

Glossary

Aboriginal peoples: The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people: Indians, Métis & Inuit. These are three separate peoples with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Aboriginal rights: Those rights which Aboriginal peoples have because of their status as Aboriginal people in their own land.

Accommodation: A convenient arrangement; a settlement or compromise.

Adhere: To behave according to; follow in detail; to give support or allegiance.

Adhesion: An addition made to a treaty when a new band signs onto an existing treaty; the new band then comes under the treaty rights and gives up its rights to all but reserve lands. Individuals also adhere to treaty by accepting annuities.

Agreement: The act of agreeing; a contract legally binding the contracting parties.

Anishinabe: A Saulteaux term describing themselves as the First People that came down from the Creator; coming down to be man.

Annihilation: To completely destroy; defeat utterly; make insignificant or powerless.

Annuity: An annual payment. Most treaties provided for annual payments, paid in perpetuity to each treaty Indian.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN); The assembly speaks for First Nations peoples all across Canada, working with the federal government on political, social, economic and healthcare issues.

Assimilation: Becoming part of another society; adapting to the society and taking on the characteristic or quality.

Authority: The source of power of individuals and organizations that hold positions of high status by virtue of such conditions as legal appointments, high education, job situation and experience.

Autonomous: Having self-government, acting or existing independently or having the freedom to do so.

Band: A group of First Nations peoples of whom lands have been set apart and money is held by the Crown. Each band has its own governing band council, usually consisting of one or more

chiefs and several councillors. Community members choose the chief land councillors by election or sometimes through traditional custom. The members of a band generally share common values, traditions land practices rooted in their ancestral heritage. Today, many bands prefer to be known as First Nations.

Belief: What is held to be true; something believed; opinion.

British North America Act (BNA, 1867); Canada's original Constitution, supplemented later by additional laws. It was the Charter of Confederation for the British Colonies, and established the powers of the federal government, the provinces and the territories.

Canadian Confederation: The federal union of provinces and territories forming Canada, originally including Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, and subsequently expanding to include the present provinces and territories.

Constitution Act 1982: The Constitution of Canada created and repatriated from Great Britain in 1982, wherein the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* guarantees specific rights and freedoms for Canadian citizens.

Cede: Give up one's rights to or possession of.

Cession: The act of ceding; a giving up, as of territory or rights, to another. The underlying principle of cession is that it is base on consent, usually acquired through negotiated agreements such as treaties.

Citizen: A person who lives in a given place, such as Saskatchewan or Canada, and has both a formal and informal relationship with other people in that place.

Citizenship: The fact of being a citizen of a country; the qualities considered desirable in a person viewed as a member of society, the exercising of rights, privileges and responsibilities as a member of a particular society.

Colonization: The act or policy of colonizing; to bring settlers into a country; to make a country into a colony.

Constitution: The body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed.

Contract: A written or spoken agreement between two or more parties, intended to be enforceable by law, a document recording this.

Covenant: An agreement between God and a person or nation.

Creator: The First Nations believe in a Great Spirit or God who was the Creator of all things. This spirit was often referred to as the Creator in the First Nations languages.

Cree: The European name for the First Nations living in central Canada. The Cree were divided into three main groups: the Plains Cree, the Woodland Cree and the Swampy Cree.

Crown: The monarch, especially as head of state; the power or authority residing in the monarchy. This term denotes the British government, as led by the monarchy.

Cultural diversity: Most commonly refers to differences between cultural groups, although it is also used to describe differences within cultural groups, (e.g. diversity within the Cree culture includes Plains Cree, Woodlands Cree and Swampy Cree). Underlying current usage is an emphasis on accepting and respecting cultural differences through the recognition that one culture is not intrinsically superior to another.

Culture: The customs, history, values and languages that make up the heritage of a person or people and contribute to that person's or peoples' identity. First Nations peoples use the term culture to refer to their traditional teachings: beliefs, history, languages, ceremonies, customs, traditions, priorities (how life should be) and stories.

Custom: A tradition that is passed from one generation to another.

Dakota: A term used by a Dakota- (Assiniboine) speaking person in reference to the Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota and Nakota Nations) that means 'those who consider themselves to be kindred.

Denesuline (Dene): The Athaspaskan-speaking peoples of northwestern Canada. This is their own name for themselves, 'the people'.

