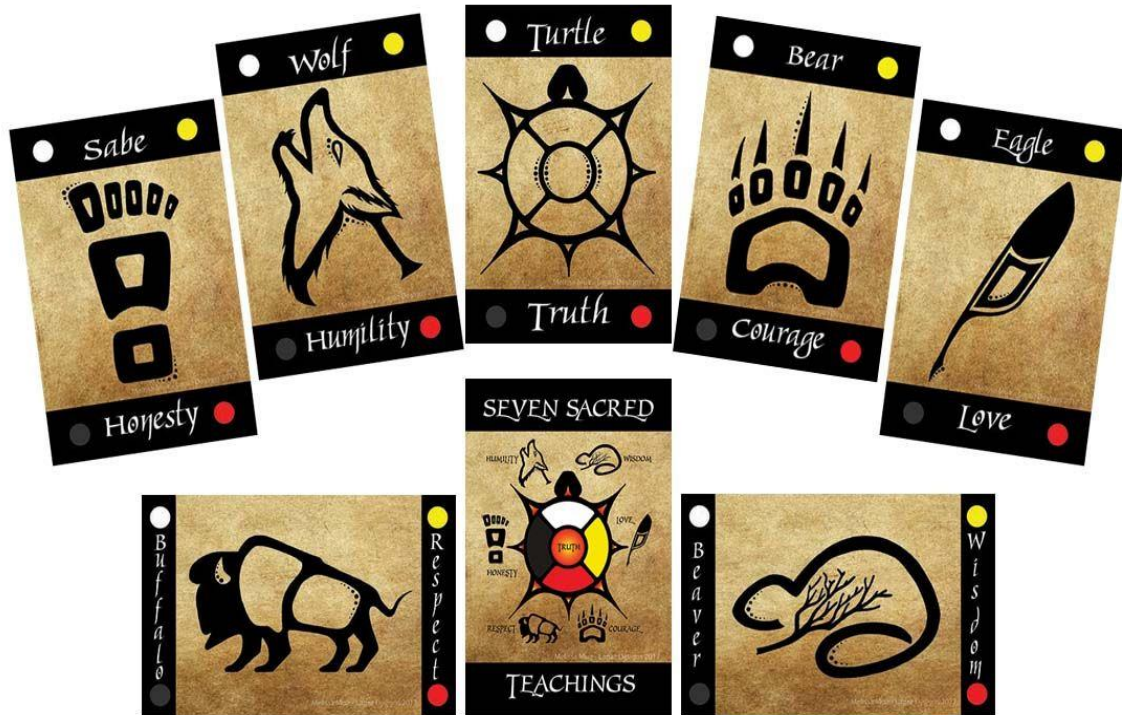


# Seven Sacred Teachings Buckskin poster set



Melissa Muir - Lagaz Designs 2017

Honor the treaties

By

Bella Morrisseau Whiskeyjack

## Chapter 1: Who am I?

Hi, I am Bella Morrisseau Whiskeyjack, from Saddle lake Cree Nation. My past life has been very difficult because of one simple contract.

The contract of Treaty 6, this is my story.

It all started on August 23 in 1876.



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This is a picture of me riding my horse Black Beauty

I was riding my horse Black Beauty across the plains of our land that summer.

The Canadian government came to our people and said, “ We want you to see this, the Treaty 6 contract. What we propose to your people is that you give us your land and we will give you a reserve. There you will have access to housing, healthcare and education!!

“Is it a deal” asked the Canadian government?

The trappers, hunters and others had forced our people into exile; our chief and council went away to decide.

The chief and council agreed to take this treaty 6, which should protect our people.

The chief and the Canadian government met and shook hands, it was an agreement.



This is a picture of Treaty 6.

