

## What Is a Treaty

- Treaties are a special agreement, like a promise, between two nations which both nations agree not to break.
- Long before contact with Europeans, First Nations communities made treaties between each other as a way to work together and help each other.
- The treaties that we talk about most often today are made between First Nations communities and the Crown. The Crown represents the government of what is now called Canada.
- Treaties allowed the Crown to use the lands of Indigenous Peoples to build settlements. In exchange, Indigenous Peoples were to have their rights protected such as education, hunting, harvesting, healthcare, and more.
- These treaties described the promises and responsibilities that were needed to make a peaceful relationship between Indigenous Peoples and the Crown. They are legal documents made between these nations.
- Treaties were made so that the Crown and Indigenous communities had something to follow to make sure everyone continued to work together and protect the land for future generations.
- But the promises made to Indigenous Peoples were often not kept and this hurt, and continues to impact, the relationship.
- Treaties, in most parts of Canada, are the way settlers came to live on the land today and are important part of history.
- This is also why all Canadians are treaty people.