Diversity: The state or quality of being diverse or different. Within an ethnic group, each member of the group has unique qualities and characteristics, making the group diverse. Diversity includes difference in gender, age skills, knowledge, attributes, physical characteristics, education, etc. A situation that includes representation of multiple (ideally all) groups within a prescribed environment.

Elder: A person who has earned the right to be recognized as an Elder in his/her community and/or in other First Nations communities. Most have variety of special gifts they have acquired and earned. These Elders have the ability to pass on traditional teachings and provide spiritual guidance.

Entitlement: The allotment of reserve land due to a band under treaty; an outstanding entitlement means that the band did not get all of the reserve land that it should have.

Entrenched: To safeguard (rights, etc.) by constitutional provisions; provide for the legal or political perpetuation of.

European: A native or inhabitant of Europe, a person descended from natives of Europe.

Euro-Canadian: A Canadian of European origin or descent.

Eurocentricism: Label for all the beliefs that presume superiority of Europeans over non-Europeans.

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN): Since its inception more than 50 years ago, the FSIN has provided strong and constructive First Nations government. The FSIN represents Saskatchewan First Nations and more than 96,000 First Nations citizens in this province. [Changed to Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations \(FSIN\)](#)

First Nations: A collective term used to refer to the original peoples of North America. It is important to recognize that there are many different nations within the First Nations, each with their own culture, language and territory. Other descriptions of “First Nations” include the following: 1) usually used to refer to a politically autonomous band under the *Indian Act*, a nation of First Peoples; and 2) a term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word “Indian”. Although the term “First Nation” is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Among its uses, the term “First Nations peoples” refers to the descendants of the original inhabitants of Canada. The term “First Nation” has also been adopted to replace the word “band” in the name of communities.

Fiscal: Pertaining to financial matters; related to public revenue, taxes.

Fur trade: The system of trade between the Europeans and First Nations peoples in Canada. The fur trade was dominated for the most part by the Hudson’s Bay Company.

Governance: The act or manner of governing; the office or function of governing.

Hudson’s Bay Company: A British trading company chartered in 1670 to carry on the fur trade with the Indians of North America. The Hudson’s Bay Company played a great part in the exploration and development of Canada’s northwest.

Imperialism: A policy of acquiring dependent territories or extending a country’s influence over less developed countries through trade or diplomacy; the domination of another country’s economic, political or cultural institutions; the creation, maintenance or extension of an empire comprising many nations and areas, all controlled by a central government.

Indian: A person who is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*; a term that describes all the Aboriginal people in Canada who are not Inuit or Métis. Indian peoples are one of three groups of people recognized as Aboriginal in the *Constitution Act, 1982*. There are three definitions that apply to Indians in Canada: Status Indians, Non-Status Indians and Treaty Indians. The use of the term “Indian” has declined since the 1970s, when the term “First Nation” came into common usage.

Indian Act: Canadian legislation first passed in 1876 and amended many times since then; defines an Indian in relation to federal obligation land sets out a series of regulations applying to Indians living on reserves.

Indian Reserves: A tract of land, the legal title to which is vested in Her Majesty, that has been set apart by Her Majesty for the use and benefit of a band.

Indigenous peoples: All inhabitants indigenous to their lands and territories, and their descendants; native or belonging naturally to a place; of, pertaining to, or concerned with the aboriginal inhabitants of a region.

Influence: The power credited to individuals or an organization that uses persuasion, rational arguments, emotional appeals, rewards and/or bribes.

Inherent: A God-given right, existing in someone or something as a permanent characteristic or quality. Also, from Saskatchewan Ministry of Education’s *Native Studies 30 June 1997 curriculum guide*: A right which exists outside of the Constitution (of Canada) and does not have to be granted through agreements.

Integration: The integration occurring between the late 1960s to the 1980s; this period replaced the previous segregation era as First Nation children were sent to nearby urban centres in search of better opportunities.

Inuit: People living mainly in Northern Canada, Greenland, Alaska and eastern Siberia, who are the original inhabitants of the Arctic; the Eskimo people.

Jurisdiction: Administration of justice or other authority.

Kinship (as it relates to the treaties): The kinship which is embodied in the treaty relationship consists of three characteristics: First, the principle of mutual respect, and the duty of nurturing and caring describes the kind of relationship that would exist between mother and child.. Second, the principle of non-interference describes the relationship of brothers. Third,

Lakota: A term used by a Lakota-speaking person in reference to the Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota, Nakota Nations) that means those who consider themselves to be kindred.

