his timeline is designed to accompany Historica Canada's **Indigenous Perspectives** ducation Guide, which include: lesson plans and classroom activitie based on the Historical Thinking Concepts. Download the Guide at

Note: This timeline presents key even and developments in Indigenous history in what is now Canada, from time immemorial to present. While no timeline can be exhaustive in its coverage, it provides a broad chronological overview to support educators and students.

With support from Canada

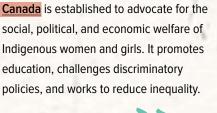
The Robinson-Superior and Robinson-Huron treaties are signed in what is now Ontario, as are the Douglas treaties in what is now British Columbia. The controversia agreements allow for the exploitation of natural resources on vast swaths of land in return for annual cash payments, and make evident the differing understandings of land ownership and relationship-building through treaties.



Indigenous men over 21 and "sufficiently advanced" in their education can be take the offer, in part because it means losing their treaty rights.



The Native Women's Association of





An anti-sealing campaign led by Greenpeace attacks Inuit hunting practices, economically devastating Inuit communities for years. Greenpeace publicly expresses regret in 2014.

to consult with Indigenous peoples on outstanding issues.

ntroduction

Indigenous nations tell their

own stories about the origins

of the world and their place

in it; all claim their ancestry

dates to time immemorial.

At the same time, there is

considerable archeological

first came to North America

though broad assumptions

from northeastern Asia,

by both land bridge

and boat, between

30,000 and 13,500

years ago.

suggest waves of migration

The **British North America Act** creates the Dominion of

Canada. Colonial responsibility for Indigenous peoples

and lands is transferred to the new federal government,

under the Department of the Interior.

The **Red River Resistance** sees the

Métis and First Nations allies defend

the Red River Colony from the federal

government's attempt to transfer

Rupert's Land to Canada without

consultation. Fearing a deluge of

settlers and trying to safeguard their

lands and culture, the Métis – led by

resistance and lead an uprising. In the

wake of the armed conflict, Riel flees

to the United States. White settlement

Louis Riel – establish a Provisional

Government to coordinate the

continues to expand westward.

Promises to protect Métis rights

Irrefutable archeological evidence of human occupation in the northern half of North America, including in the Tanana River Valley (Alaska), Haida Gwaii (British Columbia), Vermilion Lakes (Alberta), and Debert (Nova Scotia).

10.000-2000 BCE

Settlements and communities

are present almost everywhere in what

s now Canada. From coast to coast

complex religious, artistic, and literary

practices as well as economic, social,

to coast, Indigenous peoples adapt

to their surroundings and establish

and political structures.

# Northeast Woodlands Indigenous groups introduce

The 11 Numbered Treaties are signed

Indigenous nations. These treaties, still

vast areas of traditional Indigenous

and development in exchange for a

territory available for white settlement

system of reserves (treaty lands), cash

payments, access to agricultural tools,

and hunting and fishing rights. Elders

note that the initial spirit and intent of

the treaties have been disregarded.

controversial and contested today, make

by the Canadian government and

2000-200 BCE

Indigenous groups on the west coast

establish sedentary living, hierarchical

chiefdoms, and stratified communities.

All have recognizable governments,

intellectual traditions, spiritual and

educational practices, and sophisticated

An amendment to the *Indian Act* 

disempowers Indigenous women by

declaring they "cease to be an Indian

in any respect" if they marry "any other

than an Indian, or a non-treaty Indian."

formally disenfranchises and

The *Indian Act* is passed by the Government

social, and political regulation of First Nations

Many subsequent amendments further restrict

banning hereditary chiefdoms and other forms

of governance; expropriating reserve lands for

public purposes; requiring permission to be

off-reserve in some provinces; prohibiting the

**botlatch** and **sun dances**; requiring attendance

t Residential School; revoking Indian status

when enfranchised; and requiring the consent

of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs before

ring lawyers to initiate land claims in the courts

The *Indian Act* is amended to address discrimination

faced by First Nations women who face the loss of

their Indian status if they marry non-status Indians.

This change occurs when Sandra Lovelace Nicholas, a

brings her case to the UN Human Rights Committee.

Volastoqiyik (Maliseet) woman from New Brunswick,

their rights and freedoms. Changes include

peoples (and lands) would facilitate assimilation.

of Canada on the premise that economic,

Developed communities on the Plains employ treaties to share territory with humans and nonhuman beings

Norse explorers meet "Skraelings'

(possibly **Dorset**, **Inuit**, **Thule**, or **Beothuk** 

on Baffin Island and Newfoundland and

hostility and violence prevent lasting Norse

Inuit across the Arctic suffer

greatly from malnutrition and

starvation as marine mammals,

who also introduce many diseases.

Prime Minister John A. Macdonald authorizes the

creation of **Residential Schools**, run by Christian

Euro-Canadian culture and practices.

churches, to force Indigenous children to assimilate to

The Meech Lake Accord collapses when

member in the Manitoba legislature, blocks

its passage, citing the accord's failure to

consult with First Nations or recognize their

Elijah Harper, the Ione First Nations

on which they rely for food, plummet

under pressure from European whalers.

Labrador. They exchange goods, but

osaunee Confederacy (Iroquois League), organized by <mark>Dekanahwideh</mark> the Peacemaker) and Hiawatha, tries to provide a peaceful and equitable means to resolve disputes among member nations in the lower Great Lakes region.

