

Treaty Education for All.

Manitoba's Plan for
K to 12 Treaty Education



TREATY RELATIONS
COMMISSION OF MANITOBA

Manitoba 

Treaty Education for All. Manitoba's Plan for K to 12 Treaty Education June 2023

The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba reached a milestone in 2019/20 by completing one decade of Treaty Education service and supports to schools across all jurisdictions and geographic regions in Manitoba. The achievement of this goal was made possible through the dedication of the Council of Elders, the Treaty Commissioner, partnerships with the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Indigenous Services Canada, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre, complemented with broad support from professional educators' associations. The Treaty Education Initiative began in 2009/10 and expanded across the province, engaging provincial, First Nations, funded independent schools, and Division scolaire franco-manitobaine (DSFM) schools.

At the beginning of the 2019/20 school year, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning entered into a funding agreement whereby the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba would continue to deliver Treaty Education across Manitoba schools. Since 2009/10, 86 percent of schools across the province have already participated in Treaty Education.

Much progress has been made in this work. The goal now is **to ensure that all teachers, school staff, and students receive Treaty Education to understand the importance of the original spirit and intent of treaties and the treaty relationship by balancing the oral history with the written word, including an understanding of our shared history, as we are all treaty people.** This work supports Manitoba's response to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is aligned with Manitoba's *The Path to Reconciliation Act*.

As part of *Treaty Education for All*, Manitoba K to 12 teachers will be required to complete the two-day training by December 31, 2025. All other school staff are required to attend the first day of Treaty Education training. It is recognized that achieving this goal requires support for all levels of our school system in the short term, along with a long-term sustainable plan to ensure all students leave the K to 12 education system with an understanding of the treaties and our shared responsibilities. School divisions are asked to submit a high-level implementation plan by October 31, 2023, as part of their annual report on continuous improvement.

To ensure that we achieve our collective goal of *Treaty Education for All*, a steering committee was relaunched in July 2022. This committee is working together, in partnership with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba; Elders, Grandmothers, Knowledge Keepers; Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning; Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre; The Manitoba Teachers' Society; Manitoba Association of School Superintendents; Manitoba Federation of Independent Schools; and the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate Advisory Council.

The steering committee has identified the following strategies to ensure success.

1. Providing Treaty Education to School Leaders

Recognizing the important role that school leaders will play in the *Treaty Education for All* plan, opportunities to strengthen supports for principals and vice-principals will be explored throughout implementation. We are pleased to now include the Council of School Leaders (COSL) as part of our steering committee.

The plan also includes continued professional development. Each December, the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has a dedicated session on Treaty Education for school leaders. The session is available to all senior administration and principals/vice-principals across public, First Nations, and funded independent schools. The next session is on December 6 and 7, 2023. To register for this session or other training opportunities, please visit <https://trcm.ca/education/grow/>.

2. Delivering Treaty Education to Our Teachers and School Staff

Many school divisions and schools have already made a commitment to Treaty Education, with a number of school divisions reporting over 90 percent of teachers trained.

With the requirement for all teachers and school staff to complete Treaty Education by December 31, 2025, there is a plan to develop local capacity on an ongoing basis. As part of the transition, Treaty Education can still be available through the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba.

Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will annually collect information on the number of teachers and school staff who have received training as a component of the K-12 Framework for Continuous Improvement school division planning and reporting guidelines. A separate reporting process will be developed for funded independent schools, and a separate communication will follow on these reporting requirements.

The department will ensure all schools in Manitoba have access to Treaty Education teaching resource kits to support teachers in the delivery of Treaty Education. The Manitoba government is investing up to \$1.3 million to provide more than 2000 Treaty Education resource kits through funding from the Indigenous Reconciliation Initiatives Fund. The kits will be distributed to Manitoba schools early this fall. This builds on the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba's longstanding initiative to provide these kits when teachers have participated in training.

3. Supporting School Division/District Implementation through Catalyst Teachers and Learning Networks

To support the broad implementation of Treaty Education across schools, support within divisions is required via catalyst teachers (see **Appendix** for information).

Catalyst teachers have been identified by their respective school division, education authorities, and/or schools to assume a leadership role in relation to the delivery and implementation of Treaty Education. This may be a divisional consultant or teacher. This position will serve as a catalyst to realize our shared goal of ensuring every educator and staff member in our education system has participated in and is supporting the delivery of Treaty Education. The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba has already hosted training to support catalyst teachers. Divisions who need assistance in identifying options to fulfill this role were asked to reach out to Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning. Support for smaller school divisions is also being planned.

