

We acknowledge that the land and water we live on is gifted to all from God-Creator who cares for all Creation. We are Treaty People with our Creator. We are learning the ways in which we are Treaty People with First Nations peoples.

As Canadians we are connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast in Canada. As East Coasters we are particularly connected to what the Canadian Government calls the "[Peace and Friendship Treaties of 1725-1779](#)". The first such treaty was created between the Penobscot and Europeans in Boston then ratified in 1726 and 1728 with the British, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet. Prior to that, [beginning in 1609](#), oral agreements were made and these are enforceable legal commitments.

The Treaty of 1752 connects through a covenant chain for peace, hunting, fishing and trading rights and this Treaty is the basis of the [October 1 Treaty Day in Nova Scotia](#) which highlights the phrase "their heirs and the heirs of their heirs forever." The Treaties of 1760-61 (Peace and Friendship Treaties were established between the Crown, the Mi'kmaq, Maliseet and Passamaquoddy involving rights to harvest fish, wildlife, wild fruit and berries. In 1762 there was [Belcher's Proclamation](#). The [Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) created a foundation for Crown-First Nations Rights now in the Constitution of Canada. The Treaty of 1779 is the last of what are classified "Peace and Friendship" treaties. Crown Treaties like the [Jay Treaty](#) of 1794 establishing the Canada-US border continue to impact our relationships.

Our Lutheran heritage in the Atlantic goes back to 1747, yet only recently have we been mindful to spend time with First Nations elders. The elders have taught us the stories of [Shubenacadie Residential School](#) and we are increasingly learning about the legacy of Crown commitments. We have been reminded that Cornwallis issued a scalp tax for Mi'kmaq men, women and

children in 1749. It was rejected as an extermination policy by the Lords of Trade. Yet much harm has nonetheless come to men, women and particularly children in the time that we have been neighbours.

In Nova Scotia we live in close proximity to Mi'kmaq nations, and in New Brunswick to Wolastoqiyik, Maliseet peoples. There are many people of Metis heritage in our churches and families. We desire to live differently into the future of blessing being given to us and our neighbours by God our Creator.

This prayer by elder Helen Sylliboy from the Seven Sacred Teachings will be our reflection:

Creator, Thank you for this day you have given us. Thank you for allowing us to gather here today and we ask you to enter where we are, so that your teachings will work in us.

We ask for wisdom, so that we will know what is good in this world.

We ask for love, so we can spread your love everywhere.

We ask for respect, so that we will know that everyone comes from one place....from you.

We ask for bravery, so that we will not be afraid to do your work here.

We ask for honesty, so that no one will lie or harm anyone of us.

We ask for humility, so that no one will be superior to another.

And lord, we ask for truth, so that we will see you in the future, on the last day with clean hearts and spirits. Amen

Resources Available at

luthersynodseminary.com

http://luthersynodseminary.com/2016_treaties_histories_of_the_land_and_peoples

History of the Land and Peoples Resource for each congregation organized by Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory by Ministry Area

Reflection for 2016-2018 for use with Ministry Areas and Confederacy Neighbours

http://luthersynodseminary.com/my_life_indigenou_s_rights/mapping_lutherans_and_first_nations

Ministry Area Maps with First Nation Contact Info Updated with Residential School Data

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory by Ministry Area

Coming in 2017:

500 Year timeline of ELCIC and First Nation History in Canada

Atlantic Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

We acknowledge that the land and water we live on is gifted to all from God-Creator who cares for all Creation. We are Treaty People with God.

As members of the Atlantic Ministry Area we also acknowledge awareness of oral relationship agreements that go back to 1609 involving our First Nations neighbours.

We are learning about the Peace and Friendship Treaties beginning in 1725, and the Royal Proclamation of 1763.

The Jay Treaty of 1794, creating the Canada-US border, and the 1999 Supreme Court of Canada decision around the Marshall Case impact us regularly.

We desire to be people of reconciliation in Right Relationships with our First Nations neighbours