

Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC) is mandated to advance the Treaty goal of establishing good relations among all people of Saskatchewan. The OTC continues to work with First Nations, provincial school systems, other educational institutions and the rest of Saskatchewan to raise the awareness and understanding of Treaties in Saskatchewan.



Upcoming Events

Oct. 11 - Economic Partnership Summit

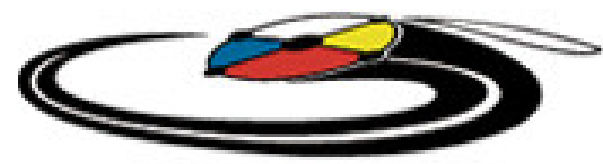
Oct. 17 and 18 - Wicihitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference 2018

Oct. 23 - Saskatoon Police Service Lunch and Learn:

Round Prairie Descendent-Road Allowance Métis

Oct. 26 - Spirit of our Nations: Cultural Celebration & Pow Wow

Nov. 15- 17 - Canadian Roots National Youth Gathering



Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan

Mary Culbertson

It is an honour to be named the first Indigenous woman to become the Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan in January 2018.



My role started during some critical weeks across the prairie provinces. The killings of Colten Boushie and Tina Fontaine were in the headlines and the acquittal of those who stood trial in both cases resonated profoundly. There was heartbreak, grief, sorrow and a lot of hateful attitudes and comments were made and shone through. Some have been held accountable for their words and other words have been swept under the rug. It is critical times in this Treaty relationship. It has been at stake for over 100 years and is in trouble.



Our Treaties are Treaties of peace. We can no longer let this relationship be divided. We cannot use hateful and divisive language that encourages violent acts. We cannot ignore racial divides any longer. Truths need to be spoken and heard. Now, more than ever we need to come together as nations and communities. Reconciliation efforts cannot be one-sided; it must grow from people acting together. Reconciliation is about learning from the past and choosing to build a better future and not repeating the mistakes of the past.

Being able to understand each other results in building positive trusting relationships.

Reconciliation is a personal journey, within ourselves, our nations, our homes, and our families. From these personal journeys we build the foundations for the future of our relationships and of our shared histories, even the parts of those histories that are shameful.





Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

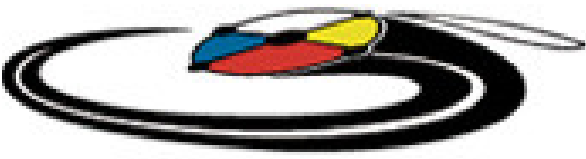
Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan cont.

Like many of us I come from a rural area, a small farm north of Pelly, Saskatchewan across the hill from Fort Livingstone and Keeseekoose First Nation, and down the road from Kamsack, Saskatchewan where I was born. I am committed to building relationships in our rural areas. There needs to be forums and ongoing public education. Courageous conversations need to take place where people aren't afraid to feel uncomfortable and ask questions. I firmly believe that education is the vehicle that is going to someday end racism and discrimination towards First Nations. Through education, shared histories and a true understanding of the Treaties that were entered into more than 100 years ago. As long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow, that's how long the relationship will last. We have only a short time here on this earth and we have to work together to build a future where our children and grandchildren are going to ask us, "What did you do?" a future where we can tell them we were part of the solution and not the problem.



The first months in the role of Treaty Commissioner have passed quickly; we have attended, and participated at many Treaty days and gatherings throughout the territories. I've had the good fortune of meeting and speaking with many people. A Treaty Commissioner was promised to the people of these territories more than 100 years ago, I am committed to being in First Nations communities and rural areas in the weeks and months to come and look forward to serving the people of these Territories.





Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

OTC Executive Director Harry Lafond

This summer took myself alongside the Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan, Mary Culbertson, and many members of the Office of the Treaty Commissioner to the second annual Treaty 10 Gathering from English River First Nation's La Plonge reserve near Beauval.

