

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 [also Treaty People with First Nations peoples](#) across our nation. As people of the GTA West Ministry Area we are particularly learning about the rushed local treaties that apply where we live. These agreements began in 1783-84 to settle refugees of the American War of Independence. Settlement was predicated on the [Royal Proclamation](#) of 1763 and the [Treaty of Niagara](#) of 1764.

The British Crown rushed to “Purchase” lakeshore for settlement of English speakers was followed by displacement of nations and land claims due to misunderstandings and adjustments. Etobicoke Creek was a treaty dividing line. Keeping access to the lakeshore and rivers was a strategy by the Original Peoples to preserve their livelihoods and lifestyles from being overwhelmed by the influx of peoples. Encounters of international peoples resulted in conflict and epidemic spread that intentionally or unintentionally depleted the original peoples of the land. Eventually our colonial government admitted it was too overwhelmed to intervene in the illegal encroachment, squatting and over-fishing of settlers resulting in the Original Peoples being relocated away from Lake Ontario. The privilege of our lives came at a cost to indigenous peoples.

Treaties impacting the Lutheran congregations of our Ministry Area specifically include [Treaty 13 \(the "Toronto Purchase"](#) and [Treaty 13a beginning west of the Etobicoke River](#), as well as the [Ajetance Treaty No. 19](#). These treaties impacted the peoples of the [Williams Treaties of 1923](#).

The municipalities of Mississauga and Brampton acknowledge the following as stakeholders to development in our Ministry Area: Mississaugas of Scugog Island and of the New Credit First Nation, Chippewas of Gerogina, Mnjikaning and RAMA First Nations, Curve Lake, Alderville, Beausoliel, Hiawatha, Kawartha Nishnawbe, Moose Deer Point First Nations and the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

Significant numbers of the Lutherans of our Ministry Area were born in Germany, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Sweden and the Caribbean, we are a church of new-Canadians. We are slowly coming to see the Mohawk Indian Residential School as the “Mush Hole.” And to recognize the intergenerational traumas resulting from Indian Act Policies.

From our own experiences we understand displacement, culture shock, longing for home, threats of assimilation to language, culture, spirituality and we also know the precious opportunity to get to know and learn from neighbours. The [Dish With One Spoon](#) inter-national agreement of Original Peoples is a model for peaceful co-existence that we would like to know more about.

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

GTA West Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

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Treaties impacting our Ministry Area specifically include the Ajetance Treaty No. 19 as well as Treaty 13 (the "Toronto Purchase") and Treaty 13a, separated by the Etobicoke River. These treaties impacted peoples of other treaties, particularly of the Williams Treaties of 1923.