



**FIRST NATIONS AND TREATY
AREAS IN MANITOBA**

- TREATY 1 (1871)
- TREATY 2 (1871)
- TREATY 3 (1873)
- TREATY 4 (1874)
- TREATY 5 (1875)



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WE ARE
ON
TREATY
LAND

Bethel
Mennonite
Church

WE ARE ON TREATY LAND

Bethel Mennonite Church is located on Treaty No. 1 Land and the traditional home territory of the Ojibway, Dakota, Cree and more recently the homeland of the Métis Nation.

Bethel Mennonite Church seeks to be a community honoring our Indigenous neighbours. With thankfulness we recognize their significant contributions to the history of the area where we worship and live. We learn from their valuable spirituality and culture, and we work to build strong and respectful relationships.



BROCHURE SOURCES: thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools/ • trcm.ca • mediacoop.ca/fr/blog/alex-paterson/15018 • canadianmennonite.org/articles/mennonite-treaty-rights • mennonitehistorian.ca/16.3.MHSep90.pdf • *Wrongs to Rights: How Churches Can Engage the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, ed. Steve Heinrichs

LOOKING BACK

In the summer of 1871 several thousand Indigenous men, women and children gathered at Lower Fort Garry to negotiate with representatives of the British Crown. For nine days Indigenous leaders prayed together and discussed a possible treaty with colonial settlers and their government. On August 3, 1871 Treaty No. 1 was signed.

For the Indigenous leaders the treaty formally recognized a long-standing relationship of interaction and trade between nations. In signing the treaty they sought to protect their way of life; not surrendering the Creator's land but agreeing to share it. They believed they were retaining the right to use and inhabit about two thirds of the land in Manitoba.

WITH A SENSE OF GRATITUDE WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR GATHERING ON

Treaty No. 1 Land and that we are all treaty people.

The British Crown understood the treaty to mean that tracts of land were being ceded to them in return for hunting, fishing, agriculture and trapping rights on reserve land and for assistance with education and health services. They believed it inevitable that settlers would take whatever land they needed and that they were being generous in offering reserve lands to Indigenous people.

TREATY NO. 1 AND YOU

The signing of Treaty One in 1871 referenced land that was given to our Mennonite ancestors who immigrated to Manitoba to build a future for their families and faith communities. Bethel Mennonite Church stands on Treaty No. 1 Land.

The signing of the treaty led to the establishment of residential schools as a way to provide the education services promised in the treaty. These were not the kind of educational opportunities Indigenous leaders had envisioned for their children. The legacy of residential schools has shaped our society in ways that impact us all.

Bethel Mennonite Church affirms that we are all treaty people. We want to faithfully honor the spirit of the original treaty committing ourselves to study and discuss the complex issues resulting from the treaty. We will continue to listen to our Indigenous friends, to learn from their stories and to act responsibly and faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ so that we will journey together as reconciled Canadians.

IMAGE CREDITS: OUTSIDE COVER IMAGE: Map of First Nations and Treaty Areas in Manitoba. INSIDE IMAGE: Treaty No. 1 medal(1873). Both images generously provided by the Treaty Commission of Manitoba.