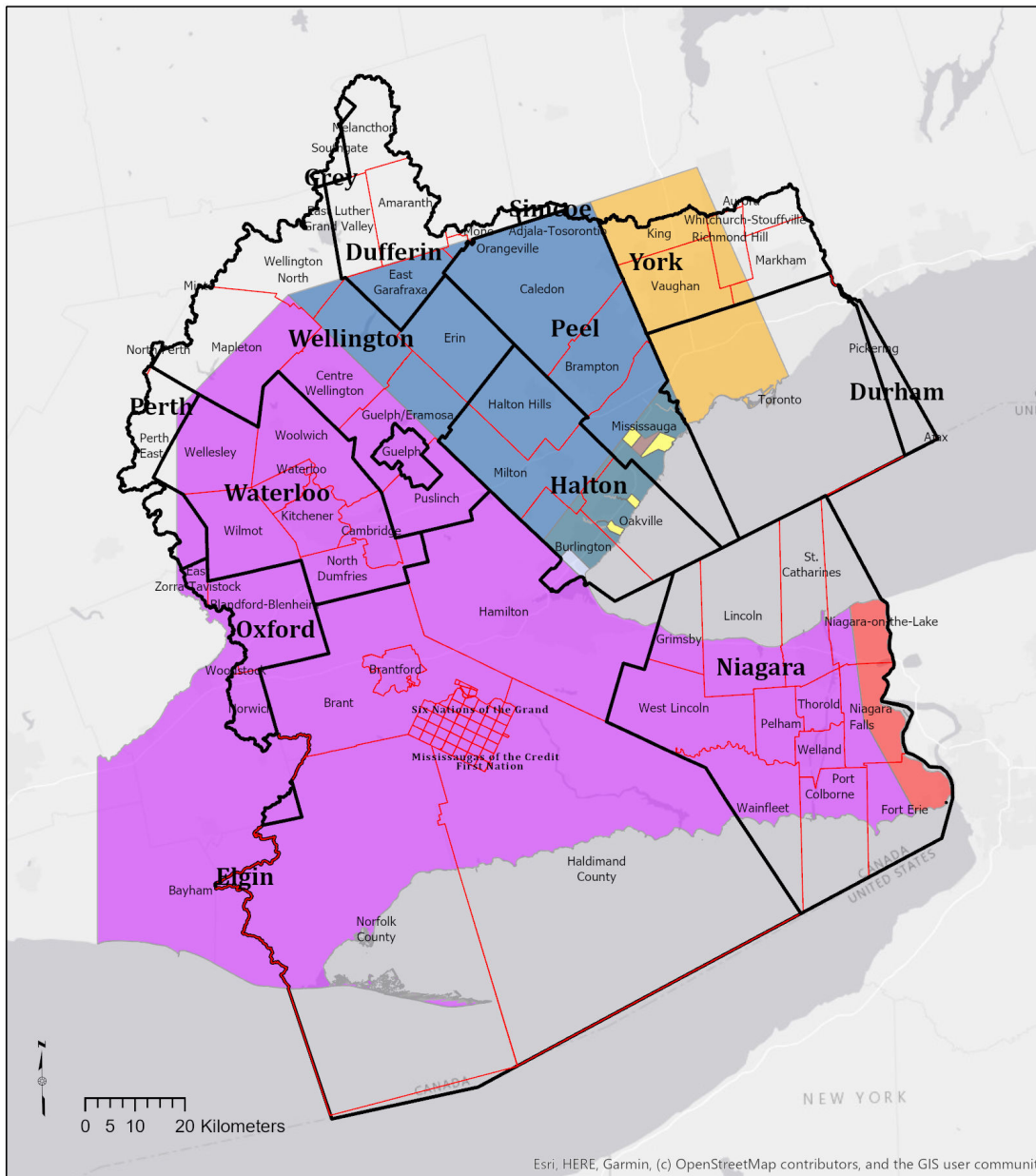




MISSISSAUGAS OF THE CREDIT TREATY BOOKLET



Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community

**UPPER AND LOWER TIER MUNICIPALITIES
WITHIN
MCFN TREATY LANDS AND TERRITORY**



- UPPER TIER MUNICIPALITIES
- LOWER TIER MUNICIPALITIES
- MCFN TERRITORY
- MISSISSAUGAS TREATY AT NIAGARA NO. 381 (1781)
- BETWEEN THE LAKES TREATY, NO. 3 (1792)
- BRANT TRACT TREATY, NO. 8 (1797)
- TORONTO PURCHASE TREATY, NO. 13 (1805)
- HEAD OF THE LAKE TREATY, NO. 14 (1806)
- AJETANCE TREATY, NO. 19 (1818)
- TREATY 22 (1820)
- TREATY 23 (1820)

MCFN Guidelines for Land Acknowledgements within MCFN Territory

1. Using the map: Municipalities within Mississaugas of the Credit Treaty Lands and Territory (located at mncfn.ca), research the location of your event / organization within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.

(a) If the location falls within one of the treaty areas, your land acknowledgement should make reference to the “Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation.”

Ie. *We meet today within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation...*

(b) If your location falls outside the treaty areas, but within the territorial boundaries of *the MCFN*, reference should be made to the “Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation”.

Ie. *We are pleased to meet today on the Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation...*

2. In the land acknowledgement, one may cite the specific treaty area in which the organization/event is located, or alternatively, simply make a more general statement regarding the Treaty Lands.

Ie. (specific treaty area)

As we gather in Milton today, we recognize that we meet within the bounds of the Ajetance Treaty agreed upon by the Mississaugas of the Credit and the British Crown in 1818.

Ie. (general)

As we gather today in Hamilton, we meet within the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

3. Many land acknowledgements give recognition to First Nations that had previously occupied the land prior to the arrival of the ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit. The land in question is known as the “traditional territory” of the former occupants. Depending upon location, the acknowledgement might reference the traditional territories of the Huron-Wendat, Neutral, Petun, or Haudenosaunee Nations. Alternatively, a collective acknowledgement referring to the previous occupants of the land may also be employed.

Ie. (specific First Nations)

Today we gather on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation as well as the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Ie. (collective: non-specific)

Today we gather on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and recognize this land as being home and traditional territory to other Indigenous people since time immemorial.

4. Additional statements, beyond a simple land/treaty recognition, are often included within the body of a land acknowledgement. Statements might include references to a spirit of reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples; a commitment to the wise stewardship of an area; or expressions of good will. When including such statements, care should be taken not to include material considered a source of contention. As an example, many land acknowledgements make mention of a “Dish with One Spoon Agreement” as a model for sharing the land and its resources. The “Dish with One Spoon” is considered controversial among First Nation as there is no consensus as to the particulars of the “Agreement”.

5. Be specific when constructing the land acknowledgement. Some statements, for example, mention the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Anishinaabek at the same time:

“We recognize we are on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Traditional Territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and the Huron Wendat.”

The term “Anishinaabe” refers to a broad range of culturally related peoples including the Ojibway, Odawa, Pottawatomi, Oji-Cree, and other Algonquians. The Mississaugas of the Credit are a sub-group of the Ojibway and have been the only Anishinaabe people to occupy, control, and exercise stewardship over the Treaty lands and Territory they now occupy. Using the term “Anishinabe” after citing the Mississaugas of the Credit is a redundancy. It is also suggested that the term “Anishinaabe” is too broad a term to be used within the statement as it inadvertently includes other First Nations that have no connection with the MCFN lands in question. Removing the word “Anishinaabe” from the statement avoids redundancy and prevents misunderstandings.

