

WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLES

A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD RELATIONS GOING FORWARD

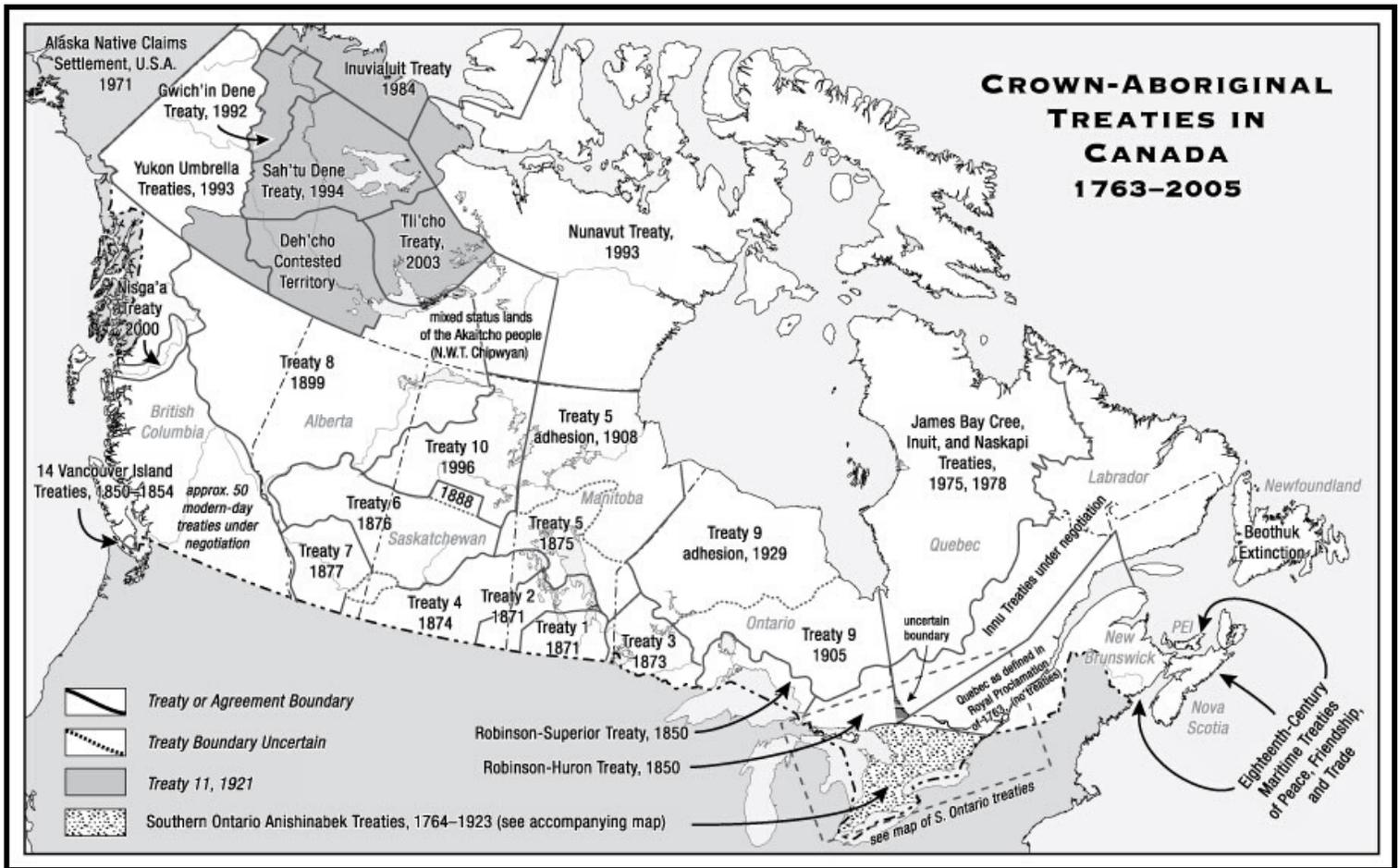
Colour of Poverty  Colour of Change

RACIAL EQUITY HUMAN DIGNITY SOCIAL JUSTICE

1. ACKNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTAND THE PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP, PRE-CONFEDERATION, POST-CONFEDERATION, AND MODERN TREATIES.

The Royal Proclamation of 1763 recognized that Indigenous title to land existed before colonization and that it would continue to exist. It included a clause prohibiting British colonists from "purchasing Lands of the Indians," so as to prevent further "great Frauds and Abuses" that characterized colonial takeovers of Indigenous territory. However, the subsequent reality has been one of an oppressive state structure over centuries of settler colonialism in which Indigenous title to land has been consistently undermined.

Treaties are agreements with the British Crown and the Government of Canada, administered through Canadian-created laws and overseen by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada.



