

Graphic Elements & Symbolism - Commitment to Truth & Reconciliation Logo



Sweetgrass

Sweetgrass is known as the hair of mother earth, used to represent resilience, strength, and healing through truthful dialogue.

Employed by almost all Indigenous people within North America as a sacred medicine, for ritual cleansing and ceremony, sweetgrass when burned purifies and eliminates negative energies.

Sweetgrass retains its fragrance and spirit after cutting. When walked on, it bends but does not break. When braided, each section of the braid signifies the mind, body and spirit.

Eagle Feather

The eagle feather is used as a symbol of truth, power and freedom.

It is believed that there is a sacred connection with the eagle to the Creator, and one who is given an eagle feather must speak the truth in a positive way, showing respect at all times.

Divided into two parts, the eagle feather represents the balance between light and dark. With significance to the logo, the eagle feather is an acknowledgement of the darkness of the past with the commitment to future solidarity, respect, and kindness.

Beads

Beads are used to represent all people and communities uniting towards a common goal of truth and reconciliation. As beads are commonly used as a significant means of narrative within the First Nation, Métis and Inuit cultures, they also represent storytelling, education, and intergenerational connection.

The use of the double row of beads is a respectful acknowledgement of the contributions and teachings instilled by the late Elder Mike Pinay Regina Catholic school division Elder. He always wore a cowboy hat with an eagle feather and a beautiful beaded band.

Circle

The Circular shape represents the path of life as a continuous cycle, harmony, unity, and future movement towards healing. The circular shape also echoes that of a drum. The power of the drum is used in many sacred ceremonial and spiritual practices, where it represents the heartbeat of Mother Earth, guiding its people home and healing the negative. The red circular wheel is representative of the traditional people of the south as shown on the sacred medicine wheel.

Flags

Section 35 of the Constitution Act states:

- (1) The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.
- (2) In this Act, "aboriginal peoples of Canada" include First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.

The three Aboriginal flags acknowledge, celebrate and honor our First Nations, Inuit and Métis families. The flags are depicted in a cyclical formation going clockwise as flowing and being spiritually connected.

Treaty 4 Flag

Treaty 4 was made between the Cree, Nahkawé, and Nakota Nations and Canada (on behalf of the British Crown and the newcomers) on September 15, 1874 in the Qu'Appelle Valley. All people who live on the land in Treaty 4 territory live on treaty land. All people benefit from the promises made in Treaty 4. That is why "WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE".

The symbols on the Treaty Four Flag represent the following: The buffalo was very important to the survival of the Cree, Nahkawé, and Nakota people. When the buffalo disappeared, they needed a new way to make a living. Education was one of the promises made to First Nations people. Their children and those yet to be born would benefit from the promise of education. That is why many Elders say that "*Education is the new buffalo*". The symbols (sun, grass, and water) represent the phrase, "As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the waters flow" and was used to signify that the promises made in Treaty 4 will last forever.

All symbols reflected in the Treaty Four flag have profound meaning to the people who live within the Treaty Four boundaries. The Late Senator Gordon Oakes designed the white flag with a medicine wheel in mind.

Métis Flag

The Métis flag has a blue background with a white infinity symbol that has two meanings:

- The joining of two cultures
- The existence of a people forever

The blue infinity flag is a Métis national flag and represented the political and military force of the Métis as early as 1816. This flag is still flown by the Métis Nation today.

Reconciliation Saskatchewan Flag- the symbol of “Reconciliation”.

Reconciliation can take many forms. In 2017, spearheaded by the Office of the Treaty Commission an invested group of Saskatoon people gathered to create a visual marker as a reminder and commitment to making change. We have been given permission to embed this powerful symbol into our design, as it will become recognized as the Saskatchewan Reconciliation symbol.

This symbol depicts a:

- **Star** = journey, comfort
- **Flower shape**= New growth, 4 colors = 4 directions, 4 seasons, 4 colors of man.
- **Arrow shapes** = gather and unify to create one shape
- **Space in between**= represents the gap that can be addressed through reconciliation
- **Circle**= The Circle of Life, a meeting circle creates a safe place for dialogue, Seven Sacred Teachings: Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, Truth and introducing an eighth dot, a new Sacred Fire: The Reconciliation Project

Nunavut Flag

The official flag of Nunavut was proclaimed on April 1, 1999, along with the territory of Nunavut in Canada. It features a red inuksuk—a traditional Inuit land marker—and a blue star, which represents the Niqirtsuituq, the North Star, and the leadership of elders in the community. The colors blue and yellow represent the riches of the land, sea and sky. It was adopted through the process of input from local communities and submissions from the Canadian public.

Circle of Voices

The center image represents the Regina Catholic School Divisions *Circle of Voices First Nations, Inuit & Métis Education Advisory Committee* that was first established in 2007. The advisory committee provides an opportunity for on-going open dialogue between First Nations, Inuit and Métis students and families within Regina Catholic Schools. The colored shapes represent the collective group who meet to dialogue throughout the active school year that have a shared vision of improving outcomes for First Nations, Inuit and Métis students within Regina Catholic Schools.

Reconciling the Past- Honouring the Future- We Are All Treaty People

A written reminder that we all have a shared collective history and a collective responsibility to actively engage in learning and understanding our Canadian Indigenous people and our school division’s commitment to “Reconciliation”.