6. Construct the land acknowledgement to meet the needs of your situation. Acknowledgements may be used by governments, government agencies, schools, gatherings, events, and so. The acknowledgement may be made verbally, in print, or even posted on a plaque. Above all, the acknowledgement should be accurate as to facts and sincere in its deliverance.

7. Feel free to contact the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation’s Department of Communications to address any questions related to the construction of a land acknowledgment.

Notes:

The Rouge Tract is part of the Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. It is not covered under a treaty between the Crown and the MCFN.

The Six Nations of the Grand Reserve is located within the bounds of the Between the Lakes Treaty, No. 3, established between the Crown and Mississaugas of the Credit in 1784 and confirmed in 1792. The Treaty allowed the Crown to grant the Six Nations a parcel of land known as the Haldimand Tract in 1784. The Six Nations of the Grand hold no treaties recognized by the Crown.

Mississaugas of the Credit Treaties

Prior to European contact, the ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation occupied the lands north of Lake Huron and the area around Georgian Bay. The Mississaugas lived lightly on the lands they occupied and purposefully moved about the landscape harvesting resources as they became available.

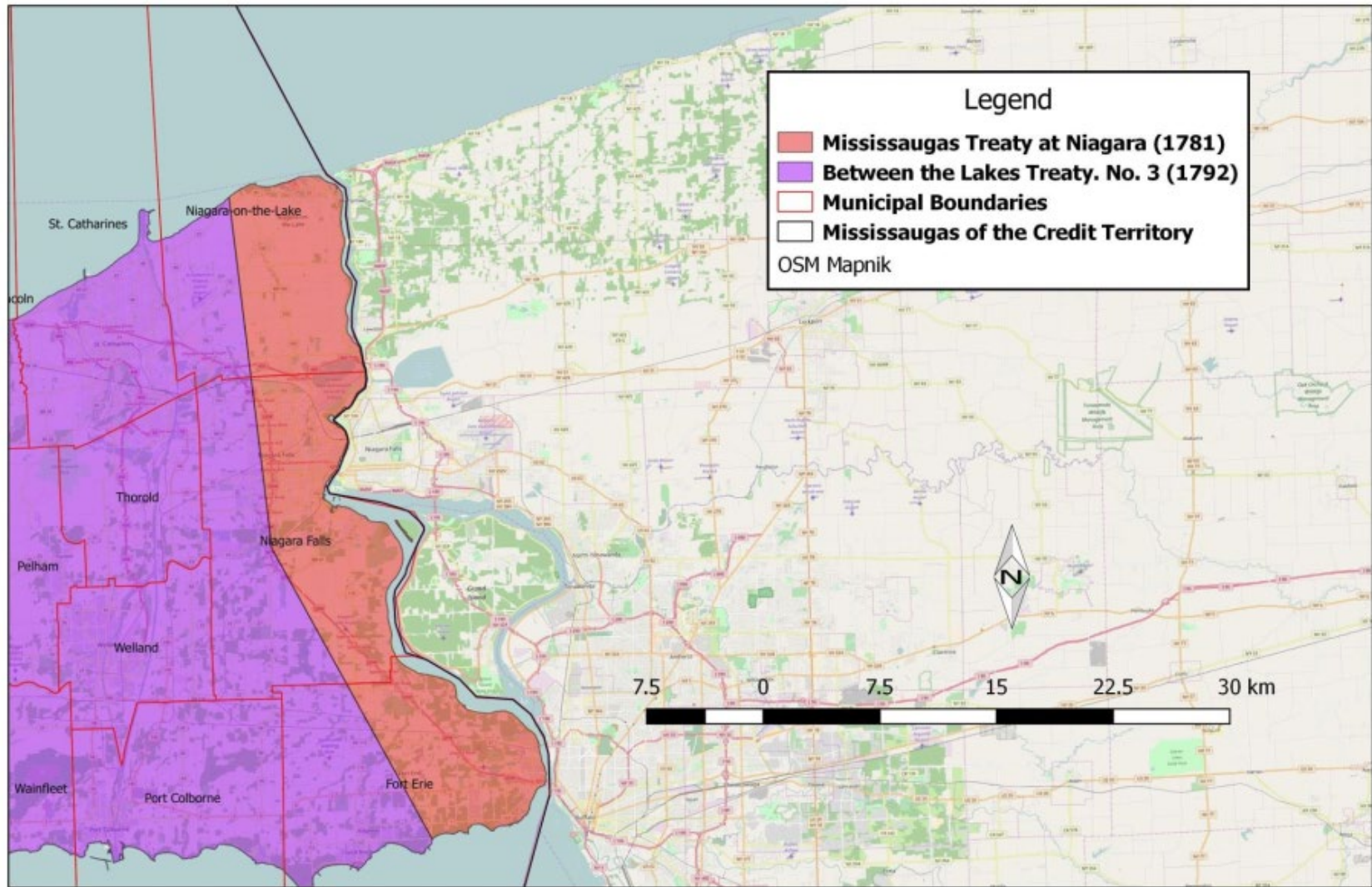
Mississauga Territory

The ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit migrated into Southern Ontario by means of military conquest. After the Iroquois had expelled the Huron from Southern Ontario in 1649-50, they continued their attacks northward into the territories occupied by the Mississaugas and their allies. By the end of the 17th century, the Mississaugas and their allies had succeeded in driving the Iroquois back into their homelands south of Lake Ontario. At the conclusion of the conflict, many Mississaugas settled at the eastern end of Lake Ontario; other Mississaugas settled at the western end of the Lake with their primary location at the mouth of the Credit River.

The Mississaugas of the Credit occupied, controlled and exercised stewardship over approximately 3.9 million acres of lands, waters, and resources in Southern Ontario. Their territory commenced "...at Long Point on Lake Erie thence eastward along the shore of the Lake to the Niagara River. Then down the River to Lake Ontario, then northward along the shore of the Lake to the River Rouge east of Toronto then up that river to the dividing ridge to the head waters of the River Thames then southward to Long Point the place of the beginning" (Rev. Peter Jones, Chief, Feb. 1855).

From the time of the conquest of New France in 1760, the British Crown recognized the inherent rights of First Nations and their ownership of the lands they occupied. The Royal Proclamation of 1763, confirmed First Nations' sovereignty over their lands and prevented anyone, other than the Crown, from purchasing that land. The Crown, needing First Nations' land for military purposes or for settlement, would first have to purchase it from its Indigenous occupants. The Crown believed that they had purchased the lands from the Mississaugas outright. From the perspective of the First Nations, the Mississaugas had agreed to share the land with the settlers and believed that this would be a mutually beneficial arrangement.