I trekked north to the beautiful landscape of La Plonge in late July and early August. The Treaty 10 Gathering brought out the friends I made in years past. Elder AJ Felix and Elder Isadore Campbell kept the sessions moving. It was good to see Saskatchewan's Lt. Governor attend the first day to listen to presentations and engage different people in conversation.

Gatherings like this bring out the thoughts and stories of the people and help to create bonds that are so necessary for future work in Treaty implementation.

As the summer turns to fall, I look forward to continuing the work of relationship building and Treaty implementation in the province.

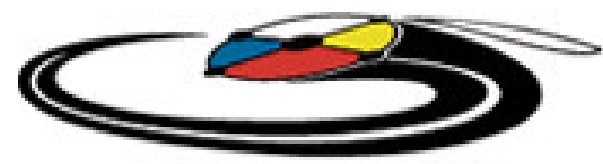


Chief Mistawasis is going forward as the name for Saskatoon's north-end commuter bridge. The announcement was made in June prior to the kick-off of the Rock Your Roots Walk for Reconciliation at Reconciliation Circle in Victoria Park.

It was wonderful to come together to celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day and fitting that the community has chosen to name the North Commuter Bridge after Chief Mistawasis to acknowledge the contributions of those who came before us and strived to create a better future.

Chief Mistawasis was one of over 400 names that were gathered from the community as part of an extensive community engagement exercise that began in July last year. The community-led project responds directly to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action #79: Participate in a strategy to commemorate Aboriginal People's history and contributions to Canada.





Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

OTC Director of Speakers Bureau

Amy Seesequasis



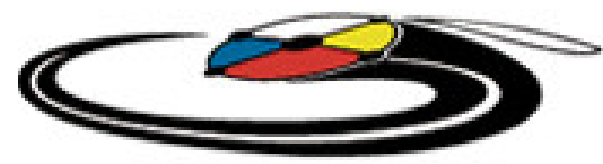
ATansi! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Director of Speakers Bureau. I was appointed to the position in April of 2018 by Commissioner Culbertson, but have been with the OTC since 2012. I have served the organization in various capacities and roles over the years; Administrative Assistant, Research Assistant, Research Technician, Treaty Learning Network Coordinator, and Speakers Bureau member. The Speakers Bureau is a collection of Knowledge Keepers who present to the general public on topics related to Treaty Education, Indigenous Awareness, Positive Race Relations and Reconciliation. These presentations can be tailored to the needs of the requesting organization/institution/etc., and requests can be made on our website under the Book a Speaker option within the Education tab.

It has been a very busy 5 months for the bureau with presentations and workshops taking place weekly across the province. We have reached 850 people in the province since April 2018 and hope to double that number by year end. Some highlights of the Speakers Bureau is the launch of our new and enhanced bureau which has more allies joining us from across the province. We thank these Knowledge Keepers for their willingness to join the bureau and share their wisdom with the Saskatchewan public. I have also been coordinating Special Events for OTC which consists of our Information Booth and Children/Youth activities. Some of the events attended were Pleasant Hill powwow, Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Division powwow, National Indigenous People's Day Regina/Saskatoon/Kerrobert/North Battleford, Treaty 10 Gathering, Folkfest, North Battleford Urban Treaty Day, Yorkton Urban Treaty Day, and Word on the Street.

The bureau began a partnership in May 2018 with the Open Door Society of Saskatoon to have an Indigenous Studies class weekly for their newcomer groups; the sessions are well attended and greatly appreciated by the students who attend.

I attended the Treaty 10 Gathering in Beauval in August and was honoured to have witnessed the raising of the first ever Treaty 10 flag. The moment was an emotional and spiritual one, with a former location of pain and suffering being transformed to a place of strength. I commend the Elders and Knowledge Keepers who were involved in this process for all their commitment and dedication to the Spirit and Intent of Treaty.

I look forward to the coming months and all the exciting opportunities and endeavours that will arise from both these new partnerships and alliances, but also from the continued strengthening and enhancing of the partnerships and alliances we already have in place.



Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

OTC Director of Education

Brenda Ahenakew

We continue to see more teachers trained and resources developed for Treaty education in Saskatchewan.



The Office of the Treaty Commissioner continues to see an increase in the number of educators comfortable with teaching Treaties in the classroom through a series of workshops. This summer 42 more educators completed Teacher Catalyst Training with our wonderful facilitators. Over four days, participants took the History of Treaty Making and Teaching Treaties in the Classroom, while working closely with Elders. The OTC continues to offer these workshops throughout the year in different locations.

Also, this summer saw the OTC at the Tri-University Cultural Camp at Egg Lake, Manitoba, where students from the University of Saskatchewan, Brandon University and the University of Manitoba gathered. The OTC spoke about what we do, what we have accomplished and what we can offer as support to education.

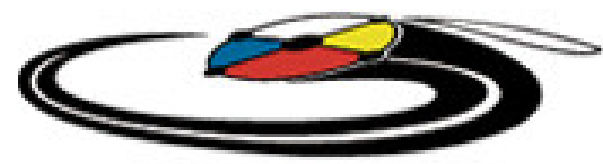
Education is an important aspect of Treaty implementation and the Treaty relationship in Saskatchewan. Without a foundational understanding of the history of First Nations in the province and the Treaties it is very difficult to have reconciliation. The OTC has a number of resources available to groups and individuals looking to learn and educate. Find them online at otc.ca and clicking the Education Tab.



Left: A moment of gathering at the Tri-University cultural camp at Egg Lake

Right: The facilitators and participants of the summer Teaching Treaties in the Classroom workshops





Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

OTC Director of Livelihood & Economic Independence Milton Tootoosis



Carol Anne Hilton, founder and owner of the Indigenomics Institute writes

"Indigenomics is a process of claiming our place at the economic table ... this modern claim to our existence, facilitated as a right to an economy, a right to our modernity, a right to be consulted and is further interwoven with the establishment of legal pressure points for higher standards of stewardship and reciprocal prosperity."

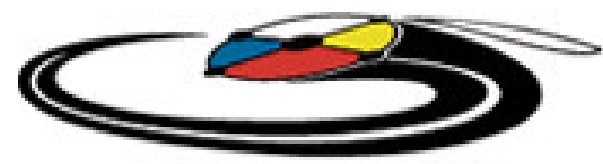
Hilton is advocating expanding the national Indigenous economy from the current \$16 billion to \$100 billion. The challenge is on to accelerate the creation of jobs and wealth creation for First Nations in a sustainable balanced way.

Indigenous peoples have been engaged in inter-tribal trade for centuries before settler colonialism. In support of that fact, the AFN has been lobbying to ensure the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) talks being held between Canada, USA and Mexico includes an Indigenous chapter which, if it works out, could benefit First Nations regardless of which border they are on.

It's been active in Indian country as many First Nations communities manage their business ventures and explore new opportunities for generating their own source revenue. We have some First Nations still engaged in urban land development as a result of the historic TLE Framework Agreement. Some First Nations continue to benefit from the mining sector, the energy/construction sector, expansion of the SIGA brand with the new Lloydminster casino in progress and of course the most common enterprise the Gas bar/C-store.

What is refreshing is the flurry of independent entrepreneurs who are venturing into various sectors: retail, health/nutrition, agri-food, hemp, food/hospitality services and online goods.

We also see First Nations gearing up for the Indigenous tourism, beverage and green energy sectors, decommissioning of oil wells, water and wastewater treatment opportunities. It is very encouraging to see First Nations venturing into the space of information technology, data protection and sovereignty and advanced security as an area that is becoming increasingly important as the threat of global security reaches new heights.



Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

Livelihood & Economic Independence cont.

The Government of Canada's move to legalize Cannabis by October, 2018 has created a lot of activity for grow ops, distribution and retail. Time will tell who will be the real winners and losers in this controversial sector.

