

The Treaty #3 Nation

Presentation to the Ipperwash
Inquiry

(Deputy Grand Chief Simon Fobister)



Treaty #3 Nation

- ◆ Document known as Treaty #3 signed between Canada and Anishinaabeg of Treaty #3 area on October 3, 1873
- ◆ 55,000 square miles area comprised of 28 First Nations located in NW Ontario and SE Manitoba

Sovereignty

- ◆ The people of Treaty #3 never gave up its sovereignty
- ◆ It is the federal and provincial government's responsibility to respect and learn how to deal with us as a nation

The Anishinaabeg of Treaty #3

- ◆ Population approx. 25,000
- ◆ Half reside on First Nations
- ◆ Almost half of population are under 18 years old
- ◆ Population on First Nations range from about 100-1,300

Grand Council Treaty #3

- ◆ Traditional government representing the 28 Treaty #3 First Nations
- ◆ Ogichidaa (Grand Chief) is elected as spokesperson for Treaty #3 nation
- ◆ Mandate “protect, promote, and advocate Treaty and Aboriginal rights”
- ◆ Improving the socio-economic position by ensuring equal quality of service and access to services and programs

St. Catherine's Milling case

- ◆ No consultation with Ojibways of Treaty #3
- ◆ Dealt with who owned timber rights on Treaty #3 lands
- ◆ Held Indians rights are a mere burden on provincial Crown land

Manito Aki Inakonigaawin

- ◆ The Great Earth Law
- ◆ Treaty #3 nation's own Resource Law
- ◆ Any development on Treaty #3 lands requires consent, agreement, and participation of Anishinaabeg of Treaty #3
- ◆ Agreement will reflect Anishinaabe principles and values as related to land and environment

Anicinaabe Park Occupation

- ◆ 1974 demonstration by Ojibway Warriors at Anicinaabe Park to protest the racism and violence toward the Indians in Kenora
- ◆ Anicinaabe Park had special significance as a meeting place for the Treaty #3 people
- ◆ This ownership of this land is still in dispute

Assabaska Land Claim

- ◆ 22 years to settle a *prima facie* case of illegally relinquished Treaty #3 First Nation lands
- ◆ Case showed the unwillingness of the govt. representatives to negotiate in 'good faith' and the lack of understanding of the 'value' of the land to the Anishinaabe people

Grassy Narrows Blockade

- ◆ Started by grassroots people on December 2002 – present
- ◆ Purpose: to stop clear-cutting on traditional lands
- ◆ Result: preventing logging trucks from entering traditional territory
- ◆ Non-violent protest that has gained international support