Mississaugas of the Credit continue to research claims as they relate to the treaties discussed within this booklet. Canada and Ontario continue to have a duty to consult with the Mississaugas of the Credit with respect to any project within their Territory, as it relates to Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's Treaty and Aboriginal rights.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Mississaugas Treaty at Niagara (1781)

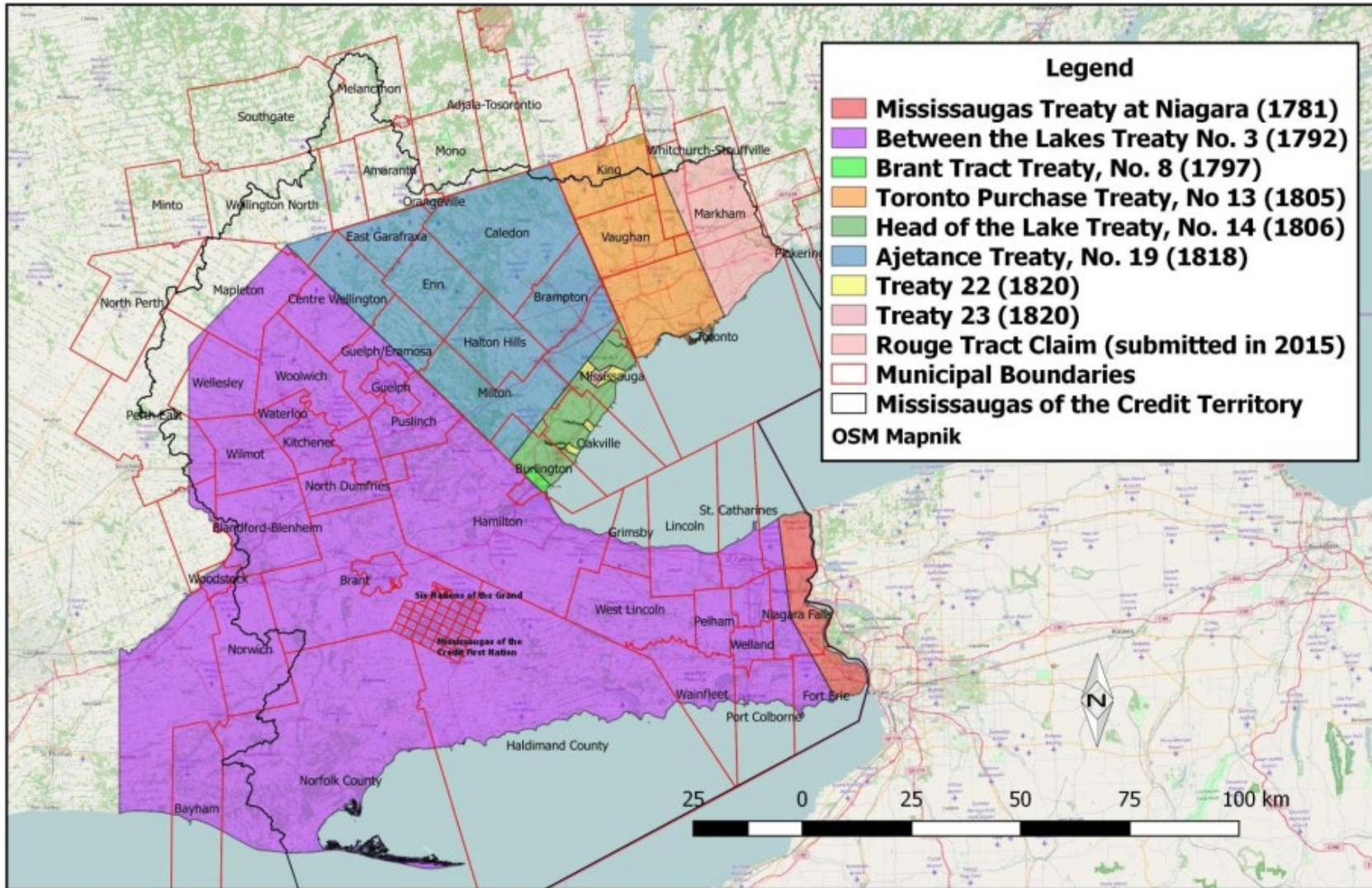


Mississaugas Treaty at Niagara, No. 381 (1781)

The American Revolution (1775-1783) compelled the British Crown to search for secure transportation and communication lines to its western garrisons. The Crown also sought land for agricultural settlements as a means to help provision the western outposts. Observing that the west bank of the Niagara River would meet its needs, the British Crown sought to purchase the desired land from the Mississaugas of the Credit.

In 1781, Col. Guy Johnson, British Superintendent of Indian Affairs, met with Mississaugas of the Credit chiefs and was able to purchase a strip of land four miles wide along the west bank of the Niagara River from Lake Ontario to Lake Erie in exchange for 300 suits of clothing. Johnson later indicated that the price of 300 suits of clothing was really no price at all as the suits were initially to have been provided to the Mississaugas in order to secure their friendship. For the Mississaugas, the Crown's purchase of the lands west of the Niagara River provided credibility to their claim that they were the rightful possessors of the lands they occupied.

Major population centres found within the area of the Mississaugas Treaty at Niagara of 1781, include Niagara-on-the-Lake, Niagara Falls, and Fort Erie.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Between the Lakes Treaty, No. 3 (1792)

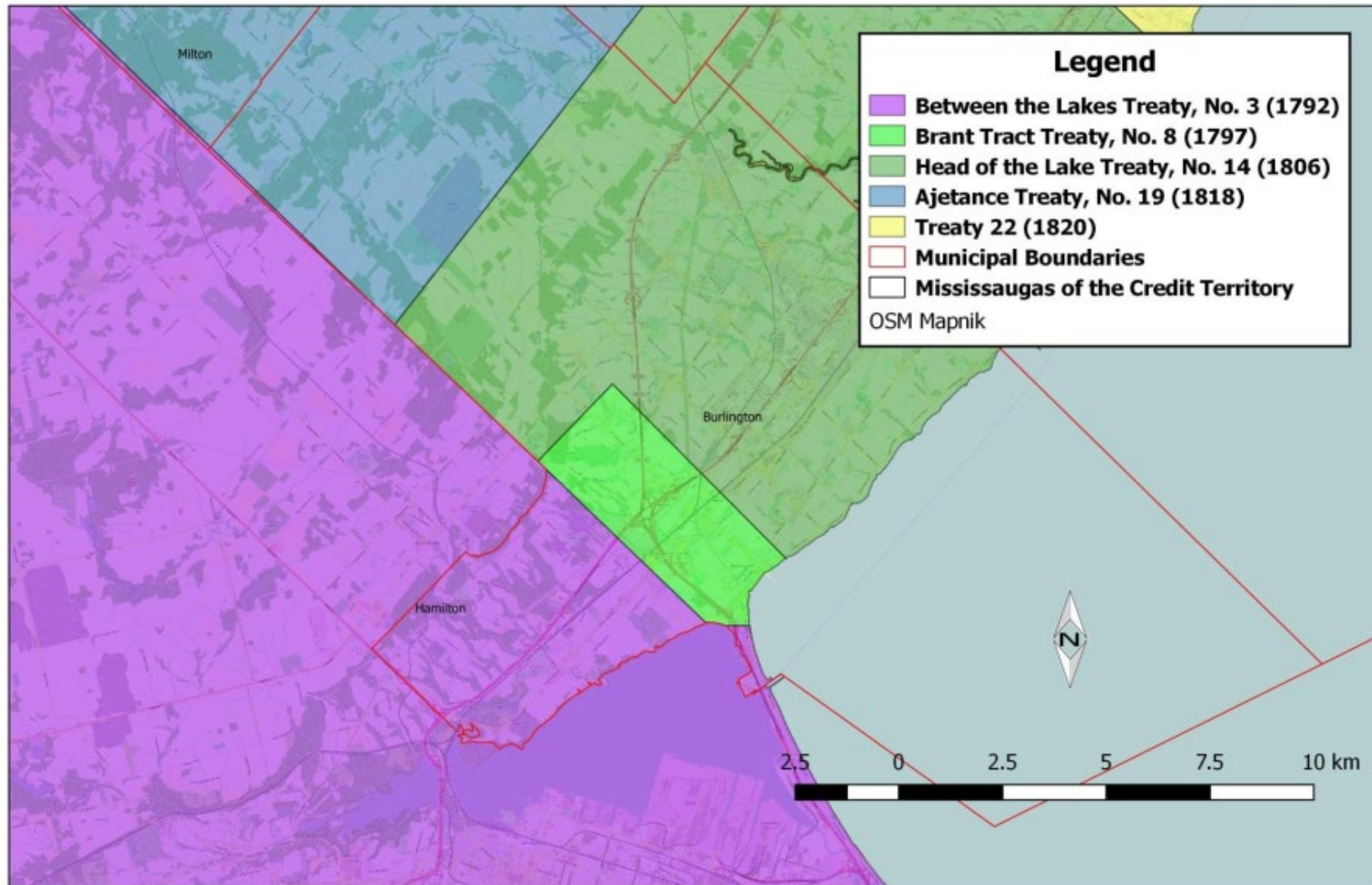
Between the Lakes Treaty, No. 3 (1784, confirmed 1792)