Language: The method of human communication, either spoken or written, using words in an agreed way; the language of a particular community or nation.

Language/dialect: A form of speech peculiar to a particular region; a subordinate language form with non-standard vocabulary, pronunciation or grammar (e.g. the Plains Cree word for “the people” is *nehiyawak*, the Swampy Cree word is *nehinawak* and the Woods Cree word is *nehithawak*).

Madakota: A term most frequently used by a Dakota-speaking person to identify him or herself as being of Oceti Sakowin (Dakota, Lakota, Nakota) ancestry.

Malakota: As above used by a Lakota-speaking person.

Manakota: As above used by a Nakota-speaking person.

Métis: People born of, or descended from, both European and First Nations parents. A distinctive Métis Nation developed in what is now southern Manitoba in the 1800s, and the descendants of these people later moved throughout the prairies. There are also many other groups of mixed ancestry people who consider themselves Métis.

Nakota: One of the Oceti Sakowin sub-groups, the Nakota occupied large areas of Saskatchewan. The Nakota (sometimes called Assiniboine) retained their own hunting territory and are recognized as a separate nation.

Nation: Community of people of mainly common descent, history, language, etc. forming a State or inhabiting a territory; a group of people with a common history, language and culture who use a particular territory – and live upon it – and a system of governance.

Native: A person born in a specified place; a local inhabitant; a member of an Indigenous people of a country, region, etc. as distinguished from settlers, immigrants and their descendants.

Nehiyawak (Nehinawak, Nehithawak); A Cree term describing the People of the Four Directions.

Non-Status Indian: An Indian person who is not registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*. This may be because his or her ancestors were never registered or because he or she lost Indian status under former provisions of the *Indian Act*.

Number Treaties: Treaties signed between 1871 and 1921, each numbered 1 to 11, throughout the North and West. All contained some rights conferred on Indians, such as reserves and annuities, and in return the First Nations agreed to share vast tracts of land.

Oceti Sakowin: The political organization of the Dakota, Lakota and Nakota peoples. Oceti Sakjowin is the term used in their language to refer to their historical and ongoing social and political brotherhood. The Dakota, Lakota and Nakota have often been erroneously referred to as Sioux, Assiniboine or Stoney. There are four dialects of the language which are spoken in Saskatchewan: Isanti (Dakota), Ihanktonwan (Nakota), Hohe (Nakota) and Titonwan (Lakota).

Office of the Treaty Commissioner (OTC): The OTC was created by the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the government of Canada to facilitate treaty discussions between the Government of Canada and the First Nations.

Oral history: The art of passing on the history, values and beliefs of the First Nations from one generation to the next through the spoken words of people who have knowledge of past events and traditions. Knowledge based on the experience of the person speaking, usually recollections of events the person saw, heard of or took part in.

Oral tradition: Knowledge that goes back many generations. It may take the form of laws, myths, songs, stories or fables. It may be found in place names or phrases in a traditional aboriginal language. Weaving, masks, totem poles, carvings and other symbolic creations may be used by some First Nations to record information.

Note: First Nations oral tradition has been labelled as myths, fables, legends and stories. However each of these terms conceals the true meaning of oral tradition. For instance, the term “myth” is derogatory and is associated with fantasy and untruth. It is also assumed that the events in stories never took place. In oral tradition, it is clear that the events addressed did take place and are very real in the mind of the storyteller, who follows centuries of protocol for passing this information on.

Policy: A definite course or method of action selected from among alternatives and in light of given conditions to guide and determine present and future decisions.

Power: The ability to carry out decisions.

Reinstated Status Indians: This includes people who regained their status on the Indian register as per the Bill C-31 amendment made to the *Indian Act* effective April 17, 1985. They are required to make further application to specific bands, usually the band from which they were enfranchised, to receive band membership. In reference to this group of people, the term Status Indian is sufficient.

Royal Proclamation of 1763: A legal document which established British ownership over all colonies in Canada and provided protection over unsettled lands belonging to the Indians.

Saulteaux: Sometimes call the Ojibway, these First Nations were latecomers to what is now Saskatchewan, settling primarily in southern areas through alliances with the Nakota (Assiniboine) and Cree.

Segregation: The separation or isolation of a race, class or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities or by other discriminatory means.

Self-determination: The freedom of a people to decide their own allegiance or form of government.

Self-government: Government by its own people; self-control.

