



## Land Acknowledgement

The Board of the Steinbach Chamber of Commerce has started implementing a Land Acknowledgement into our Chamber events. This journey is new for many of us and there were questions as we began the conversation. To fully understand the significance of the statement we were making, we invited First Nations Elder Peter YellowQuill to speak to our Board and provide some background to help answer our questions.

Peter is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Ojibwe Chief YellowQuill who signed Treaty 1 in 1871. Peter and his wife Sheila live in Long Plain, Manitoba where Peter was Chief for two terms. He is a residential school survivor.

Peter shared with our Board that he sees Land Acknowledgment as not just a statement or a checked box, but as an important first step to reconciliation through acknowledging what has happened in our past.

We as a Board are still learning, but we are moving forward with hope alongside our Indigenous brothers and sisters as we acknowledge the past, learn from it, and take steps towards a brighter future.