The arrival of Loyalists during and after the American Revolution placed pressure on the British Crown to find lands on which to settle the newcomers. Among the Loyalists were approximately 2000 members of the Six Nations who had lost their homes fighting on behalf of the Crown.

Seeking to reward his First Nation allies for their loyalty during the war, Governor Haldimand offered homes to the Six Nations refugees in the remaining British colonies. One group of the Six Nations Loyalists settled at the eastern end of Lake Ontario, while another group, under the leadership of Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant, selected the Grand River Valley as an area for settlement.

Recognizing that under the terms of the Royal Proclamation of 1763, the land needed to be purchased from its owners before the resettlement of the Grand River Valley could begin, Col. John Butler was sent to negotiate with the Mississaugas at the western end of Lake Ontario. On May 22, 1784, for the sum of £1180 worth of trade goods, the Mississaugas of the Credit ceded to the Crown approximately 3 000 000 acres of land located between Lakes Huron, Ontario, and Erie. Of those lands, some 550 000 acres were granted to the Six Nations in the Haldimand Deed (Proclamation) of October 25, 1784, with the remainder to be utilized for the settlement of other Loyalists. The land grant to the Six Nations was to extend six miles on both sides of the Grand River from its mouth to its source. When it was later discovered that the upper limits of the Between the Lakes Treaty were in error, due to faulty geographical assumptions, actual boundaries were defined and a confirming document signed by the Mississaugas and the Crown in 1792.

Major population centres found within the boundaries of the Between the Lakes Treaty include Hamilton, Cambridge, Waterloo, Guelph, Brantford, and St. Catharines. The present location of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Reserve is located on Between the Lakes Treaty lands.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Brant Tract Treaty, No. 8 (1797)

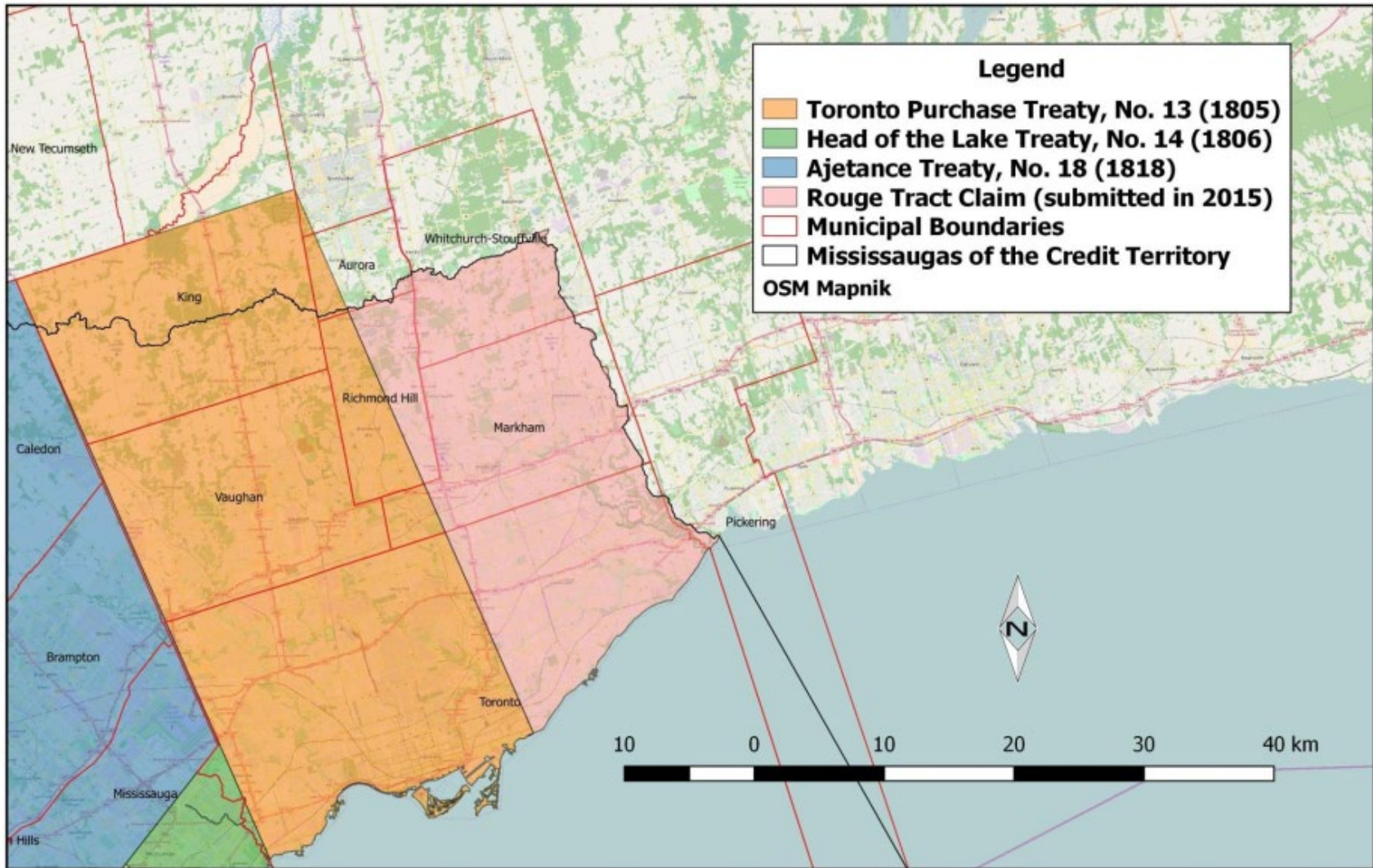
The Brant Tract Treaty, No. 8 (1797)

Mohawk Chief Joseph Brant, an ardent Loyalist, led Six Nations warriors into battle on the side of the British during the American Revolution. Recognizing the great service Brant had rendered unto the Crown during the conflict, the British allowed him a choice of land for his own use. Brant chose a tract of land containing 3,450 acres on which the present day city of Burlington, Ontario is located.

