

Preface and Acknowledgements

The purpose of the traditional land use study that forms much of this book was to collect, record, and protect information about historical and current traditional land use activities, as well as the cultural traditions of Carry The Kettle First Nation (CTK). In addition, one of the goals was to present a fuller, updated description of the history of the First Nation, particularly the precontact occupation of Saskatchewan followed by trade-induced migrations. The book presents the devastation caused by the loss of the bison herds, the effects of the creation of the international border, and the appalling treatment of the Nakoda People by the American and Canadian governments.

Two major data collection methodologies were used. The historical and anthropological data were obtained primarily through the research of Dr. David R. Miller, who has spent a major portion of his professional career researching and accumulating information on the history and prehistory of the Assiniboine People. This publication would not have been possible without his participation. The second source of data was the interviews with Elders, who spoke about their history, their historical and current patterns of land use, as well as their cultural practices and language.

We expect that the maps and data presented here will enhance the processes of consultation required for governments and industry and for the First Nation to protect its constitutional, Treaty, and Indigenous Rights. The book can also be utilized to strengthen and enhance further

knowledge about the Nakoda (Assiniboine) culture within Carry The Kettle by passing on some oral traditions to youth and all community members.

We have incorporated detailed traditional land use data collected from thirty-three Elders and current land users, interviews from a large group meeting held in Cypress Hills with the Mosquito First Nation, as well as interview data from 1929 obtained from the Assiniboine Tribe of Indians in Wolf Point, Montana. The historical and archaeological research obtained through Dr. Miller involved a thorough review of all available information in various archives, rare historical documents and libraries, as well as up-to-date discussions with other Nakoda scholars.

In addition to the preliminary research, this project hired Dr. Peggy Martin McGuire to research historical sources from the time of Treaty 4 to the band's forced migration to Indian Head. This material is presented in Chapters 5 and 6.

This project was managed by Dr. James Tanner of Twin Rivers Consulting and facilitated by Chief Elsie Jack, Valerie Ryder, Kristal Jack, and Senator James O'Watch. Dr. Miller provided a series of historical and anthropological materials, as well as drafts of early chapters. Dr. Tanner conducted interviews, collected data, and assisted in writing and editing the book. Tracey Tanner reviewed the research and interviews with Carry The Kettle members, as well as the historical interviews with the Assiniboine in Montana, and prepared and edited the portions of the book pertaining to the spirituality, culture, and historical and current land use practices of Carry The Kettle People and their ancestors. Dr. McGuire prepared a report on the period immediately after Treaty 4, portions of which are included in Chapters 5 and 6. Terri Quintal designed the original maps based on the information provided by the interviews and other historical and anthropological data, and those informed the maps that appear in this book, created by Weldon Hiebert. Thank you to Iris O'Watch for providing the Nakoda names and spelling for the book's title and chapter headings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM CHIEF ELSIE JACK

First, I would like to acknowledge my grandmother, Kate Jack (wife of Joseph Jack, son of Chief The Man Who Took the Coat), who instilled in me the oral history of our people; and my niece, Kaye Thompson, who had a rich history of our nation.

There was a group of Elders who persevered with our historical land claims. Without this perseverance and the oral history of our nation, our nation would not be successful. We are forever indebted to them for their work that occurred from the 1960s through to the 1990s. They are: Katherine (Kaye) Thompson; Andrew C. Ryder; Chief William Burrell (Willy) Gray, Jr.; Dr. Jessie Saulteaux (Mrs. David Saulteaux); Dennis (Young Man) Walker, Jr.; Paul (Moon Face) Leader; and, the only surviving member, Delmar (Runs with Another) Runns.

I would also like to thank my colleagues, Valerie Rider and Kristalee Jack-Crowbuffalo. Without them, this book would not have been completed.

Owóknage (oh-woh-kna-geh):
a telling of stories, news, stories
of deeds, honourable stories

—*translation by* IRIS O'WATCH,
Nakoda language specialist