"Crown-Aboriginal Treaties in Canada, 1763-2005," Exhibits, accessed October 30, 2019, <https://exhibits.library.utoronto.ca/items/show/2482>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE TREATIES AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SETTLER SOCIETY & INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES:

- Interactive Map of Indigenous Territories, Languages, and Treaties (<http://native-land.ca>)
- Treaties from 1760 - 1923: Two sides to the Story (<http://cbc.ca/news/canada/treaties-from-1760-1923-two-sides-to-the-story-1.1081839>)
- Treaties, Agreements, and Negotiations (<http://rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1100100028568/1529354090684>)
- The eleven numbered treaties (or Post-Confederation Treaties) from 1871 to 1921 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Numbered_Treaties)
- Maps of the Pre-Confederation Treaties and Modern Treaties (<https://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1290453474688/1290453673970>)
- 6 Common Myths about Treaties in Canada (<http://indigenoustudies.utoronto.ca/news/treaty-myths/>)
- Land Claims Agreement Coalition: Interactive treaty maps, online courses, and resources (<https://landclaimscoalition.ca>)
- Montreal Indigenous Community Network: Indigenous Ally Toolkit (<http://reseaumtlnetwork.com/resources/>)

2. READ THE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION: 94 CALLS TO ACTION

In June 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) presented an **Executive Summary** of its findings to further reconciliation between non-Indigenous Canadians and Indigenous Peoples – and then its multi-volume Final Report, **Honouring the Truth – Reconciling for the Future**, in December 2015. All Canadians are encouraged to read the Summary or the Final Report to learn more about the history, legacy and ongoing reality of racism, faithism, and settler colonialism on these lands and territories and each of our roles going forward. A **youth-friendly version of the TRC Calls to Action** is available on the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada (FNCFCSC) website.

3. UNDERSTAND THE UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (UNDRIP)

In 2007, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the UNDRIP with 144 nations voting in favour, **4 nations voting against (including Canada)**, and 11 abstentions.

In 2010, **Canada issued a statement** in support of UNDRIP principles and in 2016, Canada became a full supporter of the declaration.

However, Indigenous communities and non-Indigenous allies continue to call on Canada to implement UNDRIP into law. "Indigenous Peoples are increasingly using the Declaration to assert rights in relation to resource development and other matters. In particular, the Declaration is being used to encourage governments and resource companies to respect the right of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC)" (Assembly of First Nations, 2017).

"Canada will only truly give effect to reconciliation when Indigenous Peoples have the right to say no — no to discriminatory government laws and policies; no to federal and provincial control over our Nations; no to racism from society, industry and government; no to sexualized violence, abuse and trafficking; no to theft of our children into foster care and the imprisonment of our peoples; no to the ongoing theft of our lands and resources; and no to the contamination and destruction of our lands, waters, plants, animals, birds and fish" (Pam Palmater, 2018).

Know Your Rights! UNDRIP for Adolescents:

www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/rights/index_69545.html

7. SUPPORT ONGOING INDIGENOUS ACTION AND RESISTANCE

The First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada has fought a **10 year long child welfare discrimination battle** with the Government of Canada at the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. In 2016, **the tribunal found the flaws and service gaps** in the First Nations Child and Family Services program to be discriminatory.

In 2020, **the Unist'ot'en camp** resisting ongoing threats of pipeline construction through Wet'suwet'en Territory - as recognized by the **Delgamuukw Decision** (Supreme Court of Canada, 1997) - was met with RCMP force while blockades were set up around Canada in a show of solidarity.

Wet'suwet'en Supporter Toolkit 2020:

<https://unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/>

8. FURTHER READING & RESOURCES

- "What are Land Acknowledgements & Why do they Matter?" Selena Mills (<https://locallove.ca>)
- Indigenous Environmental Justice Project, York University (<https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca>)

4. INUIT - CLIMATE CHANGE, SUICIDE & FOOD INSECURITY ACTION

The effects of climate change disproportionately impact Indigenous peoples including Inuit communities facing additional threats of epidemic suicides and food insecurity. Climate change poses "risks to [Inuit] wild food systems due to changes in access to harvesting areas, the changing distribution and range of wild food sources (animal and plant), the contamination or loss of water sources, changes in wild food preparation and preservation techniques" (National Inuit Climate Change Strategy, 2019).

5. RECOGNIZING MÉTIS & THE MANITOBA ACT OF 1870

In March 2013, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that the Manitoba Act of 1870 had not been honoured by Canada and that Métis children lost land promised to them as a result of delay and inaction of the Canadian Government. In 2019, Métis groups across Canada signed self-government agreements with the federal government.

6. IMPLEMENT THE FINDINGS & CALLS FOR JUSTICE FROM THE NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND GIRLS

"The National Inquiry [into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls] has determined that colonial structures and policies are persistent in Canada and constitute a root cause of the violence experienced by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people.

The violence...amounts to a **race-based genocide of Indigenous Peoples**, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, which especially targets women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA people. This genocide has been empowered by colonial structures, evidenced notably by the Indian Act, the Sixties Scoop, residential schools and breaches of human and Indigenous rights, leading directly to the current increased rates of violence, death, and suicide in Indigenous populations" (National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Reclaiming Power and Place, Volume 1a, p. 50).

Final Report & Calls for Justice:

<https://www.mmiwg-ffada.ca/final-report/>