Governor Simcoe of Upper Canada gave instructions that the land chosen by Brant was to be purchased from the Mississaugas of the Credit by the Crown and then granted to Joseph Brant. In October 1795, a provisional agreement was reached wherein the Mississaugas sold the land for £100. The agreement was confirmed in 1797.

In 1988, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation initiated a claim against the Government of Canada, alleging that the Crown had paid less than originally promised when purchasing the Brant Tract. The claim was settled in conjunction with the Toronto Purchase Claim, in 2010, for a sum of \$145 million.

Major population centres found within the area of the Brant Tract Treaty include Burlington.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Toronto Purchase Treaty, No.13 (1805)

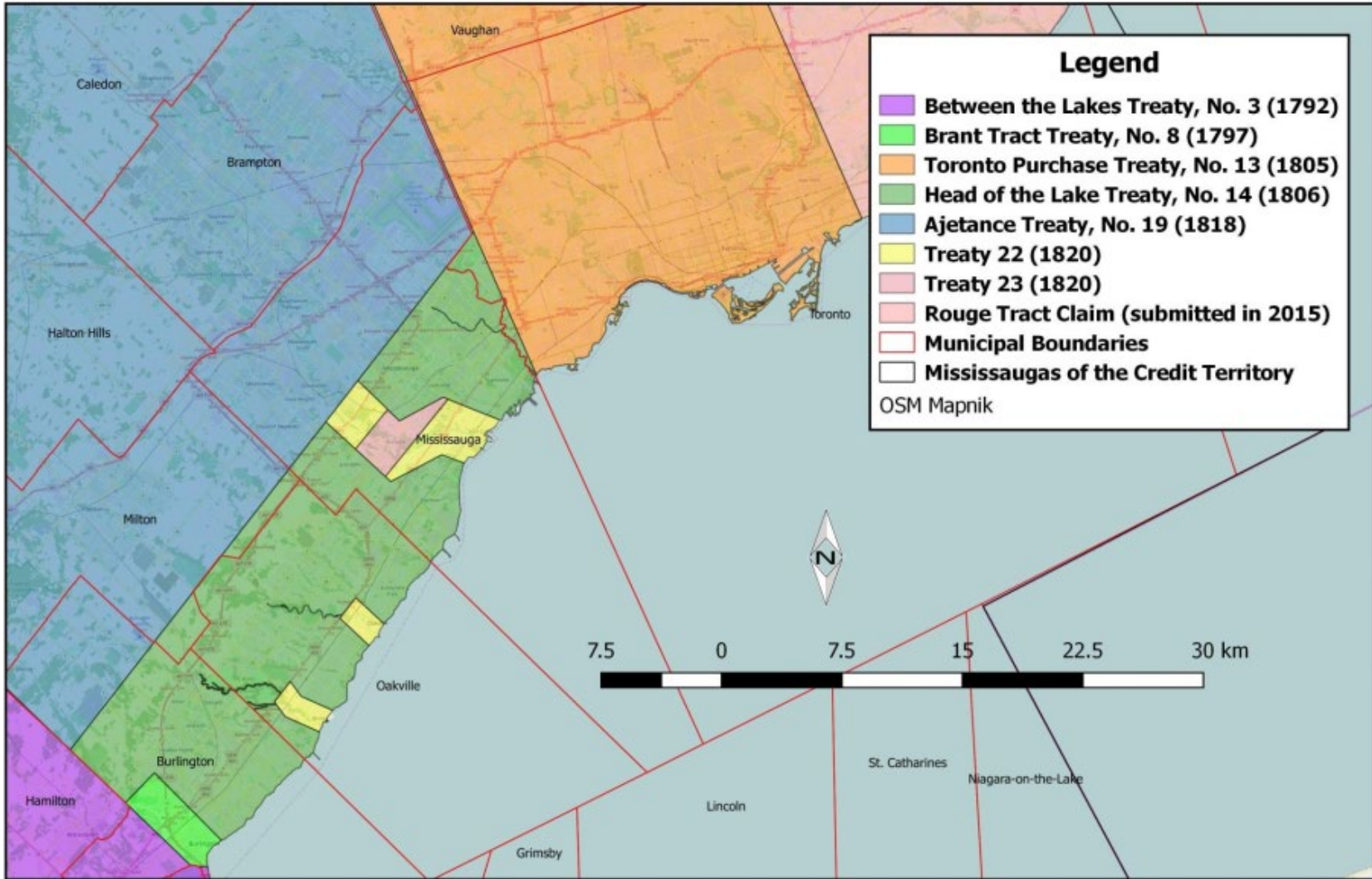
The Toronto Purchase Treaty, No. 13 (1805)

The Crown, in the 1780s, recognized the need to secure communication and supply lines to their western outposts and to unite the settlements along Lake Ontario from Kingston to Niagara. In order to meet Crown objectives, Sir John Johnston, Superintendent General of the Indian Department, met in 1787 with a number of Mississaugas at the Bay of Quinte, where the Mississaugas of the Credit purportedly sold the lands of the Toronto Purchase Treaty. A supposed deed documenting the sale of the lands was found years later and raised serious questions about the legitimacy of the deal between the Crown and the Mississaugas. Problematically, the deed was found blank and had no description of the land “purchased” by the Crown. Also of concern was that the marks of the chiefs who had agreed to the sale, were written on separate pieces of paper and then affixed to the blank deed. An attempt to survey the Toronto Purchase Treaty lands in 1788, met Mississauga opposition, indicating that there had been no clear delineation of land boundaries agreed upon by the Crown and the First Nations.

Crown administrators soon doubted the legality of the Toronto Purchase Treaty and were concerned that many settlers did not have legal title to their homesteads. Also disconcerting, was the possibility that York, the capital of Upper Canada, was located on land of dubious legal title. For over ten years, the Crown failed to act on the dilemma until a new agreement was negotiated with the Mississaugas of the Credit. On August 1, 1805, the Crown purchased 250 830 acres of land for the sum of 10 shillings while the Mississaugas reserved for themselves the right to exclusively fish on Etobicoke Creek.

In 1986, the Mississaugas of the Credit filed a claim against the Government of Canada, only, relative to the 1805 Toronto Purchase Treaty. The Mississaugas contended that the Crown had unlawfully acquired more land than had been originally agreed upon in the Toronto Purchase Treaty of 1787. It was further claimed that the Crown had not paid a reasonable sum for the land obtained in the 1805 agreement. In 2010, the Government of Canada settled the Toronto Purchase Claim and the Brant Tract Claim for compensation of \$145 million; at that time, the largest claims settlement in Canadian history.

