

TREATY TALK - SHARING THE RIVER OF LIFE

A FILM STUDY GUIDE



FILM SYNOPSIS

TreatyTalk - Sharing the River of Life is a 50 minute teaching tool to better understand our collective responsibility to treaty. The purpose of the video is to build understanding, allyship and bridges for better relationship and work together. This film, through the sharing of a traditional Cree understanding on natural law and treaty, will speak about and model how Indigenous nations and non-Indigenous allies in Canada can come together to transform racism and discrimination at a local and systemic level and to build a better future of mutual benefit for generations to come.

STEP 1

ORGANIZE A GROUP

Gathers together some friends, family, co-workers, students or community members to watch Treaty Talk - Sharing the River of Life

STEP 2

WATCH THE FILM

This film is available for free at www.treatytalk.com

STEP 3

USE THIS DISCUSSION GUIDE

Consider some of the questions on page 2 of the discussion guide. Facilitators are welcome to use some of the tips to further conversation.

STEP 4

CONSIDER NEXT STEPS

Consider some of the action steps on the next page and for more information including the treaty walk from Edmonton to Calgary in 2019, visit www.treatytalk.com.

A MESSAGE FROM PAT MAKOKIS

Thank you one and all for taking the time to watch our film. This film is truly a labour of love. When we dared to dream, it was always with the goal of building deeper relationships and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples'. To those in the film, who gave so freely of themselves, thank you. To our collective Ancestors, thank you. You laid a path for us to re-connect and re-learn together about the treaties. And, as we learn together, let us move out of our head, to our heart. Our children, grand-children and those coming are counting on us.
All my relations!

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A GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE



FACILITATOR TIPS

Below are a list of questions to help facilitate a conversation after watching Treaty Talk - Sharing the River of life. The Facilitator may want to select a couple of these questions and invite people to respond in a circle. Or for large groups split people into smaller circles to discuss these questions.

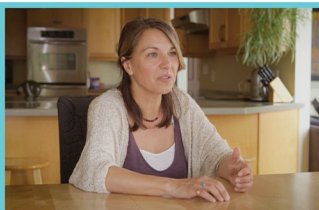
Just as was modelled in the film, we hope that everyone will have a chance to speak and be heard in the spirit of Kindness, Honesty, Sharing and Strength.



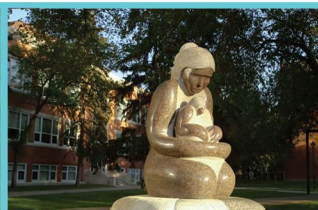
"Life is all about relationship, with yourself, with other human beings, with the earth, with the four-leggeds, and you need to nourish that." - Pamela Quinn



"It's only when you don't have clean drinking water, that you realize, if we aren't doing this work together as allies, what will our future be?" - Patricia Makokis



"It's okay we don't know the answers, how are we going to learn now?"
- Tanya Fontaine Porozni



From 1892-1996 over 150,000 Indigenous children were put into government funded church run residential schools.



"We must do this practicing these laws of kindness, sharing, honesty and strength"
- Patricia Makokis

QUESTIONS

- 1) What is this film about? What are some key messages?
- 2) What is something you learned from this film that you did not know or never thought about before?
- 3) Have you ever experienced racism or discrimination of some kind? If you are comfortable sharing, what was that experience like?
- 4) Pamela Quinn says that life is all about relationships. What examples in this film did you see getting in the way of relationships and what examples did you see that were about strengthening them.
- 5) Tanya Fontaine Porozni, a non-Indigenous woman from St. Paul wrestled with the idea that she is "complicit in the ongoing cultural genocide of Indigenous people in Canada." What do you think of that statement? What might being an ally look like in the face of racism, discrimination and cultural genocide?
- 6) What are some lessons or ideas you learned from the natural law teaching by Vincent Steinhauer and Diana Steinhauer?

7) Vincent and Diana talked about several treaties including the Two Row Wampum. What do you think of these treaties and what is an idea you have for how to honour them today?

8) In the spirit of this film, what is one way you can take action in your community?

9) In regards to a better relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, what is one thing you hope for, and are prepared to commit to, for your children and grandchildren.



NEXT STEPS

- 1) Organize another screening and share this with some people who have not seen it yet.
- 2) Share the film online.
- 3) Consider joining the 2019 Treaty Walk from Edmonton to Calgary. Check back at treatytalk.com for more details.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Additional resources and links can be found at treatytalk.com. We encourage people to continue the learning in your own local community and to support local indigenous efforts to end racism and discrimination and build a more just future for all.

FEEDBACK

We welcome feedback on this film, the study guide, and your personal or group experience using this resource. You can submit a review or feedback at <https://www.treatytalk.com/submit-a-review>