Status Indian (First Nation): Three definitions are as follows: 1) an Indian person who is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act* and thus recognized by the federal government as an Indian and accorded the accompanying rights, benefits and restrictions of the *Indian Act* and related policies; 2) Status Indians who are registered or entitled to be registered under the *Indian Act*. The act sets out the requirements for determining who is Status Indian; and 3) a commonly used term applied to a person who is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*; a Registered Indian is a person who, pursuant to the *Indian Act*, is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian.

Society: A social community; the customs and organization of an ordered community.

Solemn: Serious and dignified, formal; accompanied by ceremony, especially for religious purposes, grave, sober deliberate; slow in movement or action (a solemn promise).

Sovereign: Characterized by independence or autonomy, especially having the rights; concerned with or pertaining to independence or autonomy; the right to rule without any external control; ultimate jurisdiction or power. Claiming sovereignty for the First Nations means governing themselves without any external control.

Sovereignty: The absolute and independent authority of a community, nation, etc.; the right to autonomy of self-government; supremacy with respect to power and rank; supreme authority; a territory or community existing as a self-governing or independent state.

Sovereignty (First Nations perspective): The Creator gave the First Nations:

- The land on the island of North America (“Turtle Island”, the Peoples’ Island).
- A way to communicate with Him for guidance and to give thanks.
- Laws, values and principles that described the relationships and responsibilities they possessed to and for the lands given to them.

- An interconnectedness among the sacred ceremonies, teachings and beliefs among the First Nations.
- Spiritual philosophies teachings, laws and traditions that provided a framework for the political, social, educational and cultural institutions , and laws that allowed them to survive as nations from the beginning of time to the present.
- The “gifts” they needed to survive both spiritually and materially, given to them through their special relationship with the Creator. These gifts are the life-sustaining and life-giving forces represented by the sun, water, grass, animals, fire and Mother Earth.
- Relationships that symbolize and represent the existence of a living sovereign First Nations circle (humans, plants, animals, land, etc.).

Spirituality: A devotion to spiritual things; a spiritual quality.

State: A sovereign political community organized under a distinct government recognized and conformed to by the people as supreme and having jurisdiction over a given territory; a nation.

Stereotype: A generalization about a group of people; to label a person because they belong to a certain group.

Surrender: To give up possession or control of (something) to another, especially on compulsion or demand; to relinquish, yield.

Surrender claim: An agreed-upon transfer of Indian land to the Government of Canada, usually for money. Under the *Indian Act*, reserve land can only be sold to the federal government, which may then sell or lease the land on behalf of the Indian band or First Nation.

Territory: An area that has been occupied in regard to use or jurisdiction.

Tradition: The handing down of beliefs, opinions, customs, stories, etc. from parents to children.

Treaties: Solemn agreements between two or more nations that create mutually binding obligations.

Treaty: Formally concluded and ratified agreement between states; an agreement between individuals or parties, especially for the purchase of property.

Treaty First Nation: A person who obtained treaty rights through treaty negotiations. Specifically, leaders and members of the First Nations who negotiated treaty and passed on their treaty rights to their children, with exception to the *Indian Act* legislated situations.

Treaty Indian: Three definitions are as follows: 1) an Indian person whose forefathers signed a numbered treaty in which land was exchanged for certain listed payments, such as money, tools, and health and educational benefits. The term is often used in the prairie provinces synonymous with “Status Indian”; 2) a First Nation whose ancestors signed a treaty with the Crown and as a result are entitled to treaty benefits. Non-treaty Indians do not receive the same benefits; and 3) Indian people or descendants of Indian people who entered into treaties with the Crown or Canadian government.

Treaty Land Entitlement (TLE): A specific area of claims concerning fulfillment of the guarantee of reserve land in the Numbered Treaties.

Treaty rights: Rights that are provided for in the treaties made between the First Nations and the British Crown or the Government of Canada.

Trust obligations: The obligations of the federal government to act in the best interests of Indians when acting on their behalf on a trusteeship capacity. These obligations, which are rooted in the treaties and the *Indian Act* are akin to those exercised by one country to another that has been made a protectorate of the first.

Values: The ideals and standards set by a society.

Worldview: A comprehensive view or philosophy of life, the world and the universe. Worldview can be described as a philosophy or view of life that shapes how we interact and respond to the world around us. Our own worldview influences, shapes and interprets what we experience, and provides us with a sense of vision for the future.

Yield: Give up, surrender, concede; comply with a demand for.