Throughout the next school year, two pilot learning networks (English and French) of catalyst teachers will be formed, with sessions organized every two months to support ongoing capacity-building and connection. Elders and Knowledge Keepers supporting schools will be invited to participate in these networks. The Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba will facilitate the networks for the 2023/24 school year. A list of catalyst teachers will be maintained to share this information over the course of the school year. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will evaluate this network and support to inform our plans for future years.

4. Ensuring Treaty Education for K to 12 Students

As part of the Manitoba's K to 12 curriculum renewal process, Treaty Education is being incorporated into curricular outcomes and with the overall Framework for Learning.

The department is also undertaking a review of all school-initiated courses to create department-developed courses that all educators can access. A Treaty Education capstone 40S course is one of the first courses that will be added as an elective. The existing Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba school-initiated course will continue to be offered until it is revamped to meet these requirements.

5. Planning with Early Learning and Child Care Partners

We know the importance of supporting our early childhood educators and child care assistants in Treaty Education. We are pleased to share that, as part of this plan, Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning will also consult with the early learning and child care sector to determine education requirements for staff working in child care facilities, as well as how the content can be adapted and included within the Early Years curriculum for our youngest learners. Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning, with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, will be building out this plan over the course of the year.

Ongoing Planning

Through this partnership with the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba, the plan for *Treaty Education for All* supports Manitoba's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #62 (specifically i) and is in alignment with Calls to Action #s 12, 63, and 64. This initiative recognizes the commitment of the Manitoba government to advance reconciliation and is guided by the principles of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, as articulated in *The Path to Reconciliation Act*. The Treaty Education Steering Committee will continue to meet to guide the implementation of this plan.

School divisions are asked to submit a high-level implementation plan by October 31, 2023, as part of their annual report on the Framework for Continuous Improvement.

For more information, please visit www.edu.gov.mb.ca/iid/treaty_education.html and <https://trcm.ca/education/>. If you have any questions about the plan or upcoming training/reporting requirements, please do not hesitate to reach out to IID@gov.mb.ca or teiadmin@trcm.ca.

We thank the members of the steering committee for their continued support and involvement. We also thank all of the leaders at the division, district, or school level for your leadership, support, and involvement as we realize the goal of *Treaty Education for All*.

Appendix: **Role of Catalyst Teachers for the Treaty Education**

The following provides an outline of the roles and responsibilities of divisional teachers or leaders who are identified by their respective school division, education authority, and/or schools to assume a leadership role to build capacity to deliver and implement Treaty Education. This position will serve as a catalyst to realize our shared goal of ensuring every educator and staff member in our education system has participated in and is supporting the delivery of Treaty Education alongside the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and Manitoba Education and Early Childhood Learning.

The role of catalyst teachers is to introduce, promote, facilitate, and deliver local Treaty Education training in their respective school division and/or region. Responsibilities of catalyst teachers are as follows:

- be knowledgeable about their respective school division, region, and community processes in order to know how best to introduce and promote Treaty Education in schools and classrooms
- attend a two-day Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba Treaty Education training workshop on supporting the training and implementation of Treaty Education in schools and classrooms within their respective school divisions and regions
- become familiar with Treaty Education resources to support implementation of Treaty Education in the classroom
- participate in the provincial/regional catalyst teacher leaders learning network, which is coordinated and led by the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba in collaboration with the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate, for knowledge sharing, ongoing capacity-building and support
- serve as the school/division contact for the Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba and the Indigenous Inclusion Directorate and remain up to date on Treaty Education training materials
- serve as regional/divisional Treaty Education leaders by promoting awareness of Treaty Education, and coordinating and delivering in-school/regional/divisional Treaty Education training sessions for classroom teachers
- provide leadership and support to senior and school administration with sustainable Treaty Education training and implementation plans in schools/divisions/regions
- include local Elders and Knowledge Keepers to support the delivery of Treaty Education at the divisional, school, and classroom levels
- identify and share additional resources that support the delivery of Treaty Education at the divisional, school, and classroom levels
- support senior administration in the collection and reporting of divisional data in relation to the number of staff trained in Treaty Education