The major population centres of Richmond Hill, Vaughan, and the Greater Toronto Area, are located within the boundaries of the Toronto Purchase Treaty lands.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Head of the Lake Treaty, No. 14 (1806)

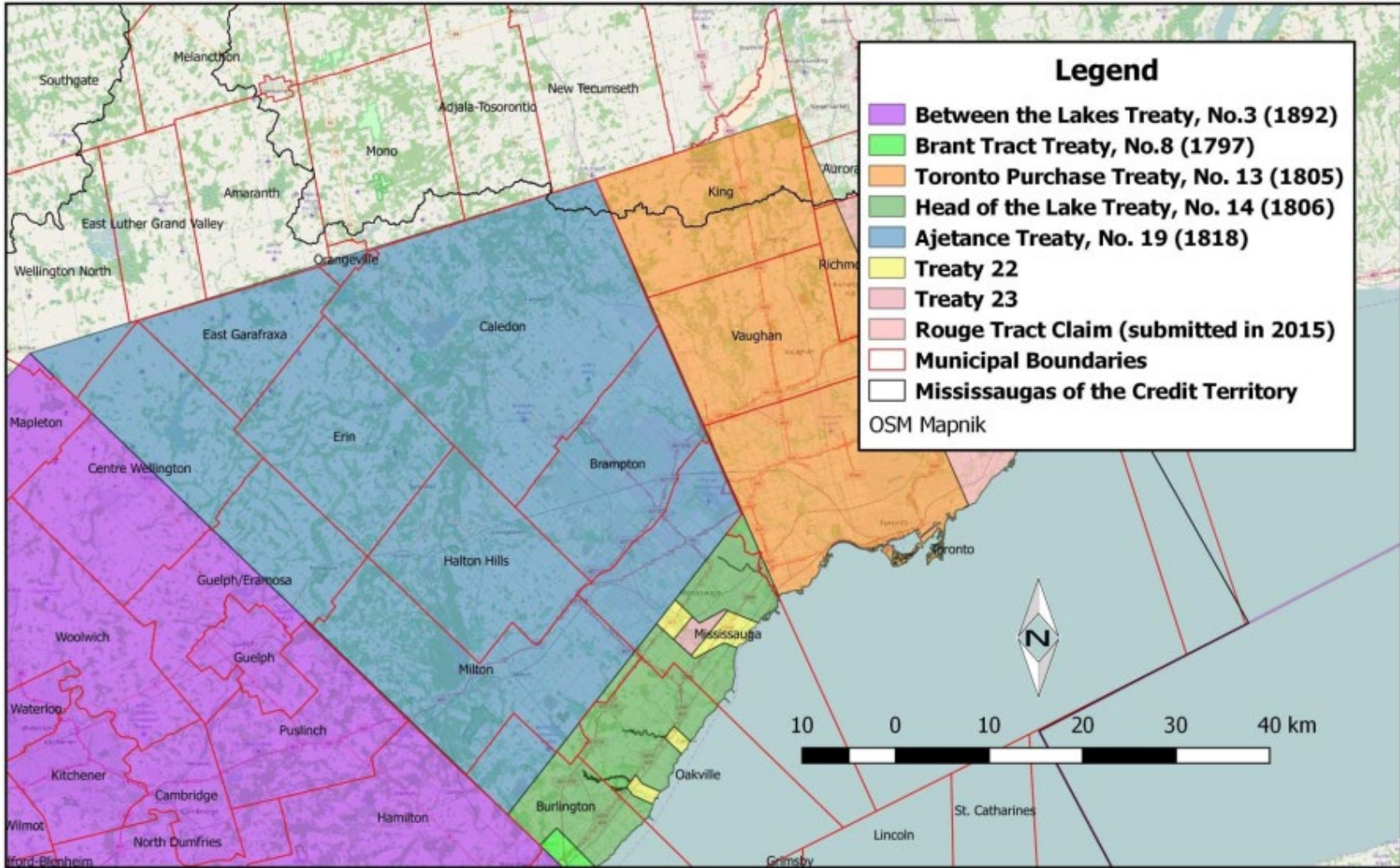
Head of the Lake Treaty, No. 14 (1806)

A day after the Toronto Purchase Treaty agreement was reached in 1805, the Mississaugas of the Credit were asked to sell lands immediately west of the lands they had ceded the day before.

A provisional agreement was reached with the Crown on August 2, 1805, in which the Mississaugas ceded 70 784 acres of land bounded by the Toronto Purchase Treaty of 1787 in the east, the Brant Tract in the west, and a northern boundary that ran six miles back from the shoreline of Lake Ontario. In return for the land, the Mississaugas were to receive £1000 of trade goods and the sole right of fisheries at 12 and 16 Mile Creeks, along with the possession of each creek's flats. In addition, the Mississaugas also reserved the sole right of fishing at the Credit River and were to retain a 1 mile strip of land on each of its banks.

On September 5, 1806, the signing of Treaty 14 confirmed the Head of the Lake Treaty between the Mississaugas of the Credit and the Crown.

Major population centres found within the area of the lands of the Head of the Lake Treaty, include Oakville, Mississauga, and parts of Burlington.



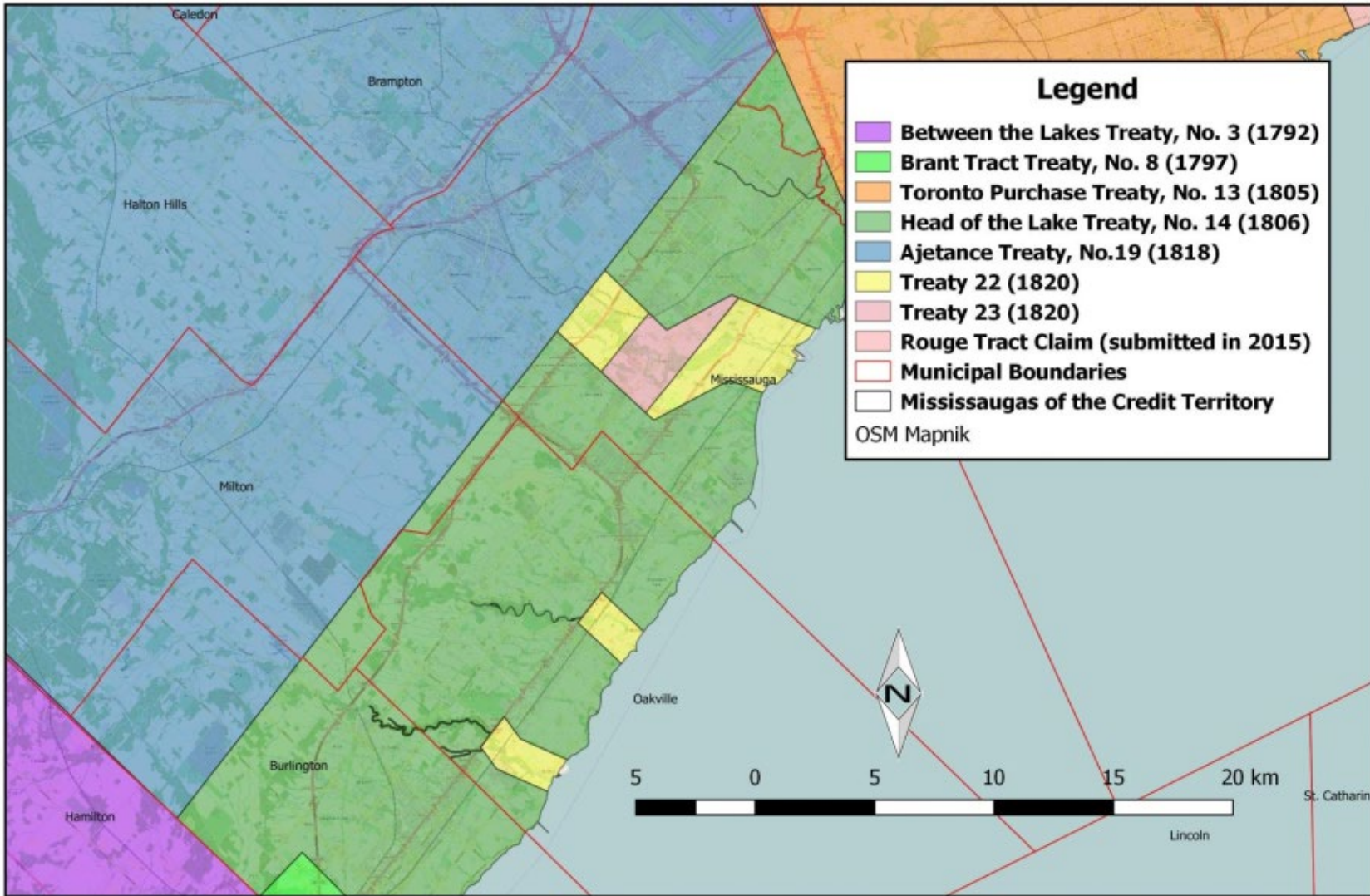
Municipal Boundaries Related to the Ajetance Treaty, No. 19 (1818)

