

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 also Treaty People with First Nations peoples connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast. In our Ministry Area and congregational settings we gather on [unceded unsundered Algonquin Territory](#).

Living lives of faith in Canada's Capital Region is a complicated privilege. In the last two years we have grown increasingly mindful of our Canadian nation's orientation to First Nations peoples through the Truth and Reconciliation process, the Walk for Reconciliation and Release of the 94 Calls to Action by the TRC on behalf of Indian Residential School Survivors. We are all Canadian citizens whose homes and places of work are entangled in the colonial project as we exist daily on unceded unsundered Algonquin Territory.

We live in Ontario where the Algonquin Agreement in Principle is moving forward with our Province, but there is no movement by the Province of Quebec. The existence of these two provinces is a European imposition. The Algonquin Traditional Territory spanned both sides of the river that now threatens to divide them. How justice will come to be within and between the Algonquin peoples and other First Nations who may have legitimate claims to lands and territories requires us to be sensitive and mindful of relationship commitments that include the [Great Peace of 1701](#) signed in Montreal and Albany.

Traditional Territories and Treaty Territories in First Nations culture were negotiated, and they were held in sacred trusts of oral culture and ceremony, but our Capital Region world-view runs on written word and legal precedent, precedent that goes back to the Doctrine of

Discovery. We have much to talk and pray about in the years ahead.

The legacy of the treaties that link First Peoples and Canadians together in nation-to-nation relationships is [well described](#) in the children's [books "We Are All Treaty People"](#) and ["Nation to Nation"](#) produced by the Union of Ontario Indians. While Western historians and educators have focussed their energies on 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 the learning and desire to be in Right Relationships with our neighbours.

It has been powerful for us to increasingly learn from elders connected to the Anglican Church (Joint National Gathering, 2013) and KAIROS (Winds of Change, Covenant Chain Link). We are committed to growing in Right Relationships with our First Nations neighbours locally and with the many and diverse First Nations people and peoples who come to Ottawa seeking justice and reconciliation in-keeping with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Ottawa Ministry Area is particularly blessed with youthful energy that is a resource for finding ways forward with young First Nations leaders like those of Canadian Roots Exchange and the Assembly of Seven Generations.

## Resources Available at

[luthersynodseminary.com](http://luthersynodseminary.com)

[http://luthersynodseminary.com/2016\\_treaties\\_histories\\_of\\_the\\_land\\_and\\_peoples](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](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

## Ottawa Ministry Area

### Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

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