

Public education at its best with 'Treaties Matter: Understanding Ipperwash'

An educational and informative booklet entitled “Treaties Matter: Understanding Ipperwash” is now available from the Union of Ontario Indians.

The booklet is centred on the history, tragic events and current state of affairs revolving around the former Ipperwash Provincial Park, now in the process of being returned to the citizens of Kettle and Stony Point.

The chronicle of historical events at Ipperwash is clearly noted, with some elaborations on areas such as the original park seizure by the Provincial government and the publication also discusses the tragic events of September 6, 1995 culminating in the death of Dudley George, the park’s transfer process back to the First Nation and incredible archaeological discoveries that have been made.

There are also commentaries throughout, with information, opinions and suggestions by First Nation leaders and representatives of various communities of the Anishinabek Nation regarding the park’s past, present and future.

There is a strong emphasis on raising public education and the school curriculum by inclusion of the events of Ipperwash. The booklet promises to be a useful starting point for educators, containing a helpful timeline, explanations of traditional First Nations customs, beliefs and interaction with their environment.

Most importantly, it illustrates the importance of the Treaty system; how understanding the Treaties would educate and alter the public perception on the rights of Indigenous people, and how the failure of adherence to these legal and binding agreements with Canada and Ontario governments has resulted in unnecessary violence and tragedy.

For more information on "Treaties Matter: Understanding Ipperwash", please contact Nicole Latulippe (705) 497-9127 ext. 2253 or e-mail ipperwash@anishinabek.ca.

A pdf version of the booklet can be found at <http://www.anishinabek.ca/ipperwash.asp> in the documents section.