Ajetance Treaty, No. 19 (1818)

In addition to their three small reserves located on the Lake Ontario shoreline, the Mississaugas of the Credit held 648 000 acres of land north of the Head of the Lake Treaty lands and extending to the territory of the Chippewa of Lakes Huron and Simcoe. In mid-October 1818, the Chippewa entered into a treaty with the Crown in the Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty (Treaty No. 18), and, by the end of October, the Crown sought to purchase the adjacent lands of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

The Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Department, William Claus, met with the Mississaugas from October 27-29, 1818, and proposed that the Mississaugas sell their 648 000 acres of land in exchange for an annual amount of goods. The continuous inflow of settlers into their lands and fisheries had weakened the Mississaugas' traditional economy leaving them in a state of impoverishment and with a rapidly declining population. As a result of this, Chief Ajetance readily agreed to the sale of their lands for £522.10 of goods paid annually.

Major population centres found within the lands of the Ajetance Treaty of 1818, include Brampton and Milton.



Municipal Boundaries Related to Treaty Nos. 22 & 23



12 Mile Creek, 16 Mile Creek and River Credit Reserves, Treaty Nos. 22 and 23 (1820)

The completion of the Ajetance Treaty of 1818, left the Mississaugas of the Credit with three small reserves at 12 Mile Creek, 16 Mile Creek, and the Credit River. Noting the “distress and poverty” of the Mississaugas, William Claus, Deputy Superintendent of the Indian Department, met with Mississaugas of the Credit ancestors and proposed the surrender of their remaining lands, stating that “. . .the white people are getting thick around you and we are afraid they or the Yankees will cheat you out of your land. You had better put it into the hands of your very great father the King to keep for you till you want to settle....”

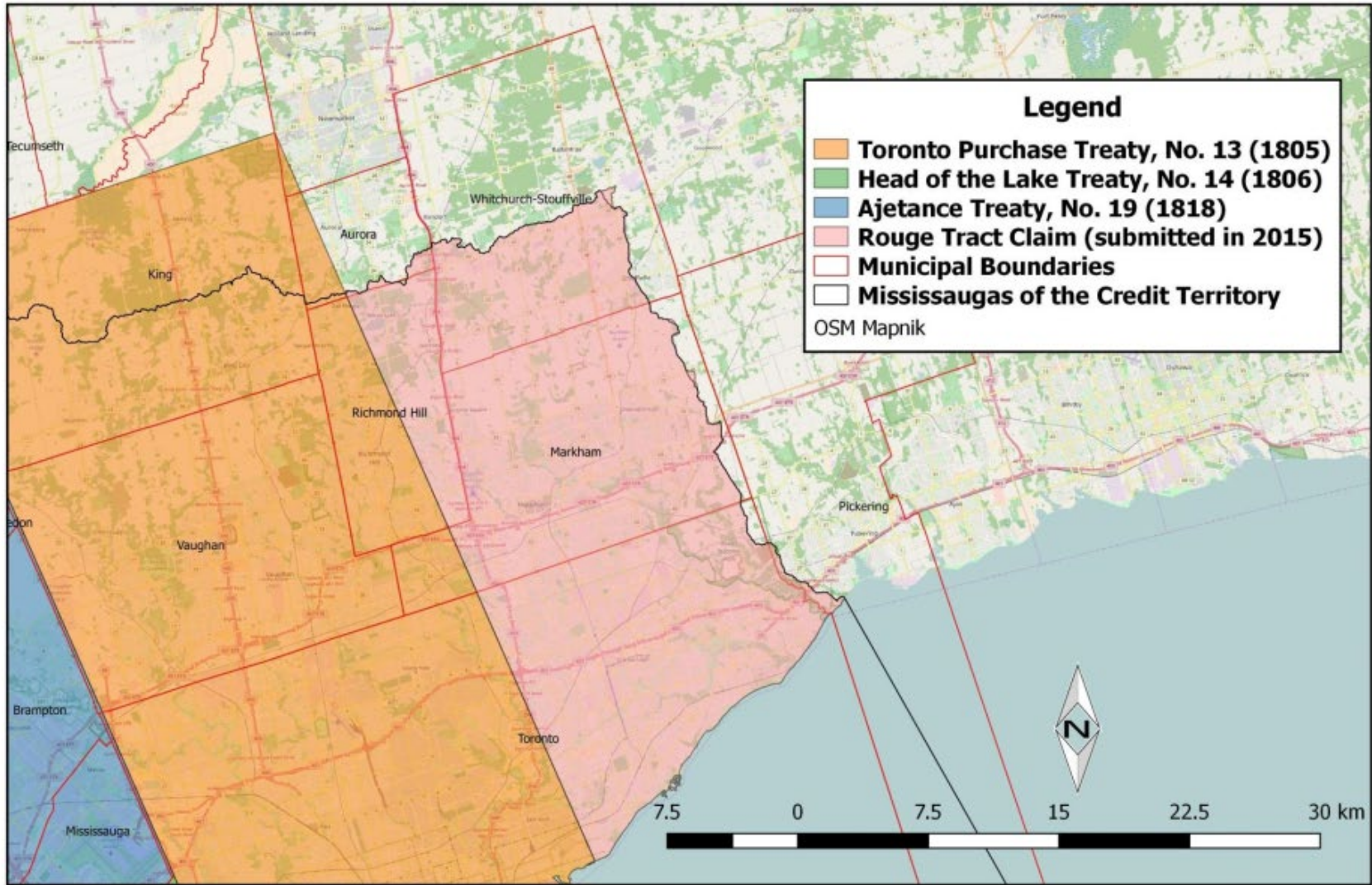
With respect to Treaty 22, the Mississaugas understood that by placing their lands into trust with the Crown that the lands would never be sold; that the lands would be available for use and benefit of the Mississaugas for all time. The River Credit Mississaugas understood that they had not sold the lands included within Treaty 22, because they were not paid for the lands at the time of the Treaty, as they had been for all other Treaties. They understood that they were giving their land to the Crown for safekeeping; to provide them a home when they were ready to settle down.

The Mississaugas believe that the intention of the Crown regarding Treaty 22, was to lease or sell parts of the Treaty 22 lands, in order to finance the Mississaugas settlement and care of the land. The Mississaugas clearly thought that none of the lands would ever be sold; and certainly not without their permission. The Mississaugas believe that the Crown understood the agreement in 1820, as including the ability to sell all of the Mississaugas lands, except for 200 acres that was reserved on the River Credit. The written word of the Treaty permitted the Crown to lease and sell the lands. This was clearly not the understanding of the Mississaugas.

