



Upholding the Honour of Treaties: The First Nations

For First Nations the Treaties are sacred and spiritual agreements, representing an alliance with the Crown that cannot be broken. From the First Nation perspective the Treaties were entered into on a “nation-to-nation” basis to set out the relationship between the First Nations and the British Crown and later the Canadian Government.

The Treaties represented many different things to the First Nations including a way to share the land, have peace, continue with their way of life and assure the future of their children by learning how to survive in the white man’s world.

First Nations generally saw Treaties as a way of planning for their economic future. Especially during the time when the Treaties were entered into on the prairies, the First Nations were faced with famine, disease and hardship as the buffalo they depended on

about the continuation of their traditional means of living - such as hunting and fishing - in nearly all records of Treaty negotiations.

Many First Nations also recognized that their world was changing and regarded the Treaties as a way of helping their people adjust to these changes. Treaty promises of schools and help with farming were

Influenced by these harsh conditions, the First Nations focused on the future and how they could ensure their survival for generations to come

became very scarce. Influenced by these harsh conditions, the First Nations focused on the future and how they could ensure their survival for generations to come.

Many First Nations saw the Treaties as a way of being able to continue living as they had for countless generations. For this reason great concern was expressed by the First Nations

included because “First Nations negotiators wanted training for their people so that they could adapt to the new way of life being brought upon them.”