

Delivered by Armando Perla

Armando Perla is a researcher at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights and an adjunct professor at the faculty of law of University of Manitoba and at Global College at the University of Winnipeg. Perla holds a Master's in International Human Rights Law (LLM) from Lund University and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law in Sweden. He also has a Bachelor of Laws from L'Université Laval in Québec City (LLB). Armando also studied political sciences at the University of Winnipeg, and has extensive experience working with human rights organizations on a variety of issues around the world.

Welcome. Bienvenue.

I'd like to start by acknowledging that we are on Treaty 1 lands and at the historic intersection of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers. A meeting place of various Indigenous nations for hundreds of years. This place and these lands support a rich history of people gathering to exchange ideas on peace, trade, and negotiation. That the Canadian Museum for Human Rights sits atop these lands is significant. It highlights the connection between land and rights. That we gather to discuss Nathan Tidridge's book on The Treaty of Niagara, and the lasting Treaty relationship between the First Nations and the Crown is significant. The intersection of rights and Treaties—or agreements to share land—is literally foundational to this nation.

Nathan's book is a must read for all Canadians, Indigenous and non-Indigenous. It's written from a vantage point of a non-Indigenous Canadian. It maps his journey of decolonizing his own appreciation of the Canadian state. In this, it offers many important lessons on humility at a crucial point in Canada's history. With the recent closing events of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, we Canadians have been challenged to take up reconciliation as a personal goal, a challenge, and a pledge. Reconciliation is many things. It has many starting points. One of which is the Treaty relationship.

Nathan teaches Canadian history and government at Waterdown District High School. He was awarded the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence (Teacher of the Year) in 2008. Nathan was also awarded the Charles Baillie Award for Excellence in Secondary School Teaching by Queen's University. In 2014 Nathan was awarded the Sharon Enkin Award for Excellence in Holocaust Education by the Hamilton Jewish Federation.

Nathan's latest work: *The Queen at the Council Fire: The Treaty of Niagara, Reconciliation and the Dignified Crown in Canada* will be important to many people for many different reasons. I would like to briefly mention how it complements our work here at the Museum. Our exhibit entitled "Canada's Legal Traditions" explores how colonization has shaped our legal system. Through the use of treasure like artifacts in a climate controlled case, we explore the juxtaposition, the interrelatedness, and the organic nature of the legal traditions that have coexisted and continue to coexist in Canada today.

These artefacts will rotate every year so visitors have the opportunity to experience as many of them as possible. One of the artifacts we are planning to display in the future is the Treaty of Niagara.

With that, it is my great honour to introduce Nathan Tidridge.

Miigwetch.