



Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre (IKWC)

TREATY KITS FOR BAND OPERATED SCHOOLS IN TREATIES 6, 7 & 8

FAQ

IKWC.ORG

The Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre (IKWC) has been over 50 years in the making as a result of recommendations in the 'Red Paper' of 1970. The Red Paper stressed the importance of promoting the study of Indigenous history, culture, language, and values and was a priority of Treaty Chiefs in Alberta.

IKWC began operations in the spring of 2017 and is owned and operated by First Nations of Treaty 6, 7, and 8. On October 26, 2018, IKWC held its official Grand Opening and welcomed a full house of Chiefs, guests, media, and politicians. The organization was created to educate and ensure that our history is taught accurately for our people by our people. IKWC provides an environment to learn and share information offering education support services to band operated schools as well as policy, language, culture, and technology to preserve and revitalize Indigenous culture and language. IKWC is a small close group with 12 full-time employees provided guidance by a committed volunteer board appointed by the Chiefs Steering Committee.

IKWC Vision: *Igniting the fire of our ancestor's ways of knowing.*

IKWC Mission:

We will:

- Honour the diversity among indigenous cultures
- Honour the inherent and treaty rights of our peoples
- Celebrate and sustain our environments, languages, cultures, and identities
- Develop a legacy of knowledge and teachings for lifelong learning

In an effort to encourage dialogue and inspire research in the classroom, IKWC created the Treaty Resource Kits. The Treaty Resource Kits are designed to introduce concepts from an Indigenous perspective for educators, students, administrators, community members and parents.

The contents of the kits were inspired from oral Treaty history accounts, such as the Treaty and Aboriginal Rights Research Reports (T.A.R.R files) that were conducted in the 1970's and 80's. IKWC wanted to bring the authentic voices of Elders, knowledge keepers, and Indigenous academics into the classroom so student may benefit from these important teachings. The kits are broken into two groups, Kindergarten to grade six and grade seven to grade 12.

IKWC also maintains a Virtual Library, an online resource curated by First Nations researchers and educators for First Nations educators, parents, and students. These resources and services are provided at no charge to Band Operated Schools in the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories.

1. What is a Treaty Kit?

The Treaty kit features supplementary resources that introduce concepts about Treaty Education from Indigenous perspectives.

The material has been designed to be:

- Supplementary
- Springboard material to launch further study
- Grade-appropriate
- Indigenous-focused
- Treaty 6, 7, and 8 specific

2. Why did IKWC feel the need to produce the Treaty Kits?

We have found it difficult to find Alberta-focused resources that teach the true history of Treaties. Generations of students in Canadian classrooms are taught Indigenous peoples ceded the land when Treaties were made. This incorrect teaching is found in Canadian textbooks, online web resources, and embedded in lesson plans. It supports the false belief that Canada was built upon the 'defeat' and consent of Indigenous Peoples. IKWC wanted to introduce culturally responsive material that would enrich Treaty education in the classroom and make space for the voices of our elders, academics, historians, and authors to correct misconceptions and lay the groundwork for more nuanced, accurate, and authentic understanding of the historical context of Treaties and their continued impact on the modern world.

3. Is the material aligned with the Alberta Curriculum of Studies?

No, it is not. While the Alberta curriculum does include Treaty and Residential School learner outcomes in K-12 Social Studies, we have decided not to align the IKWC Treaty Resource Kit material with the listed outcomes created by Alberta Education.

The IKWC Treaty Resource Kits are intended to be stand alone resources that educators may use to deepen and enrich the understanding of Treaties by their students and make space for Indigenous pedagogy, perspectives, and voices.

4. What do you hope to accomplish with the Treaty Kits?

- Help to build a strong Treaty-based school culture within the band-operated schools across Treaty 6, 7, and 8 by supporting the work that is currently being done by schools and educators with limited resources and on limited budgets.
- Invite further contributions from community members for upcoming kits.
- Build a foundation and momentum for Indigenous-centred educational material and curriculum.

5. Who are the kits for?

- Educators and students working for/attending band operated schools within the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories.

6. What is in the kits?

- Treaty Resource Kit Binder (K – 6)
- Class set of Treaty Passports
- Treaty 6, 7 & 8 stamps, stamp pad
- 1 Treaty Medal Puzzle
- 1 copy of “The Handshake and the Pipe” by Betty Lynxleg
- 1 copy of “A Promise is a Promise” by Robert Munsch
- Information cards of “Key Players”
- USB flash drive with activities from binder and lesson plans, archival images, maps and posters
- 1 copy of “500 Years of Resistance Comic Book” by Gord Hill
- 1 copy of “Turtle Island” by Eldon Yellowhorn & Kathy Lowinger
- Treaty Resource Kit Binder (7 – 12)
- 1 copy of “Peace Pipe Dreams” by Darrell Dennis
- 1 copy of “Indigenous Relation” by Bob Joseph
- USB flash drive with archival images, lesson plans and maps
- Historical Boundaries of Treaty Map
- Poster size Treaty 6, 7 & 8 text
- Class set of “We Are All Treaty People” Stickers
- “Guess Who” Game and Template
- 1 copy of “From Treaties to Reserves” by D.J. Hall
- 1 copy of “My Heroes Have Always Been Indians” by Dr. Cora J. Voyageur

7. Is there a cost for the Treaty Kits?

- One (1) Treaty Resource Kit is provided at no cost to Band Operated Schools in Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories. Supplemental kits may be purchased on a cost recovery basis.
- Depending on response to the Kits and demand from other schools or jurisdictions, a 'Buy One Give One' model is being considered to offset future production and updates of the Kits.

8. Which Treaty areas are covered in the kits?

- Treaties 6, 7, and 8

9. Can anyone order a Treaty Kit?

- For the time being, the Kits are only available for Band Operated schools within the Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Territories.

10. Are the kits targeted toward a certain age group?

- K – 12 students

11. When will the kits be distributed?

- August 2021

12. Was there a committee that reviewed the contents of the kits to ensure they are appropriate and accurate?

- Yes. The Kits have been reviewed by an internal committee, as well as, by external members. These have included Indigenous educators, administrators, parents, and Elders.

13. Who created the kits?

- The kits have been created by a small team of Indigenous researchers with backgrounds in Education, Anthropology, and Native Studies.

14. Will IKWC be doing another kit distribution?

- Yes, updates to the Treaty Resource Kits are expected and IKWC seeks feedback from educators on these resources, as well as, any others that they would like to see included in the future.

15. Who funded the Treaty Kits?

- The Indigenous Knowledge & Wisdom Centre operates through grant based funding provided primarily, but not exclusively, by Indigenous Services Canada. The Treaty Resource Kits were an initiative identified by the Chiefs and IKWC Board in response to an identified need of educators in Band Operated Schools.

16. Where can I get more information?

- By emailing: research@ikwc.org

17. Is there a feedback form?

- Yes – educators and students will be able to scan a QR code to access a survey to provide feedback.

