

Indian Act

The *Indian Act* is the shortened title for *An Act respecting Indians*. It first came into law in 1876 as a statute that concerned registered Indians, their bands, and the system of Indian reserves. The *Indian Act* was an extension of earlier acts passed by the Colonial government which provided Canada's federal government exclusive authority to govern in relation to "Indian and Lands Reserved for Indians." It was an attempt to codify rights promised by George III in the *Royal Proclamation* of 1763. The Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development is responsible for the act.

Innu

Innu are the Naskapi and Montagnais First Nations peoples who live primarily in Quebec and Labrador.

Intergenerational impacts

The unresolved trauma of Survivors who experienced or witnessed physical or sexual abuse in the Residential School System that is passed on from generation to generation through family violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, substance abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, loss of parenting skills, and self-destructive behaviour.

Inuit

In Canada, Inuit are the culturally distinct Aboriginal peoples who live primarily in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, northern parts of Quebec, and throughout most of Labrador.

Land

The air, water, land, and all the parts of the natural world that combine to make up where one comes from. The "land" is another way of saying "home."

André, Julie-Ann and Mindy Willett, We Feel Good Out Here, (2008).

Lateral violence

This includes bullying, gossiping, shaming and blaming others, and breaking confidences. Lateral violence hurts others within families, organizations, and communities. It occurs in homes, schools, churches, community organizations, and workplaces.

Legacy of residential schools

Refers to the ongoing direct and indirect effects of the abuses at the residential schools. This includes the effects on Survivors and their families, descendants, and communities. These effects may include family violence, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, substance abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, loss of parenting skills, loss of culture and language, and self-destructive behaviour.

Métis

Historically, the Métis are the descendants of First Nations women, largely (but not exclusively) from the Cree, Saulteaux, Ojibwa, Dene, and Assiniboine nations, and fur traders, largely (but not exclusively) of French, Scottish, and English ancestry. The Métis developed distinct communities based on their economic role and it was their sense of distinctiveness that led them to create political institutions and sentiment by the early 19th century. The Métis nation today is comprised of people that descend from the early Métis.

Today, although they may or may not share a connection with the historic Métis nation, a growing number of Canadians of mixed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal ancestry self-identify as Métis.

Non-Status Indians

Non-Status Indians are people who consider themselves Indians or members of a First Nation but who are not recognized by the federal government as Indians under the *Indian Act*. Non-Status Indians are not entitled to the same rights and benefits available to Status Indians.

Paternalism

A style of government or management or an approach to personal relationships in which the desire to help, advise, and protect may negate individual choice, freedoms, and personal responsibility.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)

A severe anxiety disorder that can develop after exposure to any event resulting in psychological trauma. This event may involve the threat of death to oneself, to someone else, or to one's own or someone else's physical, sexual, or psychological integrity.

Racism

Prejudice or animosity against people who belong to other races. The belief that people of different races have differing qualities and abilities and that some races are inherently superior or inferior.

Reconciliation

Reconciliation is the process by which individuals or communities attempt to arrive at a place of mutual understanding and acceptance. There is no one approach to achieving reconciliation, but building trust by examining painful shared histories, acknowledging each other's truths, and a common vision are essential to the process.

Reserve

The *Indian Act* of 1876 states: "The term "reserve" means any tract or tracts of land set apart by treaty or otherwise for the use or benefit of or granted to a particular band of Indians, of which the legal title is in the Crown, but which is unsundered, and includes all the trees, wood, timber, soil stone, minerals, metals, or other valuables thereon or therein." Occasionally, the American term "reservation" is used but "reserve" or "Indian reserve" is the usual terminology in Canada.

Residential schools

These federally funded, church-run institutions were born out of a government policy of assimilation. Aboriginal children were removed from their families and sent to these schools so that they would lose their culture and language in order to facilitate assimilation into mainstream Canadian society. These may include industrial schools, boarding schools, homes for students, hostels, billets, residential schools, residential schools with a majority of day students, or a combination of any of the above. At the request of Survivors, this definition has evolved to include convents, day schools, mission schools, sanatoriums, and settlement camps. They were attended by First Nations, Inuit, and Métis students.

Resilience

The capacity to spring back from adversity and have a good life despite emotional, mental, or physical distress.

Resistance

Defiance or opposition that may be expressed in overt or covert acts. One of the most frequently cited acts of resistance by residential school students was the stealing of fruit, bread, and meat from kitchens or pantries. One of the most dangerous and difficult acts of resistance was running away.

Status Indian

Status Indians are people who are entitled to have their names included on the Indian Register, an official list maintained by the federal government. Only Status Indians are recognized as Indians under the *Indian Act* and are entitled to certain rights and benefits under the law.

Stereotype

An oversimplified image or perception of a person or group. A stereotype can also be an image or perception of a person or group that is based exclusively on well-known cultural markers—such as all Inuit live in igloos.

Survivor

An Aboriginal person who attended and survived the Residential School System in Canada.

Traditional healing

Approaches to healing that incorporate culturally based strategies including, but not limited to, sharing circles, healing circles, talking circles, sweats, ceremonies, fasts, feasts, celebrations, vision quests, traditional medicines, and any other spiritual exercises. Traditional approaches also incorporate cultural activities such as quilting, beading, drum making, and so on. Others include on-the-land activities such as hunting, fishing, and gathering medicines.

Treaty Indian

A Status Indian who belongs to a First Nation that signed a treaty with the Crown.

Western healing

Health care approaches that incorporate strategies where the practitioner follows a more institutional approach to healing including but not limited to psychologists, psychiatrists, educators, medical doctors, and social workers.