

## Post 3: Historical Background, Pt II. [July 4]



### Why Chief Whitecap Didn't Sign Treaty Six

Whitecap Dakota First Nation is not Party to any of the Numbered Treaties in Canada.

Chief Whitecap was present at Treaty negotiations for both Treaty Four (1874) and Treaty Six (1876), where he requested that Canada enter into treaty with the Dakota. He was not allowed to sign those Treaties because the Government of Canada did not recognize the Dakota's claim to their northern territories.

However, other First Nations who had territories on both sides of the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel signed Numbered Treaties with Canada. This includes the Blackfoot and the Nakota. In fact, the Nakota were originally denied entry into Treaty Six for the same reason as the Dakota. The Cree allies of the Nakota spoke with government officials on their behalf, and the Nakota later adhered to Treaty Six. Afraid of the martial strength of the Dakota, as exemplified in the Dakota's recent insurgencies against the United States, the Canadian government continued to refuse to enter into treaty with the Dakota.

Because of their exclusion from treaty, Whitecap Dakota First Nation Members did not receive the same Treaty recognition and benefits as did the members of neighbouring First Nations that are Treaty signatories. The treaty currently being negotiated by Whitecap Dakota First Nation seeks to right these historical wrongs.

### Q: Why didn't Chief Whitecap sign Treaty Six?