

A BRIEF HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS RELATIONS IN CANADA

This is an abbreviated timeline of decrees, Acts, policies, reports and events that have shaped Indigenous history in Canada.

1763 ●

The Royal Proclamation

Signed by King George III giving limited recognition of title to Indigenous communities and providing guidelines for negotiating treaties on a nation-to-nation basis.

1876 ●

Indian Act, 1876

Consolidation of Indian policies

1953 ●

Inuit relocation

The federal government forcefully moves Inuit from Inukjuak in northern Québec to Ellesmere and Cornwallis Islands

1982 ●

Canadian Constitution Act, 1982

Aboriginal and treaty rights (s.35) entrenched in the supreme law of Canada

2008 ●

Formal apology

Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivers the formal apology to residential school survivors and their families

2019 ●

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls National Inquiry

Report published

● **1400s**

Doctrine of Discovery

A means of legitimizing the colonization of lands outside of Europe.

Christopher Columbus arrives in the Americas

● **1867**

British North America Act (now known as Constitution Act, 1867)

Colonial responsibility for Indigenous peoples and lands is transferred to the new federal government

● **1885**

Northwest Rebellion

Métis and their allies lead the five-month Northwest Resistance against the federal government in what is now Saskatchewan and Alberta

● **1960s**

The Sixties Scoop

Thousands of Indigenous babies and children are taken from their families and placed in boarding schools or foster homes of middle-class Euro-Canadian families

● **1996**

The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples

Report recommends a public inquiry into the effects of residential schools

● **2015**

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

Report published