



FINAL REPORT

KE-ONDAATIZIYING

How we will Sustain Ourselves 2013

September 30, October 1 & 2, 2013

A Treaty 3 wide gathering of leaders to discuss cross-cultural collaboration in sustainable development and governance.

Manidoo baawaatig –Seven Generations Educational Institute – Kenora



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BACKGROUND

Keonndaatiziying: How We Will Sustain Ourselves

conferences provide an opportunity for partners in the Treaty #3 territory to gather to assess the state of the Treaty relationship, and to discuss mutual concerns and opportunities in many arenas.

Held in 2011 and 2013, the Keonndaatiziying meetings built on an earlier gathering of Treaty partners, Common Land, Common Ground (2001). Keonndaatiziying serves as both a recommitment to, and revitalization of, the ongoing Treaty relationship.

The contemporary renewal of the Treaty relationship can be traced to the year 2000, when then Grand Chief of Treaty #3, Leon Jourdain, and Kenora Mayor David Canfield began discussing their common concerns over local resource extraction, industry and labour market challenges, and social considerations. Together they concluded that their sense of community and place is shared and that there were socio-economic events beyond their control having an effect on the relationships between the Anishnaabe and non-Indigenous population. The leaders were feeling that much of the area's history was being written far from the people who were living its effects. It was these early conversations between the Mayor and the Grand Chief that led to the development of the Common Land, Common Ground initiative the following year.

In 2001, the Common Land, Common Ground conference occurred in Kenora. The conference included municipal leaders and Treaty #3 Chiefs as well as municipal and First Nation administration. The conference focused on building social relationships between the municipalities and First Nations within the Treaty #3 region. The result of this was the development of the document "Common Principles Leading to Cooperation between Aboriginal & Municipal Leaders." This document has continued to inform the relationship between municipal and First Nations leadership within Treaty #3 for more than a decade.

As a result of these events exploring relationships based on the Treaty, area leadership saw the need for a gathering focusing solely on economic relationships. The Keonndaatiziying concept grew from a joint directive issued by the Grand Chief and the Mayors of Kenora and Sioux Narrows-Nestor Falls to engage government, industry, business and economic development personnel throughout the territory in a Treaty-wide discussion.

The inaugural Keonndaatiziying: "How We Will Sustain Ourselves" Treaty 3 Economic Opportunities Conference was held September 28-30, 2011 in Kenora, Ontario on the historic Tunnel Island. This gathering brought together Treaty 3 area

leadership including municipal mayors and councilors, First Nations chiefs and band councilors, elders, First Nation community workers, economic development officers, business and industry, and representatives from government agencies. The purpose of the conference was to develop ways to strengthen relationship building under Treaty #3 by highlighting current success stories and discussing the challenges, opportunities and approaches to economic development in the Treaty #3 territory.

Acting on the recommendations from Keonndaatiziying 2011, conference organizers staged a follow up gathering on September 30 – October 2, 2013 in Kenora, Ontario.



CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The focus for the Keonndaatiziying 2013 conference returned to the fundamentals of the Treaty relationship by focusing on governance. The conference opened with an educational session explaining the basics of Anishinaabe and municipal governance within the Treaty #3 region. This gave participants a good understanding of the origins of each government's mandate for power, and highlighted some of the ways in which each system experiences shared or distinct limitations, freedoms, and duties.

Next, several case studies were presented for best practices in cross-cultural collaboration. Highlighted by the "Friendship Accord" between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and Lac Seul First Nation, this series of presentations covered examples from municipal and First Nations governance, business partnerships, and academic research partnerships.

During the evening keynote speech, Dr. Rick Wallace presented a retelling of the Common Ground story, as seen through the eyes of an outsider. Rick's admiration and respect for this initiative, and for the people and leadership in the Treaty #3 area, were clear and strong as he spoke with praise about this truly unique and inspiring venture, and the possibilities that exist for applying lessons learned here to conflict-laden situations around the world.

The final half-day of the conference concluded with two talks focusing on further examples of governance, including an overview of corporate governance, and a talk on the history of Wabaseemoong's Child Welfare agreement, which is a groundbreaking agreement that harmonizes First Nations community, territorial and provincial legislation into one functional, and very successful governance framework.



DELEGATE DISCUSSIONS

Throughout the conference, delegates had substantial opportunity to reflect on the lessons presented to them and discuss amongst each other learnings, experiences, challenges and opportunities.

Topic: Governance

Former Ogichidaakwe of Grand Council Treaty #3 Diane Kelly started the morning session with a presentation on the basics of Anishinaabe governance in Treaty #3. She was followed by Karen Brown, City of Kenora CAO, who gave an overview of municipal governance in Ontario. Kelli Saunders presented the history of the International Rainy-Lake of the Woods Watershed Board, and Natasha Szach spoke about the roles of women as keepers of the water.

Thought-provoking questions:

1. How does what you've learned compare or apply to governance in your industry/field?
2. What is the state of collaborative governance in your industry/field?
3. How do you remedy situations in which there are conflicting governance models operating?

Discussion themes (responses to all three questions):

- Both governance systems are constrained by upper levels of government
- Do what you believe is right, despite getting yourself into hot water

- Limitations are created by continual Council-level leadership changes
- Acceptance and prejudice exists on both sides
- Identify commonalities – ground, goals, issues, opportunities
- One must listen to learn
- Disagreeing is part of the process, not the end of the process
- Collaboration extends beyond Council leadership levels
- Education is part of the process; needed to understand how and why we do what we do
- Open communication is the foundation
- Live and believe: We Are All Treaty People

Topic: Cross-Cultural Collaboration

The afternoon session focused on examples of strong cross-cultural collaborations from around the Treaty 3 region. Sioux Lookout Mayor Dennis Leney and Lac Seul First Nation Chief Clifford Bull presented community collaboration via the Friendship Accord; Peter Moen from Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing presented on First Nations collaboration with Osisko Mining in the Rainy River District; and Teika Newton summarized the collaborative workings of the Common Ground Research Forum.

Thought-provoking questions:

1. How do these experiences compare with your own efforts to build relationship as a Treaty person?

2. What have you learned today and how will you apply it to continue to renew, build and maintain your relationships and practices moving forward?

Discussion themes (responses to both questions):

- Enjoy the process of developing partnerships; be friends first
- Celebrate the successes
- Take the risk to build trust
- Develop a process for meeting, discussing and collaborating
- Be willing to learn with and about one another
- Respect collaboration efforts are work in progress
- Connection to the land is ever-important
- It starts with youth

Topic: Governance in Practice

For the final morning of the conference, delegates heard two talks focused on different practical aspects of governance. Mark Luke, of MNP, gave a summary of recommended corporate governance practices for First Nations businesses. Adolphus Cameron spoke about the multi-jurisdictional Wabaseemoong Child Welfare Agreement, which has set a precedent for harmonizing community, provincial, and federal legislation around child welfare.

NEXT STEPS & COMMITMENTS

Following the last set of presentations on Day 2, rather than focusing discussions around specific thought-provoking questions, there was instead a plenary discussion in which participants summarized their overall experiences from the conference. Participants reflected on what they had learned, what they had expected, what they had gained, and shared recommendations for what might be done differently at the next Keondaatiziying gathering. In addition, some participants made personal pledges regarding how they will uphold the Treaty peoples' relationship.

As part of this plenary discussion, delegates had an opportunity to discuss how to maintain and grow the momentum of positive collaboration as members of Treaty #3. The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, in partnership with Lac Seul First Nation, eagerly accepted the opportunity to host the next gathering of Treaty partners, slated for the Fall of 2014.

Secondly, members of the delegation were invited to put their names forward to help plan, organize and orchestrate the next Keondaatiziying gathering. A group has been established and will embark on planning the next conference early in 2014. The current organizing committee is committed to working in an advisory role as the task is handed forward.

As the conference came to a close, delegates were invited to submit a written commitment as a Treaty person to what they would act upon after the conference concluded. Pledges were collected and here is a list of commitments:

- Actively seek feedback from the groups we provide services to and organize resources to share
- Advocate at the municipal/provincial levels of government for resource sharing agreements with First Nations
- Be on organizing committee for the next gathering
- Be part of the on-going process of Treaty relationships
- Branch out my services and expertise to those who need assistance
- Bring guest speaker to our area communities to discuss corporate governance
- Continue discussions with key partners since I've been invited to their communities
- Convene a forum to discuss resolution to energy issues in our area
- Educate myself in my Treaty rights and engage in cross-cultural projects.
- Educate the non-aboriginal peoples about the lives of Anishinaabe people
- Have consultations with First Nations
- Learn about the treaty and continue to work with our current relationship building exercises between First Nations and municipality
- Meet with local First Nations communities to explore opportunities of mutual benefit in economic development. Self educate on traditional teachings to develop a better understanding on a personal level
- Plan to meet with Seven Generations Education Institute to explore forming a strategic partnership to help develop a curriculum and resources to educate students on healthy living, incorporating culturally appropriate foods and learning style while using best evidence and practices.
- Promote Confederation College's Aboriginal Canadian Relations Certificate
- Promote First Nations community leadership and City Council to work together and plan strategically to grow economically
- Set up and be a part of an Anti-Racism Committee in my community
- Share knowledge and incorporate some of the basic ideas into my life and work; improve the health and wellness environment components in our curriculum
- Share the stories around Canada and internationally

FEEDBACK

Conference delegates were also invited to share thoughts and ideas of the conference to help grow the gathering's overall impact. Here is a summary of the feedback themes:

Delegates enjoyed:

- Cultural ceremonies
- Networking opportunities
- Partnership presentations whereby two parties are represented
- Opportunity for partnerships with schools and educators

Delegates' suggested areas for improvement:

- Marketing of the conference initiated earlier
- More First Nations representation
- Inclusion of youth
- Evening entertainment & activities



CONCLUDING REMARKS

As part of the ongoing rebuilding and refining of the Treaty relationship in Treaty #3, Keonndaatiziying 2013 provided an excellent opportunity for partners to come together in friendship to evaluate the current state of the relationship. Over the day and a half, delegates shared and heard success stories, learned about common obstacles and barriers shared by all in Treaty #3, and most importantly, renewed the bonds of friendship and citizenship with their fellow Treaty people.

In the end, all agreed that while there can always be more effort put into the relationship, this year, delegates were confident in celebrating the relatively recent great strides that have been made by political, social, and business leadership, as well as among regular citizens, in rebuilding the Treaty relationship as it was originally intended. The process is underway, and we are all trumpeting the familiar chant, "We are all Treaty People!"

ONLINE RESOURCES

Keonndaatiziying Conference 2013 – Photo Gallery, Presentations, Audio files
<http://www.cgrf.ca/keonndaatiziying/>

Keonndaatiziying Conference 2011 Final Report
<http://www.cgrf.ca/keonndaatiziying-2011/>



CREDITS

Conference Partners:

- Common Ground Research Forum
- Confederation College
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- City of Kenora/Lake of the Woods Development Commission
- Northwest Training & Adjustment Board
- Patricia Area Community Endeavors

Conference Sponsors:

- Hugh Munro Construction Inc
- Lake of the Woods Business Incentive Corp
- MNP
- Rainy River Future Development Corporation
- Titan Contractors

Conference Organizing Committee:

- Brain Miles, PACE
- Cuyler Cotton, Dovetail Resources
- Debbie Lipscombe, Grand Council Treaty #3
- Dennis McDermid, Lake of the Woods Development Commission
- Fred Greene, Miisun
- Garry McKinnon, Atikokan Economic Development Corporation
- Geraldine Kakeeway, Confederation College
- Jennifer Findlay, City of Kenora/Lake of the Woods Development Commission
- Nancy Tulloch, Province of Ontario
- Rory McMillan, Councilor, City of Kenora
- Sherry Moreau, 7 Generations Education Institute
- Sonja Wainio, Northwest Training & Adjustment Board
- Teika Newton, Common Ground Research Forum

Traditional Protocols and Ceremonies:

- Clifford Skead, Wauzhushk Onigum
- Frances Kavanaugh, Naotkamewaning

Conference Coordinator:

Mike Greaves, Squarepeg Solutions

Conference Emcee:

Stan Wesley

Conference Venue:

Manidoo baawaatig –
7 Generations Education Institute
Kenora, ON



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

5:30 PM Opening Ceremonies – *led by Elder Clifford Skead*
Walk on the Land
Musical guests: Highwind

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

8:15 AM Morning Ceremony
Continental Breakfast – sponsored by LOWBIC, PACE, RRFDC

9:00 AM Governance

Treaty 3 Governance – *Former Grand Chief Diane Kelly*
Municipal Governance – *Karen Brown, City of Kenora CAO*
Watershed Collaboration – *Kelli Saunders*
Keepers of the Water – *Natasha Szach*

Health Break, sponsored by MNP

Discussion & Collaboration

12:30 PM Lunch, sponsored by Titan Contractors

1:30 PM Cross-cultural Collaboration

Friendship Accord: Sioux Lookout & Lac Seul First Nation –
Mayor Leney @ Chief Bull
Pwi-Di-Goo-Zing Ne-Yaa-Zhing & Osisko Mining – *Peter Moen*
Common Ground Research Forum – *Teika Newton*

Health Break, sponsored by MNP

Discussion & Collaboration

4:30 PM Adjournment

5:30 PM Traditional Dinner Feast, sponsored by
Hugh Munro Construction
Keynote Presentation – *Rick Wallace*

RICK WALLACE



Rick Wallace brings over 20 years of experience as an adult educator with specialized knowledge in conflict resolution, negotiation, international law and indigenous rights. Rick's new book (September 2013) on community-based processes of peacebuilding, social change and community development looks at re-envisioning grassroots alliance building between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, activists and NGOs in Canada. Rick has a PhD from the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford in the UK.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

8:30 AM Morning Ceremony
Continental Breakfast – sponsored by LOWBIC, PACE, RRFDC

9:15 AM Wealth Sharing & Sustainability

Corporate Governance – *Chad Lins*
Wabaseemoong Child & Family Services Agreement –
Adolphus Cameron

Health Break, sponsored by Northwest Training &
Adjustment Board

Facilitated Workshop

11:45 AM Closing Ceremonies

SHIUX LOOKOUT FRIENDSHIP ACCORD

WHEREAS The Municipality of Sioux Lookout is committed to strengthening its relationships with First Nation governments and people in and around the Sioux Lookout area;

AND WHEREAS the Sioux Lookout Friendship Accord has been drafted to provide the overall framework upon which the Municipality will build agreements and action plans in partnership with First Nation governments and people;

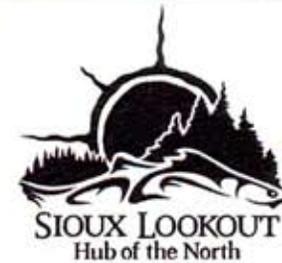
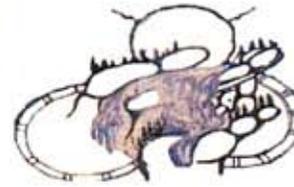
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Municipality of Sioux Lookout, within the traditional area of Lac Seul First Nation, recognizes the significant contributions First Nations people and organizations have made to this community.

Together, we acknowledge and honour our ancestors, traditions and the spirit of Sioux Lookout which first drew First Nations people together. We acknowledge and honour the long history of service to the community that continues to be embodied by the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and its employees. We acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 3 land and play an integral role as a 'service hub' to the Treaty 5 and Treaty 9 communities, and together we call upon our traditions and spirit to maintain a respectful and lasting relationship between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and First Nation peoples.

We believe that all people in the Sioux Lookout Area are served well through positive relationships between the Municipality of Sioux Lookout and the First Nation communities. We have a mutual need for First Nation people to be involved in all aspects of the community to ensure the ongoing development of culturally-sensitive municipal services that meet First Nation needs.

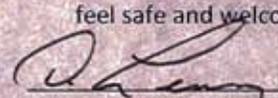
We believe that good relationships must be based upon a foundation of shared values of honesty, respect, mutual sharing and contribution. These values enhance our community as well as our collective social, spiritual, economic and physical well-being. They also serve our shared interests within the guidelines of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, responsiveness and shared stewardship.



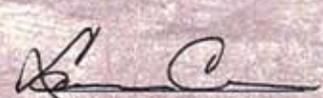
This principle-based relationship agreement between First Nation communities, people in the Sioux Lookout Area, and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout, establishes commitments and objectives to be put in place in order to make Sioux Lookout a better place for all residents and visitors. Milestones shall be set and our progress reviewed.

This Accord shall provide the framework for the development of agreements regarding, but not limited to, the following:

- The recognition and respect of the various levels of First Nation government, culture and people;
- Regional leadership, demonstrating how Municipal and First Nation governments can work together;
- The development of protocols to establish open and improved lines of communication;
- Supporting First Nation culture and the development of recreation and leisure activities that are culturally appropriate;
- Encourage First Nation investment in Sioux Lookout including, but not limited to, people, culture, business, community and social participation;
- Increase First Nation participation in our local economy;
- Improve our community by making it more economically vibrant and sustainable;
- Investing in our youth, the future of our community, by ensuring cultural, recreational, educational, and career opportunities are readily available; and,
- Addressing root causes relating to public safety, so that all residents and visitors feel safe and welcome in the community.


Mayor Dennis Loney


Chief Clifford Bull


Chief Lorraine Crane

July 6, 2012
Date