

“In the spirit of Treaty Six, in whose territory the University of Saskatchewan is located, our vision is to be recognized as a place where many peoples come together to engage in mutually respectful relations and dialogue” –*Promise and Potential*, the Third Integrated Plan of the University of Saskatchewan

Spirit of the Project

The University’s commitment to create an institution that supports the success of Aboriginal students, faculty, and staff, demands that as a community, we take responsibility for “promot[ing] understanding of Aboriginal society by non-Aboriginal students, staff and faculty” (*Promise and Potential*). Recognizing that most faculty and staff at the U of S know little of the treaty relationship between First Nations and non-First Nations people in Saskatchewan, the Office of the VP Teaching and Learning, and the GMCTE (with many resources and much support from the Office of the Treaty Commissioner), developed a dynamic learning module on treaties. Through education and challenging misinformation, we will be better equipped to “engage in mutually respectful relations and dialogue.”

Body of the Project

The treaty learning module, called “We Are All Treaty People,” has two components. First, learners go through an online learning environment, watching videos, trying quizzes, exploring content, and asking questions of a moderator. In this part of the module, participants learn about treaty history, current treaty issues, and myths and misconceptions. The second component of the module is a three-hour face-to-face session with a First Nations Knowledge Keeper, who teaches about First Nations’ world view in relation to treaty making, about other critical historical events occurring during and after treaty-making, and who dispels many misconceptions about treaty rights and responsibilities.

These modules are offered (roughly) monthly, providing participants three weeks to access the online learning environment, which then prepares them for the face-to-face gathering.

Value of the Project

- * the online portion of the module allows participants to learn at a speed, and in a place, that is most comfortable for them
- * participants have indicated their appreciation for the “safe” learning environment, both online, and face-to-face
- * the module has both a cognitive and an affective impact, teaching the “whole person”
- * participants gain historical and cultural knowledge and insight that often alters their pre-existing understanding of treaties, and of the relationships between the treaty parties in Saskatchewan
- * overwhelmingly, participants have provided positive feedback on the module

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“I learned about a different way to think about the world in relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.”



“Thank you for the opportunity to learn more in a safe and positive learning environment.”

Aboriginal Framework

