

RIGHT RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

Recommended Resources and Web Links



Covenant hanging at Hamilton Conference office.

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory

It is proper protocol to acknowledge the land and the traditional territory on which we meet and worship. By acknowledging the territory, we are respectfully acknowledging that since time immemorial First Peoples have had a relationship with the land, and that the land was not empty when European explorers, traders, and settlers first came.

<http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/acknowledging-territory.pdf>

<http://www.ictinc.ca/first-nation-protocol-on-traditional-territory>

Doctrine of Discovery

In March 2012 the Executive of the United Church agreed unanimously to disown the Doctrine of Discovery, a historical concept which has been used to rationalize the enslavement and colonization of Indigenous peoples around the world. The World Council of Churches Executive Committee denounced the doctrine in February 2012

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/news/wcc-disowns-doctrine-used-against-indigenous-peoples> and declared it to be, "...completely opposed to the gospel of Jesus."

In making this statement, the Executive affirmed the Royal Proclamation of 1763

<http://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/home/government-policy/royal-proclamation-1763.html> as a legal precedent that established certain rights of Canada's Aboriginal people.

<http://archive.anglican.ca/gs2001/rr/presentations/terranullius.html>

First Nations Communities in Ontario <http://firstnation.ca/>

Hamilton Conference congregations and missions are on the traditional territories of the following First Nations:

Cape Croker: Neyaashiinigiing Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation

<http://www.nawash.ca/band/>

Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation

<http://www.newcreditfirstnation.com/>

Saugeen First Nation: Chippewas of Saugeen

<http://www.saugeenfirstnation.ca/>

Six Nations of the Grand River

Six Iroquois nations reside on the same reserve: Mohawk, Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Seneca and Tuscarora. There are also some Delaware living in the territory. The acreage at present covers some 46,000 acres (190 km²) near the city of Brantford, Ontario. This represents approximately 5% of the original 950,000 acres (3,800 km²) of land granted to the Six Nations by the 1784 Haldimand Treaty.

<http://www.sixnations.ca/>

Metis Nation of Ontario

<http://www.metisnation.org/programs/offices-and-staff>

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples 1996

Major findings of the five volume report (containing 440 recommendations):

[http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/prb9924-e.htm#SOME MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE REPORT\(txt\)](http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/LOP/ResearchPublications/prb9924-e.htm#SOME MAJOR FINDINGS OF THE REPORT(txt))

Treaties. Aboriginal treaties in Canada are constitutionally recognized agreements between the Crown and Aboriginal peoples and are sacred covenants between peoples. Sacred ceremonies held at the time of treaty negotiations established the relationship linking those for whom Canada was an ancient homeland with those whose family roots lay in other countries. All Canadians are considered treaty people.

<http://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/aboriginal-treaties/>

<http://www.ontario.ca/document/first-nations-and-treaties-map-ontario>

<http://www.ontario.ca/page/treaties>

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032291/1100100032292>

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Adopted by the **United Nations** 61st General Assembly, September 2007, setting out minimum standards for the “survival, dignity and well-being” of Indigenous peoples. Canada added its support in 2010, reaffirming “its commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples at home and abroad.”

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf