Memorandum To: Principals of Elementary Schools
Principals of Secondary Schools
Principals of Provincial Schools
Principals of First Nation Schools

From: George Zegarac
Ministry of Education

David de Launay
Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Date: May 5, 2014

Subject: The First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario – A new treaty awareness resource

The Ontario government is providing you with tools to help increase knowledge and awareness about some upcoming observances that you can recognize at your school and in your community.

June is National Aboriginal History Month, June 21 is National Aboriginal History Day, and August 1 is the 250th anniversary of the Treaty of Fort Niagara. To help recognize these, we are providing you with:

- a printed version of the First Nations and Treaties map of Ontario; and

- a supplementary document called Information for Educators to help you and the educators at your school use the map to support awareness about treaties in Ontario.

Recognizing the upcoming National Aboriginal History Month in June, along with National Aboriginal Day on June 21 would provide your students with a wonderful learning opportunity.

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1 This map is intended for educators to help them support increased knowledge and awareness about treaties in Ontario in a variety of curriculum areas. It provides a general illustration of treaty areas for information purposes. It has been developed using a number of publicly available sources. For more information, please see the disclaimer/information note on the map.
They can learn about the historic contributions of Aboriginal peoples to the development of Canada, as well as the strength of present-day Aboriginal communities and their promise for the future.

The maps will encourage Ontario students and schools to achieve excellence and ensure more equity for all students.

The distribution of the *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario also aligns with the vision in Ontario’s *First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework*, which is that “all students in Ontario will have knowledge and appreciation of contemporary and traditional First Nation, Métis and Inuit traditions, cultures, and perspectives” (pg. 7).

The *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario draws attention to the importance and impact of treaty relationships in Ontario. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 formalized the ground rules for treaty-making across what is now Canada. On August 1, 1764, the Treaty of Fort Niagara renewed and extended the series of Crown commercial and military alliances with the First Nations of northeastern North America. Many of these First Nations upheld this alliance by supporting Britain in the War of 1812, ensuring the survival of British North America.

The *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario for educators and students was created by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and was discussed with First Nation partners.

*Information for Educators* is a support document provided by the Ministry of Education. It helps you and your staff to easily identify places in the Ontario curriculum where the *First Nations and Treaties* map can be used as a resource. It also contains ideas about ways to profile the map and raise treaty awareness at your school.

While there are opportunities for students to learn about treaties throughout the Ontario curriculum, the most direct connections can be found in:

- Social Studies, Grades 1 to 6; History and Geography, Grades 7 and 8, 2013 (revised)
- Canadian and World Studies, Grades 9 and 10, 2013 (revised)
- Canadian and World Studies, Grades 11 and 12, 2005 [Note: This curriculum is currently being revised and is anticipated to be released in 2014]
- Social Sciences and Humanities, Grades 9 to 12, 2013 (revised)
- Native Studies, Grades 9 and 10, 1999; and Grades 11 and 12, 2000
  [Note: This curriculum is currently being revised and is anticipated to be released in 2014 as *First Nations, Métis and Inuit Studies, Grades 9 to 12*.]

Additional copies of the map can be ordered through Service Ontario at ontario.ca/publications or by calling 416-326-5300 or toll free within Canada: 1-800-668-9938, and at ontario.ca/treaties, where PDF versions are also available in English and French.
If you have any questions regarding the educational materials, please contact Murray Leaning at 416-325-2742 or murray.leaning@ontario.ca. If you have questions regarding the map, please see ontario.ca/treaties or email greg.coleman@ontario.ca.

We hope that the *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario helps to promote greater awareness and understanding of Ontario treaties and First Nations issues and perspectives at your school and in your community.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

George Zegarac  
Deputy Minister of Education

David de Launay  
Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Attachments:  Information for Educators  
Image of *First Nations and Treaties* map of Ontario

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