

Understanding Treaty: Going beyond the land acknowledgement

Did you know

Treaties Recognition Week, observed during the first full week in November, emphasizes the importance of treaty rights and the relationships they embody. All settlers in Canada have a duty to understand treaty and relationships, as treaty obligations are not merely historical—they continue to be relevant today and into the future. [Source](#)

What are Treaties?

Treaties are agreements made between Indigenous Nations and the Crown that define the rights and responsibilities of both parties. [In Ontario, there are 46 treaties, and across Canada, there are 70 in total.](#) These agreements set out how the Land and its resources are to be shared between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. [Source](#)

- As stated by the Government of Canada today, “Treaties provide a framework for living together and sharing the land traditionally occupied by Indigenous peoples. These agreements form the basis for ongoing cooperation and partnership as we work together to advance reconciliation”. [Source](#)

Understanding Treaty #13 (1805)

Tkaronto, now known as Toronto, is located within the Toronto Purchase Treaty lands (Treaty 13). The Toronto Purchase followed a contested agreement made in 1787, in which the Mississaugas of the Credit sold lands in the area now known as Toronto to the British Crown.

- Although the agreement was reviewed again in 1805, disputes over its terms persisted for more than 200 years. In 1998, the Mississaugas of the Credit filed a claim with the Government of Canada, asserting that the British Crown had unlawfully acquired more land than the original treaty allowed. This claim was settled in 2010, with the government providing \$145 million in compensation. [Source](#)

The summary above is brief. We encourage the Holland Bloorview community to visit the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) website for more detailed information.

Learn more about Treaty # 13

- [The Toronto Purchase Treaty, No. 13 \(1805\)](#) | Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- [Toronto Purchase \(Treaty 13\)](#) | The Canadian Encyclopedia
- [Map of Ontario treaties and reserves](#) | Ontario