



SAGKEENG QUICK FACTS

- ◆ The Sagkeeng First nation (SFN) Traditional Territory covers just under 3 million square kilometres with a total population of approximately 6,400 people, including Fort Alexander Reserve.
- ◆ The Anicinabe people of Sagkeeng have lived upon and from the Traditional Territory since time immemorial – many centuries prior to the arrival of Europeans on the continent. They governed access to and use of the land. They conserved and protected it in order to assure the well being of present and future generation. They shared its bounty with others, as required by longstanding relationships rooted in respect and responsibility.
- ◆ What the SFN is seeking is recognition from the Federal Government and Province of Manitoba of their right to manage, use and occupy their land for the benefit and survival of their people.
- ◆ The SFN signed Treaty One in 1871. Treaty One makes no reference to the traditional lands of the SFN lying outside its boundaries. The SFN Traditional Territory was never surrendered to the Queen. That's why they maintain unextinguished title to the land.
- ◆ Unextinguished title means ownership of the land. Aboriginal Title is a communal right. Title lands cannot be sold and there is no right of individual ownership flowing from Title.
- ◆ The Governments of Canada and Manitoba have failed to recognize the exclusive rights of the SFN to manage the land and benefit from its resources. The honour of the Crown has not been upheld.
- ◆ This failure has harmed the land and the people of the SFN. The land has been exploited and used by others while traditional harvesters have seen a severe restriction in their traditional rights to use and occupy the land.
- ◆ This case is not about retribution. It is about recognizing the rights of the SFN and about reconciling their interest in the land with the interests of others.
- ◆ This case is about building a future for the SFN based upon what they have always done – to act as stewards of the land for the benefit and survival of their people.
- ◆ This case is unique in Manitoba because it is the first time a court will have to determine whether a First Nation has a continuing land right outside its Treaty area.