Treaty Relationships

Treaties in Canada are constitutional agreements between the government and Indigenous Peoples. From the 1700s to the 1900s there were more than 70 treaties signed. The majority of the documents describe and outline mutually beneficial agreements of Indigenous nations and the Crown. Indigenous Peoples shared some of their ancestral land-claims in exchange for payment or promises. Treaty relationships define the correspondence between Indigenous nations, the government and their perspective on the treaties. Treaties were viewed by Indigenous Peoples to be agreements between sovereign nations and were important to *indigenous sovereignty*. While treaties were mutually agreed upon, the groups that signed them have different relationships to them. The government focuses on the treaties legal language, while Indigenous Peoples view the *culture*, traditions and ceremonial aspect to be more valuable. Education of treaties must focus on the truthful aspect and provide insight on how treaty relationships have actually benefited the signing groups. There are still treaty negotiations continuing in present day due to the outcomes of them. Treaty relationships are important in interpreting Canadian history. In order to understand the implications of treaties and treaty relationships, it's important to learn both the past and present effect of treaties on Indigenous nations through *truth and reconciliation*.

Resources and further information on Treaties and Treaty Relationships in Canada.


