



North Peace Housing Foundation

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Email: tammy.mensa@nphf.ca

To: The Board of Directors

From: Tammy Menssa, Executive Director

Date: June 29, 2022

Re: Treaty Land Acknowledgement – Treaty 8

At the most recent Strategic Planning Session, the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and the addition of a Treaty 8 Land Acknowledgement on NPHF's website were discussed.

At that time, Nolan Crouse offered to follow up on our discussion and found that after reviewing Alberta Seniors and Community Housing Association's member websites, there were no Indigenous references or acknowledgments. Additionally, he found that there were no links to seniors housing in the 94 Calls to Action.

When considering the addition of an acknowledgement to the Foundation's website it is important to understand its significance:

"The Government of Canada and the courts understand treaties between the Crown and Aboriginal people to be solemn agreements that set out promises, obligations and benefits for both parties."¹

From the perspective of First Nations, treaties are built on respectful, cooperative and nation-to-nation relationships between First Nations and the Crown on behalf of present and future generations. Treaties outline the rights, obligations and benefits of the signing parties to each other. The intention of the Crown was to gain title to the lands for their own claim. First Nations had other beliefs surrounding the negotiations of the treaty. To the First Nations these treaties are about sharing the land and resources and not extinguishment of title. The intent and provisions of the treaties do not end. This was acknowledged through a ceremonial and sacred agreement that incorporated the spirit and intent for treaties to last, "as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and rivers flow."²

"Spanning generations, acknowledgement of the land is a traditional custom of Indigenous peoples when welcoming outsiders onto their land and into their homes. To build respectful relationships, acknowledging the land is an important part of reconciliation. It honors the authentic history of North America, its original people and tells the story of the creation of this country that has historically been missing." – The Calgary Foundation

1. *Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)*. "Treaties and Agreements." Government of Canada website. www.rcaan-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028574/1529354437231 (accessed June 28, 2019).

2. Alexander Morris, *The Treaties of Canada with the Indians of Manitoba and the North-West Territories: Including the Negotiations on Which They Were Based, and Other Information Relating Thereto* (Toronto: Willing & Williamson, 1880), 96.

Including an acknowledgement of traditional treaty land and recognition for people of the territory on a website is a small way to move toward reconciliation with the Indigenous community. It is a way to demonstrate learning, honoring, and respecting the importance of their relationship to the land we live and work on.

There are a number of useful resources available when creating an acknowledgement such as the Law Society of Alberta and Alberta School Councils' Association. Additionally, there are marketing companies who will provide assistance as a complimentary service.

Options for Consideration:

Option 1: Direct Administration to bring forward a minimum of 2 versions of a Treaty 8 land acknowledgement for review at the September 7, 2022, Board meeting.

Option 2: Do not move forward with the development of a land acknowledgement.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tammy Menssa".

Tammy Menssa
Executive Director