

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.

As Canadian citizens, we are now Treaty People with First Nations peoples from coast to coast to coast. The seven congregations of our Ministry Area are located within 50 kilometers of each other on the Niagara Peninsula, on land essential to many nations fighting wars of power and independence. The Brock Memorial, Fort George, the Canada-US border and Fort Erie Immigration Centre are powerful markers on the landscape of our Area.

In the 1700's Lutherans and Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, Mohawk, Cayuga and Tuscarora (Six Nations) Peoples lived in what is now [New York State](#) together as neighbours. They fought together [for the British Crown](#) in the American War of Independence and both were [dispossessed](#) of their lands. Lutheran Loyalists like Peter Lampman were settled in Niagara by 1783. By 1795 Lutherans had a Church, and a cemetery near Thorold. We began worshipping regularly in the Sherkston area in 1827 served by Philip Mayerhoffer from Buffalo. Over time we have lost touch with our Indigenous former neighbours and we are now strangers to one another.

As members of the Niagara Ministry Area some of the most important treaties for our continent were signed in our Area, particularly the [Treaty of Niagara](#) of 1764 following , [the Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) . Here two-thousand five hundred Chiefs and Delegates from twenty-five nations gathered to meet as the United Nations on North American

soil. On this occasion the British colonial leadership secured [Treaty 381](#) from the Seneca of the Six Nations, granting access to two miles on either side of the Niagara River for the purposes of ongoing communication and travel between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario.

Following the American Revolution, large scale treaties were signed to allow for Loyalist settlement and also "Upper Canada" border protection (see also [the Jay Treaty](#) of 1794) . We currently live on land secured from the Missisauagas Nations arranged through the [Between the Lakes Purchase and Collins Purchase, No. 3 Treaty of 1792.](#)

In 2014 the Treaty of Niagara was commemorated by Ontario First Nations Chiefs, Representatives of the Union of Ontario Indians the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians and the Crown polishing the Covenant Chain. Nation-to-nation relationship is well described in the children's books "We Are All Treaty People" and "Nation to Nation" produced by the Anishinabek. While Western historians and educators have focussed their energies on the pro-"British North America" and Loyalist narratives of "Upper Canada," the courts have increasingly been recognizing the complex stories preserved by First Nations in wampum belts and oral histories.

The legacy of Residential Schools alerts us to how much we did not know about our own history and the multiple perspectives thereof. We have begun learning anew and desire to be in Right Relationships with our neighbours again.

Resources Available at  
lutheransynodseminary.com

[http://lutheransynodseminary.com/2016\\_treaties\\_histories\\_of\\_the\\_land\\_and\\_peoples](http://lutheransynodseminary.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://lutheransynodseminary.com/my\\_life\\_indigenou\\_s\\_rights/mapping\\_lutherans\\_and\\_first\\_nations](http://lutheransynodseminary.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

**Niagara Ministry Area**

***Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory***

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*As Canadian citizens, we are Treaty People with First Nations peoples from coast to coast to coast. As members of the Niagara Ministry Area some of Canada's most important treaties were signed near our homes, particularly the Treaty of Niagara of 1764 following the Royal Proclamation of 1763. At that international/ international gathering the British colonial leadership secured from the Seneca of the Six Nations access to two miles on either side of the Niagara River for the purposes of ongoing communication and travel between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, this is referred to as Treaty 381.*

*Following the American War of Independence, large scale treaties were signed to allow for Loyalist settlement and also "Upper Canada" border protection. We currently live on land secured from the Missisaugas Nations arranged through the Between the Lakes Purchase and Collins Purchase, No. 3 of 1792.*