

The Yellowhead Treaty Map: Indigenous Treaty Making Layer Revamp

Phase 2 Treaty Map Project Overview

Yellowhead Institute launched [The Treaty Map](#) in November 2024 as an accessible digital tool to communicate Indigenous perspectives on treaties in Canada. Since launch, it has received tens of thousands of visitors and strong feedback on both its educational value and functionality.

Phase 2 of the project focuses on enhancing the *Indigenous Treaty-Making Layer* ahead of its version 2 launch in November 2025. We have developed a new concept for the Indigenous Treaty-Making layer and have enlisted an artist to create artwork that aligns with this vision. We are seeking a developer to implement a **redesigned Indigenous Treaty-Making Layer** based on new artwork and storytelling elements.

Project Goal

Revamp the Indigenous Treaty Layer on The Treaty Map site: Create a more dynamic, immersive visual and narrative experience that reflects Indigenous understandings of treaty-making, emphasizing boundlessness, temporality, and spiritual/cosmological dimensions.

Creative Direction

Our Vision → To break from conventional cartography and visually guide users beyond the map, toward a more cosmological and expansive view of treaty-making. The current version is too static, the text isn't easy to engage with and feels too confined to the borders (literally) of the map platform. As the layer describes, Indigenous-led treaties are older than time and boundless in scale, scope, and inter-dimensionality. To represent this, we envision this layer to break away the viewer's gaze from the cartographic representation of the treaty map and into the stars.

- Pair segments of text with original illustrations aligned to the stories and themes in the text (e.g., a buffalo illustration to accompany the Buffalo Treaty text description).
- Integrate a starry background (designed for the project) that ties the slides together visually.
- Use subtle animation and transitions to encourage exploration.
- Draw inspiration from immersive scrolling experiences, such as [this site](#).

Notes on UX/UI/Site Platform

- The Treaty Map site is built on WordPress, using Elementor
- The Treaty Map itself is a custom-built platform
- The Indigenous Treaty Layer is currently part of the map platform BUT, there is the option of building the page out on Wordpress instead. In this circumstance, there is much more freedom/flexibility for design, as long as there is always a 'Return to Map' button on the Indigenous Treaty Making page.
- Other sites we like: <https://www.ilabsolutions.it/> and <https://www.noodinstudio.com/>

Treaty-Making Layer Deliverables:

- Conceptualizing and implementing the front-end experience of the Indigenous Treaty Making Layer using provided assets (illustrations, concept description, narrative text)
- Technical Considerations - platform, accessibility, UX and integration w/existing map

Timeline

All deliverables to be completed by late October 2025.

Application

Please submit a full application that includes the following:

- A short description of your project approach based on the creative direction provided and your technical plan for building the Indigenous treaty-making later.
- Examples of past work, particularly projects involving: Interactive digital design; WordPress or map-integrated experiences (and Indigenous, decolonial storytelling, if applicable).
- Bios of key team members or collaborators
- Budget and timeline estimate
- Contact information

We encourage Indigenous applicants and those with lived and work experience specifically tied to the work and vision of Yellowhead Institute to apply.

Send your application to: info@yellowheadinstitute.org; subject line - *Treaty Map Phase 2*

Application by September 2, 2025