace and Friendship Treaties were to signed to prevent war between enemies and to encourage trade agreements. Between 1725 and 1779, Britain signed a series of treaties with the Mi'kmaq, Wolastiqiyik, Abenaki, Penobscot, and Passamoquoddy people living in the Maritimes and Gaspé. The Peace and Friendship Treaties did not contain any agreements on money or land transfer, but did guarantee hunting, fishing, and land-use rights for descendants of the Indigenous signatories. These treaties are still in effect today, and have been upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada with the Marshall Decision. Each year, Nova Scotia celebrates Treaty Day on October 1st to commemorate the signing of the Peace and Friendship Treaties of the 1700s and the end of years of war these treaties brought.

What significance do treaties have today?

It is important to note that under international law, only treaties can be signed by a nation or a nation state. The treaties signed in the 1700s are agreements between nations, and are still upheld. In modern day Canada, treaties have been upheld at the Supreme Court numerous times, and are frequently discussed. In Nova Scotia, there has been particular attention being paid to definitions of "moderate livelihood" and the terms of the hunting, fishing, and land-use rights agreements in the Peace and Friendship Treaties.

For more information

There is a lot of information available about Indigenous history and Treaties. Much of the information for this newsletter was taken from the [Mi'kmaq History Month website](#) and the [Canadian Encyclopedia](#). Other areas that have good information on Indigenous history and Treaties are: [Cape Breton University](#), [University of Alberta FREE course on Indigenous Canada](#), and [Government of Canada sites](#).



National Disability Employment Awareness Month

Disability Employment Awareness Month (DEAM) takes place every October to acknowledge and promote the contributions and inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. Throughout the full month of October, events and activities occur across Canada. As persons with disabilities face barriers to employment, DEAM creates awareness and takes action around removing barriers. Look out for provincial and municipal events too!

Participating employers show their commitment to inclusive employment while contributing to breaking down the barriers that exist for hiring people experiencing disabilities.

See this video for a NS example of a successful DEAM <https://vimeo.com/387052249>



Supporting
**DISABILITY
EMPLOYMENT
AWARENESS
MONTH**



CASE = Canadian Association for Supported Employment is a great resource for Inclusive practices including recruiting, hiring and retention. **MentorAbility Canada** is a national supported employment initiative that facilitates unique, short-term mentoring opportunities between employers and people experiencing a disability. *The goal is a diversity and inclusion in all our workplaces which lead to benefits for everyone.* The provincial partner in NS is TEAM Work Coop, a **Nova Scotia Works** Employment Services Centre. *Clients*, as potential employees, are helped to navigate a range of programs and services that will aid their success. *Employers* are supported with recruitment, planning and HR services. Career planning, job searching and on-the-job development are also offered.

Special Awareness Days/Months

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
Islamic History Month
Women's History Month
Mi'kmaq History Month

October 1 - National Seniors Day
October 1 - Treaty Day
October 11 - World Sight Day
October 17 - International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