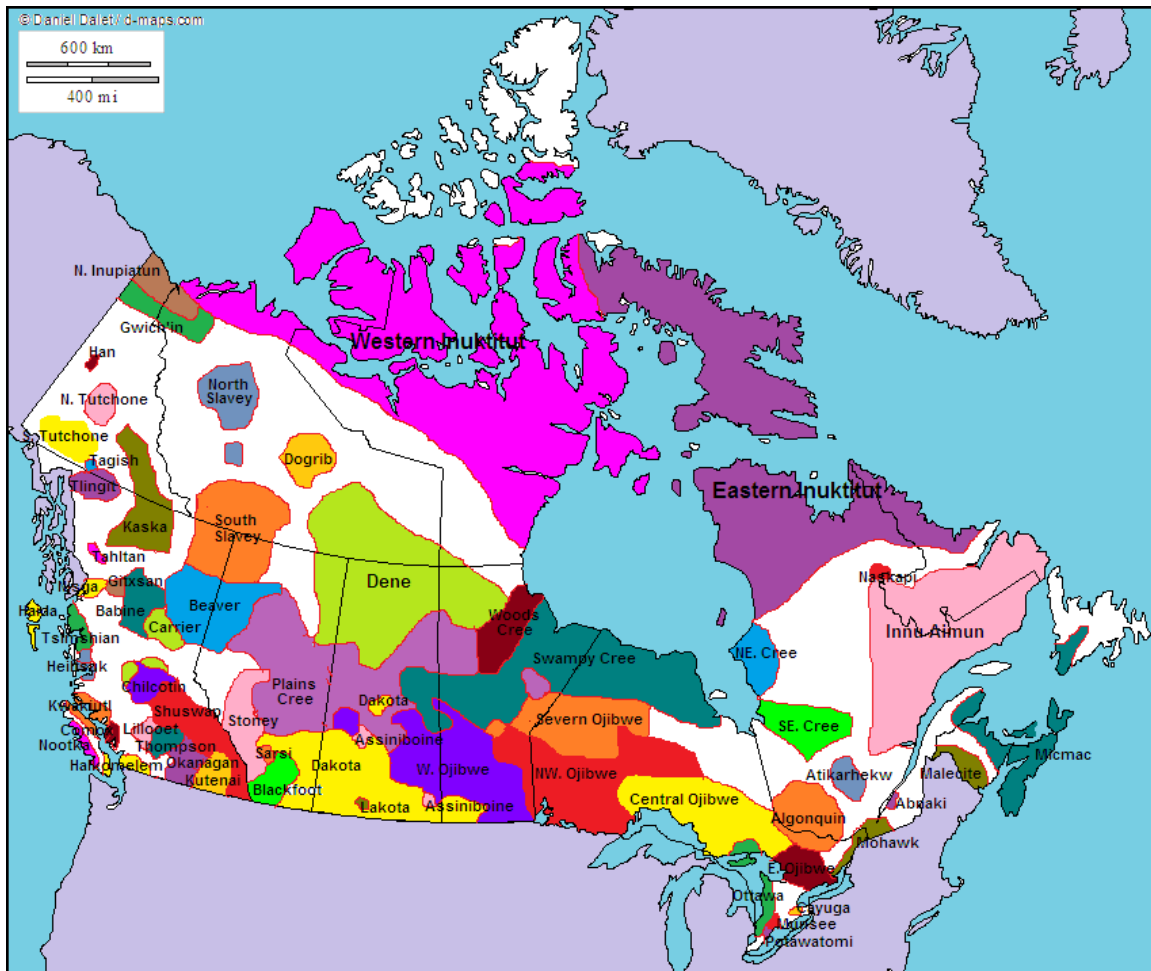
## Chapter 2: What is a treaty?

You may be wondering what is a treaty? Well a treaty is an agreement between two nations. This treaty is an agreement between the First Nations people and the Canadian government. Treaties can be promises or broken promises/ tricks.

In every place where there are First Nations, most of the time there is at least one treaty.

There are 11 treaties in Canada; First Nations people and the Canadian government sign most treaties.

Of course the treaties were not well understood by the First Nations people as they were written in English



This is a picture of the First Nations spoken languages

### Chapter 3: “The housing is not good!”

I just got to the reserve and it was not as nice as I expected. 1 year passed and my housing, healthcare and education were not good.

1<sup>st</sup> thing the housing was terrible and not clean. There were gross bugs crawling on the floor, spiders and spider webs on each corner, and our ceiling would leak!

Our basement was covered in black mold, **so I did not want to go in the basement.**

I guess what I am trying to say here is, my home turned out not to be very safe or decent. The housing should have been better than it was. I expected something healthy and good for civilization.



This is a house on a Canadian reserve

#### **Chapter 4: “I need a better Education”**

I did get an education I attended daycare and preschool. I know it sounds like a blast but it isn't. Now the teachers were not good teachers, they would ignore me and not treat me well.

I thought to myself “I need a better education”





This is a picture of me thinking about getting a better education.

The only good person was the bus driver he was the greatest.

The schools were definitely not well equipped or organized for example:

They did not have windows, they did not have comfortable nap times, and they woke me up earlier than the rest of the kids to clean up crayons!!



This is a picture of my grouchy teacher.

