

	FIRST NATIONS TREATY LAND ENTRANCE SIGNS		Issued: AUG 2016
			Revised:
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RECOMMENDED PRACTICES	PART	HIGHWAY SIGNS	
	SECTION	MISCELLANEOUS SIGNS	
	SUB-SECTION	COMMUNITY INFORMATION	

General

First Nations Treaty Land Entrance signs are installed at the entrance to a treaty area to increase the public awareness of Treaty Lands within Alberta. Treaty Land Entrance signs have a unique design and may display the treaty number and its logo along with welcome and/or historical information message(s) for travellers entering the community.

The sign structure could be accompanied by attractive landscaping which may include flowerbeds arranged to display a treaty community message.

Standard

Treaty Land Entrance signs are custom designed signs consisting of one large panel containing a text message and a support structure.

The signs are allowed to display a simple message containing the following:

- “Welcome” or “Historical Information” message,
- the Treaty number and a symbol or logo, or any historical illustration of the First Nations community.

The sign may also display information about the population and/or historical events related to the treaty area.

Advertising products and services or displaying other information for a profit purpose, such as website addresses or business phone numbers, will not be allowed on the Welcome sign.

Preferably, the sign should be constructed using lightweight materials such as wood or aluminium sheeting.

Treaty Land Entrance sign structures placed within the clear zone, as defined in the department’s Highway Geometric Design Guide, must have a breakaway structure base, or motorists must be protected from striking the structure through the use of a protective barrier.

Use of heavy and rigid materials, such as concrete or steel, is not desirable. When impacted by a vehicle, rigid structures may cause serious damage to a vehicle and result in passenger injury.

No heavy or rigid structures will be allowed within the clear zone.

The sign and surrounding landscape should have a simple and aesthetically pleasing design to give motorists a lasting impression of the Treaty area and its communities ahead. Use of excessively large structures is usually discouraged, as it may be overwhelming to motorists.

When designing the landscaping for a Treaty Land Entrance sign, one should consider using small plants. Bushes, fences or other large decorative elements in the vicinity of a Treaty Land Entrance sign will not be allowed as they may pose a hazard to an errant vehicle.

Treaty Land Entrance signs are limited to a maximum size of 20 square metres, with a maximum height of 4 metres.

Eligibility

All treaty areas in Alberta are eligible for Treaty Land Entrance signs. Generally, each treaty area in Alberta has an association or organization to represent the First Nations communities that are in the treaty area. As such, the treaty association or organization that wishes to obtain approval for the placement of a Treaty Land Entrance sign must submit an application to one of the Alberta Transportation district offices.

A listing of Alberta Transportation district offices, general instructions, and an example of the sign application form are provided at the following link:

<http://www.transportation.alberta.ca/613.htm>

A typical sign application should include:

- the name and address of the treaty association or organization
- sign details (including the size of the sign), the details of the message wording and symbols, the size and colour of lettering, and the sign background colour
- sign location details including the legal land description and distances to the highway right-of-way

After reviewing and accepting an application for a sign within the highway right-of-way, the department may issue a Letter of Approval.

A Letter of Approval is a document that binds the sign proponent and the department through mutual agreement for the use and placement of a sign.

Guidelines for Placement

Treaty Land Entrance signs may be installed within the highway right-of-way at

the entrance to the treaty area. One sign will be permitted at each highway entrance, facing the inbound direction to the treaty area.

Treaty Land Entrance signs should be installed outside the clear zone, preferably within a back slope area at the fence line. Larger rigid structures, if allowed within the highway right-of-way, must be placed as far as possible from the edge of the road, near the right-of-way boundary.

Excessively large or rigid structures will not be allowed within the highway right-of-way.

Installation and Maintenance

The requirements for fabricating, installing and maintaining Treaty Land Entrance signs are outlined in the Recommended Practices guideline entitled General Provisions for Installing Private Signs within the Highway Right-of-Way.

The treaty association or organization is responsible for all costs associated with their Treaty Land Entrance sign, including:

- installation and maintenance of the sign
- future replacement of the sign and the sign structure
- any damages resulting from vandalism.

References to Standards

Highway Geometric Design Guide	Table C5.2a, Clear Zone Distances
Recommended Practices Section: General	General Provisions for Installing Private Signs within the Highway Right-of-Way