With respect to Treaty 23, the Crown maintained that the Treaty had clear terms and was a reserve land cession and sale for the sum of £50, to facilitate the building of the Dundas Street Bridge. The Mississaugas appear to have understood this Treaty as being a straight surrender for £50. However, the lands were sold at undervalue. Even colonial civil servants, at the time, noted the appallingly low sale price.

A claim was submitted in 2018, to Canada and Ontario regarding both Treaties and a revised legal opinion was submitted in August 2020.

Major population centres found within the area of the Treaties 22 and 23 lands, include Mississauga and Oakville.



Municipal Boundaries Related to the Rouge Tract Claim (submitted in 2015)

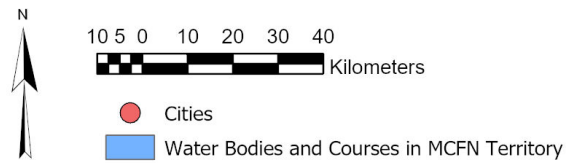
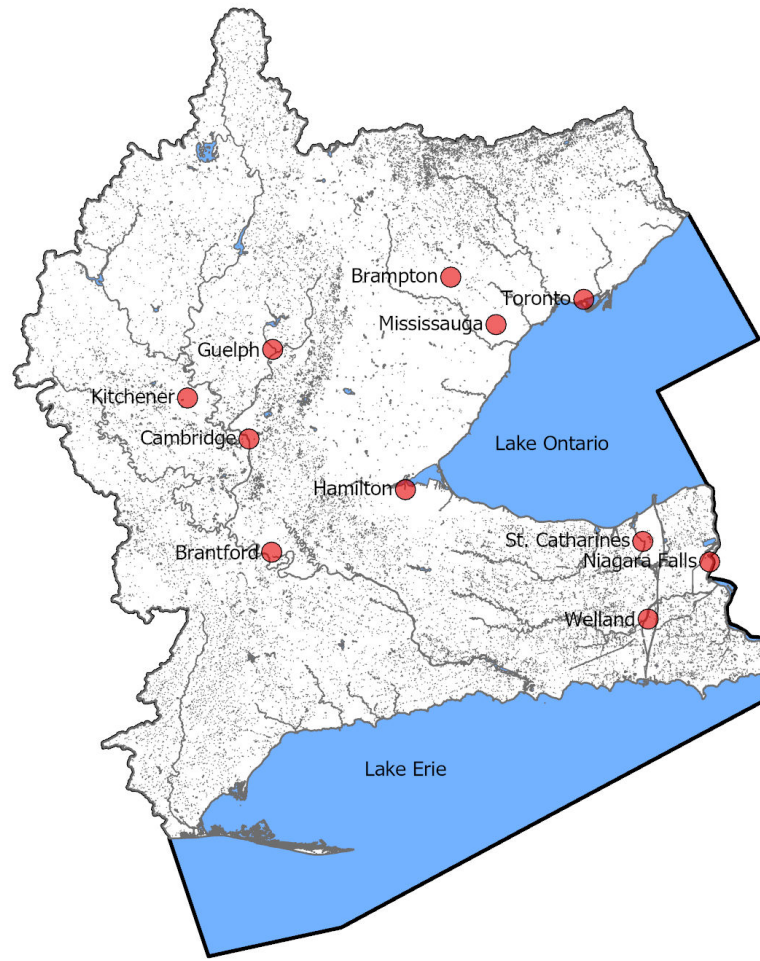
The Rouge River Valley Tract Claim

The ancestors of the Mississaugas of the Credit, as well as the ancestors of other Mississauga Nations located in Central Ontario, purportedly “surrendered” parts of their lands in the Gunshot Treaty of 1788. The lands in question ran along the north shore of Lake Ontario, from the Bay of Quinte, to the eastern boundary of the 1787 Toronto Purchase. The northern boundary of the Treaty lands was to be established at a distance as far back as one could hear the shot of a gun, fired from the shore of Lake Ontario. A significant portion of the Gunshot Treaty lands included the southern part of the Rouge River Valley; the territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Inability to locate a deed for the lands, or any other supporting documentation, led the Crown to question the validity of the Gunshot Treaty. Attempts to rectify the situation did not occur until the negotiation of the 1923 Williams Treaties. The Williams Treaties negotiations were to secure for the Crown hunting lands belonging to Mississauga and Chippewa Nations of Central Ontario. Belatedly included in the negotiations, were the lands of the dubious Gunshot Treaty, yet the Mississaugas of the Credit were not included in negotiations and were even unaware that part of their territory was under discussion. When the negotiations were concluded by the Crown and the other First Nations, the Mississaugas of the Credit were not a signatory of the Williams Treaties. The Mississaugas of the Credit did not surrender their interest in the lands of the Gunshot Treaty, nor did they surrender title to any of their territory located within the Rouge River Valley Tract.

The Mississaugas of the Credit submitted a claim to Canada and Ontario in 2015 for unextinguished Aboriginal Title to the Rouge River Valley Tract.

Major population centres found within the area of the Rouge River Valley Tract, includes the eastern portions of Toronto and the Greater Toronto Area.



Water Bodies and Courses in MCFN Territory

MCFN Water Claim

The Mississaugas of the Credit have Aboriginal title to the water, beds of water, and floodplains within their Territory. The water has never been lawfully surrendered by the Mississaugas or its ancestors. The treaties signed by the Mississaugas with the British Crown are, generally, silent on water. There is historical evidence that water within the Mississaugas' Territory was discussed between the Mississaugas and representatives of the Crown, and that the Mississaugas were told that the Crown was not interested in the water; "the treaties only deal with the land."

The Mississaugas clearly understood that they were not giving up their water and fisheries, in particular the beds of water, given that the salmon still ran during this period. It was an important food source for the Mississaugas. They understood that they retained the water, beds of water, and floodplains within their Territory, so that they could continue to hunt, fish, trap, harvest, and camp on the lands and waters.

It was understood by the Mississaugas that the Treaties were entered into as an agreement to share the land with the settlers and believed that this would be a mutually beneficial relationship. The Mississaugas believed that they would always be able to hunt, fish, trap, harvest, and camp on the lands and rivers within their Territory, specifically the Credit and Etobicoke Rivers. The Crown even passed legislation protecting these fisheries.

A Claim was submitted to Canada and Ontario in 2016, based on the fact that Aboriginal Title to water within the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's Territory forms part of their territory. The Claim is also based on the fact that the water within the Territory has never been lawfully surrendered by the Mississaugas of the Credit.

MCFN Unsurrendered Territory

Reverend Peter Jones, generally, described the Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation by watersheds. In comparison, the British preferred to describe boundaries using straight lines. As such, the boundaries of treaties were always surveyed in straight lines. Because of this, significant portions of the watershed that form part of the Mississaugas of the Credit's Territory was not included in any treaty, as surveyed by the British.

As such, the northern portion of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations' Territory remains unsurrendered; the Mississaugas still hold Aboriginal Title to these lands.

The major population centre found within the unsurrendered area in the northern portion of the Mississaugas Territory is Orangeville.

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The information provided in this booklet is up to date as of the date of publication.
For further information, please visit www.mncfn.ca.

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