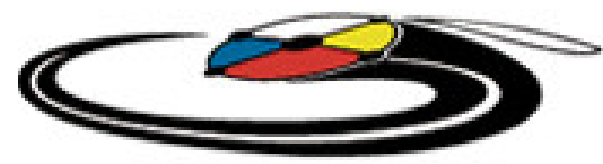
The ongoing challenge for First Nations economic success remains inclusion by the mainstream economic system, access to capital, effective governance and execution of business ideas and of course effective leadership and management. As some First Nations settle various claims they are in a better position financially but they must still engage in their due diligence and manage their enterprises effectively to minimize risk and maximize their return on investment. Some will make it and some will not.

The Saskatchewan First Nations Economic Development Network (SFNEDN) hosted the inaugural Indigenous Economic Development Day to coincide with Saskatchewan's Economic Development Week. The event including the recognition of the Economic Developers of the Year Awards in an ongoing effort to reward and recognize achievers for advancing First Nations livelihood in various sectors of Saskatchewan's economy.

The OTC Livelihood unit has been working on an employment and procurement program. Various employers and companies have expressed an interest in participating in a coordinated effort to improve access to jobs and contracts as essential to wealth creation and nation rebuilding. The initiative will be modelled after other past programs that proved successful. The program will be piloted out of the Heart of Treaty Six (HOT6) region as an action item stemming from the Treaty Six Declaration signing that took place in Lloydminster on April, 2018.

On National Indigenous People's Day on June 21st, the OTC participated in the commemoration of the eight Indians that were hanged in Battleford in 1885, which is on record as the largest mass execution in Canada's history. The event included Treaty Commissioner of Saskatchewan Mary Culbertson, Chiefs, Headmen, civic leaders, the RCMP, and Parks Canada officials. There are go forward plans to develop a strategy that will be educational, about truth and reconciliation and an addition to the cultural tourism sector in the north-west.

On July 4th, the OTC supported the opening of the Chief Poundmaker Storyteller's Festival that included the opening of an art gallery and unveiling of a Kent Monkman painting titled 'Poundmaker Intercedes'. The Monkman painting symbolizes peace and end to conflict that Chief Poundmaker advocated and stood for during the height of the North-West Resistance in 1885. Chief Poundmaker will be exonerated by Canada for treason-felony this year.



Office of the Treaty Commissioner

NEWSLETTER

More available online otc.ca

OTC Director, Reconciliation and Community Partnerships Rhett Sangster



The Office of the Treaty Commissioner continues to use its stature as a neutral provincial facilitator to encourage honest conversations about the nature of successful Reconciliation and Treaty implementation with the public and community leaders.

The Office of the Treaty Commissioner is working with partners to build a model for truth, reconciliation and Treaty implementation in Saskatchewan. We're seeing significant impacts in a short period of time with leaders from six regions working together to build a better future for their children and grandchildren. The six coalitions include 12 urban municipalities: Saskatoon, Regina, Lloydminster, Prince Albert, Warman, Martensville, Dalmeny, Aberdeen, Osler, Rosthern, Kelvington, and Porcupine Plain. They also include six First Nations (Onion Lake, Poundmaker, Frog Lake, One Arrow, Yellow Quill and Mistawasis), three Tribal Councils, four rural municipalities, Elders, Residential School survivors and numerous community and faith-based groups, businesses and governments of all levels.

By spring 2019 we hope to publicly release a definition of successful Truth and Reconciliation, which we've been developing from the ground up during the past four years, through conversations with Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. Over 180 organizations have contributed their voice in the creation of a tool to learn from our efforts, and to determine whether we're making progress.

The OTC continues to use its website, online newsletter, and social media platforms to promote dialogue, educate, tell stories of success and inspire action. Please join the conversation online: Office of the Treaty Commissioner on Facebook and TreatyOfficeSK on Twitter. At otc.ca you can sign up for biweekly informational emails, share your story, and find upcoming events in your community.



Reconciliation