

UNDERSTANDING OUR TREATIES

TREATY SIMULATION

EXPERIENCE

At the simulation, you will be guided by experts as you experience what it is like to negotiate and implement a modern treaty. It is a unique and exciting learning opportunity. You will problem-solve, work in teams, and learn how to negotiate.

I found it a very cool opportunity for us to take turns being in each of the roles and trying to understand where these people are coming from and who they represent.

GERI-LEE BUYCK

Citizen of the First Nation of Nacho Nyak Dun, Yukon
Participant, 2019 Yukon Regional Treaty Simulation

The simulation will get you interested in your treaty, help you build skills as an emerging leader, and create connections with the experts and fellow youth.

As soon as we started practicing our own negotiations, it was so fun to see everyone go into their roles and role play.

TAMARA TAKPANNIE

Urban Inuk, Family comes from Iqaluit, Nunavut
Participant, 2020 National Treaty Simulation

It was quite the experience to see and take part in the process of negotiations, where sometimes not everybody agrees.

RIANE PETERSON

Citizen of Tetlit Gwich'in First Nation, Northwest Territories
Participant, 2020 National Treaty Simulation



YOU WILL START WITH THE NEGOTIATION SIMULATION.

Each participant will be assigned to a team representing one of the governments involved in treaty negotiation.

These teams are the federal government, provincial or territorial government, and Indigenous government. The goal is for all the teams to reach an agreement on a section of a Modern Treaty.



Once you get your team assignment, your government will provide your team with a mandate letter from your leadership.

A mandate letter clearly states what your team is expected to achieve in the negotiations on behalf of the government or community.

You and your team will review the letter and prepare a proposal for what your team wants included in the treaty. Then, you will write a short opening statement to present your proposal at the negotiation meeting.



I know what you're thinking: "But I don't know how to write a negotiation proposal or an opening statement!" Perfect! That's why experts will be there to help.

These experts have years of experience in this work and are there for you. We will also provide plenty of background information and additional materials to help you prepare.



IT'S TIME TO NEGOTIATE!

All the government teams will come together and decide who is hosting the negotiation. You will also need to select a notetaker to document the final agreement.

The hosting team will start with their opening statement, followed by the other teams. After opening statements, you will go through each other's proposals and negotiate until you come to an agreement.

It is a negotiation, so there will be times when you do not agree with the other governments' proposals. You can call a 'caucus,' which is a break where your team takes a time out to discuss and determine next steps.

After you reach an agreement, you will reflect on the experience with the other participants. You will share what worked well, what was challenging, and what you learned.



But it does not end there! Time permitting, you will also participate in an Implementation Simulation.

You will be assigned to a different government with different team members and receive a new mandate letter that offers direction from your team's government or community. This time, the goal is to **implement** a section of a **completed** modern treaty. You will need to reach an agreement that meets the needs of all the parties. At the end, you will get a chance to reflect and share about your experience.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR TREATY THROUGH A SIMULATION?

Treaty negotiations has a life beyond just setting the parameters of what authorities we might have, how much land you might have, what programs and services you can deliver yourself—the governance piece—those things still need a lot of work, and it's going to continue to work. But in the meantime, how do we engage? That's the question. And part of that engagement is to simulate what was discussed at those tables, what the intents were, and what the envisioning for the future was. To share that with the youth and mentor them through a simulation of negotiations

JOHN B. ZOE

Citizen of Tłı̨ch̨ Nation, Northwest Territories
Negotiator, Tłı̨ch̨ Agreement, Northwest Territories