

Each of us at UCN supports truth and reconciliation by honouring the truths of the communities that we serve. When acknowledging the traditional territory, staff and faculty are asked to locate themselves and to recognize the specific territory on which they are located. The paragraph below can be used as template:

**I would like to acknowledge that I am on the traditional territory and homelands of (See Original Inhabitants chart on page 4), who have existed here since time immemorial. (See Original Inhabitants chart) entered into a treaty relationship with the Crown in (year) with (treaty/adhesion number). This land has also become home to other Indigenous peoples.**

Sample acknowledgement -

I would like to acknowledge that I am on the traditional territory and homelands of Tataskweyak Cree Nation who have existed here since time immemorial. Tataskweyak Cree Nation entered into a treaty relationship with the Crown in 1908 with Treaty 5 Adhesion. This land has also become home to other Indigenous peoples.

When a traditional territory acknowledgement is given to recognize all of the communities served by UCN, the following statement can be used.

**UCN acknowledges that we are on the traditional territories and homelands of many Indigenous peoples, who have existed here since time immemorial. The First Nations in the area that UCN serves entered into treaty relationships with the Crown and the territory has also become home to other Indigenous peoples. We uphold the treaties and collaborate with all Indigenous peoples to share truth, reconciliation and learning.**



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As leaders in reconciliation at UCN, we decolonize our ways of knowing and search out how to incorporate Indigenous knowledges into our classrooms. We are all learners in reconciliation as we advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Actions.

With the Royal Proclamation of 1763 by King George III, the Crown established itself as the only authority to enter into treaty negotiations with First Nations. After Confederation in 1867, the Dominion of Canada looked to the North-West Territories to expand and followed the precedent for treaty-making. Between 1871 and 1921, eleven Numbered Treaties covering much of western Canada were signed. Treaties Number 1 through 5 are in Manitoba. Treaty territories are a result of treaty negotiations between the Crown and First Nations.

Treaty Number 5 was negotiated and signed in September 1875 at Beren's River, Norway House, and Grand Rapids. Adhesions to Treaty No. 5 were added beginning in 1908. As part of the Treaty, First Nations receive 160 acres for a family of 5, 5 dollar payment for each member, schools and the right to fish and hunt the land.



The Crown modified Treaty 5 without the support or input of many of the First Nations. Some First Nations signatures were acquired without informed consent. Although Treaty 5 was signed in 1875, it has been usurped to a newer provincial law: the Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act (MNRTA) of 1930, which fosters land resource extraction. As a result of MNRTA, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Treaty No. 5 are not fully honoured. TRC Call to Action 10 is the first of many Calls to Action that calls upon the Canadian government to respect and honour the Treaty relationship.





Many other Indigenous peoples now also live on the traditional territory which UCN serves. Not all Indigenous peoples living in northern Manitoba are Indigenous to this land while some who are Indigenous to this land may not meet membership requirements for both First Nations or Metis governments.

Many First Nations utilize the Indian Act as qualification for band membership and have non-status communities near the corresponding First Nation. Land script assigned to these non-status Indigenous peoples are not federally recognized although some non-status people living in these communities identify as metis, based on the English/French translation of the word; to be mixed.

Each provincial Metis government is distinct from each other. In Manitoba, the Manitoba Metis Federation draws its citizenship from Metis families whose ancestors were allotted land script in the Red River Settlement. Some Indigenous peoples who do not satisfy Indian Act qualifications or have ancestors from the Red River settlement which results in some Indigenous peoples not being claimed by an Indigenous community or government.

This gap in community belonging, along with the development of the eastern Metis who believe that a single First Nations ancestor from the 1600's qualifies them for Metis Nation citizenship has given space to a new phenomenon known as racesifting or

self-indigenization where a non-Indigenous person claims ancestry without any substantial connection to a self-determining Indigenous community such as a First Nation band or Metis settlement.

While it may seem unjust that First Nations draw band membership from the Indian Act and the Manitoba Metis Federation recognizes Metis with script from the Red River settlement, each concept is the demonstrative application of self-determination.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) recognizes self-determination as being key to Indigenous nations sovereign rights. This does not mean self-indiginizers have the right to claim Indigenous identity based on a single ancestor or a DNA test, but rather that Indigenous communities are the sole definers of who belongs.





## Original inhabitants, corresponding UCN Facilities and Treaties

UCN's campuses and centres reside on the traditional lands of the Cree, Dene, and Oji- Cree as well as other Indigenous peoples on the following Treaty territories:

Original Inhabitants - UCN Facility	Treaty Territory
Opaswayak Cree Nation - The Pas Campus	Treaty No. 5
Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation - Thompson Campus	Treaty No. 5 Adhesion
Bunibonibee Cree Nation - Oxford House PSEAC	Treaty No. 5 Adhesion
Chemawawin Cree Nation - Easterville PSEAC	Treaty No. 5
Indigenous peoples - Churchill PSEAC	Treaty No. 5 Adhesion
Indigenous peoples - Flin Flon WDC	Treaty No. 5
Misipawistik Cree Nation – Grand Rapids PSEAC	Treaty No. 5
Norway House Cree Nation – Norway House PSEAC	Treaty No. 5
Pimicikamak Cree Nation - Cross Lake PSEAC	Treaty No. 5
St. Theresa Point First Nation – St. Theresa Point PSEAC	Treaty No. 5 Adhesion
Tataskweyak Cree Nation - Split Lake PSEAC	Treaty No. 5 Adhesion
Mathias Colomb First Nation – Pukatawagan PSEAC	No. 6 Signatory located on No. 5 Adhesion
Indigenous peoples - Swan River WDC	Treaty No. 4 signed in 1874

### Sources:

Summit of Treaty Five First Nations <https://www.treaty5.com/>

Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/statutes/ccsm/n030e.pdf>

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action [http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

Treaty Research Report - Treaty Five (1875) <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028695/1564413402108>

UNDRIP - [https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP\\_E\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf)

“Race Shifting” in a Comparative Framework - <https://junka-aikio.net/transnational-perspective-to-race-shifting/>