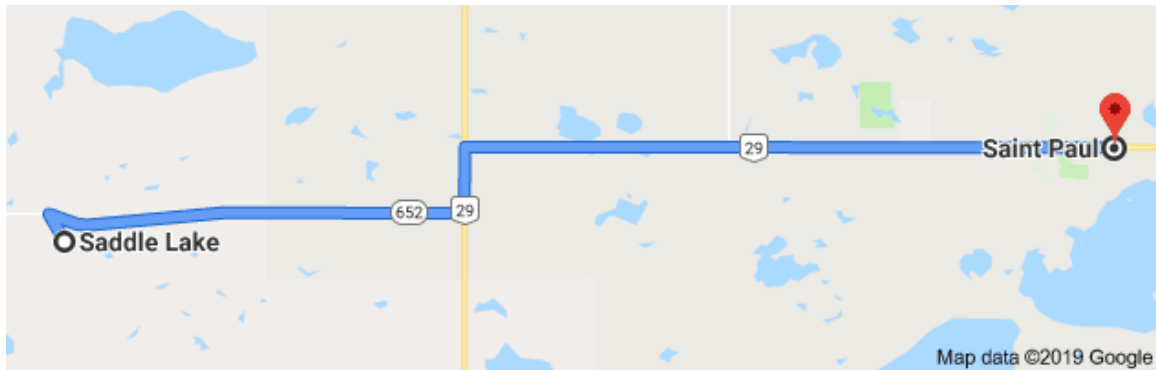
### **Chapter 5: "I feel Sick"**

I just got back home from school and I feel terrible. What I mean about feeling terrible is, I am sick. I am getting sick often, I think it's because we don't have enough medicine to keep our family and ourselves healthy.

I know St. Paul is the closest place to get medicine. St. Paul is also a very far drive; it is a 45-minute drive and boring.

St. Paul was not very helpful because if there was a health or any kind of emergency, St. Paul was very far away.





This is a map of how far away St. Paul is to my house.

### **Chapter 6: What is the threat in the Treaty?**

You may be wondering why would the First Nations sign the contract, when they already had what they were offered.

The First nations people were told to go away or be killed. The Canadian government only wanted the land to give to the settlers to start farms.

Settlers were very desperate for land and to build farms and have their towns. The Canadian government seen that the First Nations people were starving and the settlers wanted land

The treaty was supposed to make both sides feel better, the First nations people were never respected or the Treaty Honored.

## Chapter 7: Comparing Canadian Government, Settlers and First Nations

Canada offered:	Settlers received	First nations received
Housing	Housing	Substandard
Education	Education	Residential Schools
Health Care	Health Care	Not available
Land	Land	Reserves
Resources	Resources	
Goods	Goods	
Enforcement	Enforcement	

Canadian government already had the items

Settlers wanted to take the items

First nations provided the items to survive and shared with the settlers.

## Chapter 8: What do I do with this?

I was asked to participate in the Davidson Creek Speech competition and wrote my speech, and I won!

I talked with my Papa and my Chapan about the history of Treaty 6 and shared my speech.

I was then asked to compete in the Elk Island District School division competition, in front of 400 people. I was so scared and nervous, my Papa and aunty and brother were there and friends. My Papa took my hands and said, “ I believe in you, you’re speaking for others who are not here”

This is my speech:

## Treaty 6

I am Bella Morrisseau Whiskeyjack. I'm from the Saddle Lake Cree Nation. I am here to talk to you about Treaty 6. Treaties are agreements between two nations. Treaty 6 is the agreement between the First Nations and the Canadian Government first signed on August 23, 1876. The First Nations people were promised education, housing, and health care. They are still waiting.

When I lived in Saddle Lake we had insects crawling on the floor, spiders and spider webs on each corner, and our ceiling would leak. Our basement had black mold so I was not allowed in my basement. My family did not have a decent home.

At Saddle Lake I attended daycare and preschool. The schools I went to were not well equipped and organized. At the schools the teachers were not the best teachers. My Kokum told me that my teachers would sometimes ignore me and not treat me well.

When I lived in Saddle Lake I would get sick often because we did not have enough medicine to keep our family and ourselves healthy. The closest place to get medicine was St. Paul. From my house to St. Paul was a very long drive.

Today I live with my papa, dog, and brother, Cashton. I love living in Clarkdale Meadows, in Sherwood Park, with my papa. My home is now well made, clean, and contains good food, clean water, and plenty of medicine. We even have a hospital nearby our home.

Other First Nation children are not as lucky as me. The conditions I experienced in Saddle Lake is what a lot of First Nation families go through. Treaty 6 is not fair to the First Nations. The First Nations have not received what they were promised in Treaty 6. The First Nations people are still waiting for what they were promised one hundred and forty-three years ago.

I'm Bella Morrisseau Whiskeyjack. I am one of many strong and proud members of the Saddle Lake Cree Nation who have walked these lands for thousands of years. I will not allow my people and the problems they face to be ignored any longer.

Thank-you.