

Land Acknowledgment

We are gathering on the ancestral lands of the Anishnabeg, Anisiniwew, Ininiwuk, Oceti Sakowin and Metis Peoples. The Denesuline and Inuit Peoples also have a deep connection to these lands, having lived on them for generations.

Winnipeg is situated within Treaty 1 territory however our water is from Shoal Lake 40 First Nation in Treaty 3 territory, and our hydro electric energy comes mainly from Treaty 5 territory in Northern Manitoba.

We are all direct beneficiaries of the policies that were created to cause harm and the disenfranchisement of Indigenous peoples during and since the time of settlement and confederation.

The Treaties that were entered into in good faith by our First Nations relatives were merely agreements to *share* the lands. These lands remain unceded and were never surrendered.

When we honour the spirit of the Treaties, we will have a foundation upon which we can build together. As leaders we carry responsibility – to listen, to learn and to grow both personally and professionally. I call upon each of you to embrace this responsibility and not only to respond to the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, but to hold the system accountable in doing the same.