# Estimates for the Indigenous population in what would become Canada range from

200,000 to 500,000 people, though some

uggest it was as high as 2.5 million, with

between 300 and 450 languages spoken.

debate about when humans — the second of the

The papal bull *Inter Caetera* — the "Doctrine of

Discovery" — is decreed a year after Christopher

Columbus' first voyage to America. Made without

consulting Indigenous populations nor with any

Europeans claim legal title to the "new world."

recognition of their rights, it is the means by which

The Two-Row Wampum (Kaswentha) establishes the **Covenant Chain**, a series of agreements between the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and European representatives. They agree to work toward peace as well as economic, political, and cultural sovereignty; gift exchanges honour promises and renew alliances.

Between 4,000 and 6,000 Indigenous

people serve in the Canadian military

during the **First World War**. They are

are pictured above.

The Métis and their First Nations allies lead the five-month Northwest Resistance

white settlers and government encroachment on their lands, the Métis form a second

provisional government in the region, again led by **Louis Riel**. The Métis Bill of Rights

representation, and better education. As calls go unheeded, the Métis, led by Gabriel

demands improved treatment for all residents of the region, including land rights, political

**Dumont**, take military action, but federal troops prevail. Riel is hanged for treason and Cree

chiefs Mistahimaskwa (Big Bear) and Pitikwahanapiwiyin (Poundmaker) are imprisoned.

Continual contact between

European fishermen and

Indigenous peoples on the

The first European nissionaries (Récollet and later <mark>Jesuits)</mark> arrive to convert Indigenous populations to Catholicism.

Indigenous technology and knowledge of hunting,

trapping, guiding, food, and disease prove crucial

to the survival of Europeans and early colonial

economy and society, particularly in the supply

of beaver pelts and other furs. The establishment

of alliances gives Indigenous peoples access to

European weaponry and other goods.

Three dozen Indigenous groups and the French colonial government sign the Great Peace of Montréal, forging peaceful relations that end nearly a century of war between the Haudenosaunee and the French (and their Indigenous allies).

The **Hudson's Bay Company** is established

monopoly and increasing the volume of

THE STORY

A NATIONAL CRIM

P. H. BRYCE, M.A., M.D.

AN APPEAL FOR JUSTICE

INDIANS OF CANADA

by English Royal Charter, forming a

goods in the fur trade.

The **Seven Years War** begins in North America. Hostilities between the French and English centred in Europe (beginning in 1756), but the fight for control of North America, with Indigenous allies on both sides, starts in 1754.

Tuberculosis, smallpox, and measles

spread, intentionally or inadvertently,

across North America, devastating

Indigenous populations.

Complaints about Inuit not bearing traditional

Christian names arise, beginning decades of

government labelling strategies to ease the

recording of census information and entrench

federal authority in the North. Among the failed

initiatives are metal discs with ID numbers, and

Between 5,000 and 8,000 Indigenous

soldiers fight for Canada in the

major battles and campaigns.

Second World War, serving in all

King George III of Britain declares dominion over North America east of the Appalachian Mountains. His Royal Proclamation gives limited recognition of title to Indigenous communities and provides guidelines for negotiating treaties on a nation-to-nation basis.

Pontiac's Resistance provides a strong show

of Indigenous unity. Under the leadership

of Ottawa chief Obwandiyag (Pontiac), an

Indigenous alliance tries to resist European

occupation by ridding the lower Great Lakes

region of English settlers and soldiers.

Indigenous lobbying leads to Indian Act

councils more powers, award women the

right to vote in band elections, and lift

the ban on the potlatch and sun dances

Indigenous men and women support the

Some soldiers who fought alongside

amendments that give elected band



grants land, negotiated nine

Thayendanegea P

years earlier by

Confederacy in

return for helping

Britain during the

Elsie Marie Knott becomes the first

when she is elected to lead the

holds the position for 16 years.

In the High Arctic Relocation, the

87 Inuit from Inukjuak in northern

federal government forcefully moves

Québec to Ellesmere and Cornwallis

Islands. The relocation is part of the

territorial sovereignty during the

Cold War. Adequate support for the

government's effort to secure northern

female chief of a First Nation in Canada

Anishinaabe (Ojibwe) Curve Lake First

Nation near Peterborough, Ontario. She

Status **Indians** receive the right to

vote in federal elections, no longer

losing their status or treaty rights in the

American

Revolution

(Joseph Brant), to

the Haudenosaunee

Haida chief Koyah organizes the first of many attacks on the British, who had begun coastal explorations in an emergent west coast fur

The War of 1812 sees tens of thousands of Indigenous people fight for their land, independence, and culture, as allies of either Great Britain or the United States. In British North America, the Western Confederacy, led by <u>Tecumseh</u> and <u>Tenskwatawa</u>, plays a crucial role in protecting Upper and Lower Canada from American invasion. By the end of hostilities, almost 10,000 Indigenous people had died from wounds or disease. The Treaty of Ghent, which is supposed to return lands and "all possessions, rights and privileges" to Indigenous peoples affected by the war, is ignored.

The Mohawk Institute opens in Brantford, Upper Canada (Ontario), as a day school for boys from the Six Nations Reserve. In 1831, it begins to operate as a Residential School with the goal of assimilating Indigenous children. It is the precursor to the more elaborate system of Residential Schools.



Thousands of Indigenous

children are taken from their

families and communities by

provincial and federal social

workers and placed in foster or

adoption homes, often with non-

Indigenous families. The number

taken from their birth families

in the "Sixties Scoop" varies by

often on the Prairies.

province, but the practice occurs

A federal White Paper on Indian Affairs proposes abolishing the Indian Act, Indian status, and reserves, and transferring responsibility for Indian affairs to the provinces. In response, Cree Chief Harold Cardinal writes the Red Paper, calling for recognition of Indigenous peoples as "Citizens Plus." The government later withdraws the proposal after considerable opposition from Indigenous organizations.

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, renamed Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami in 2001, is formed as a national organization advocating for selfgovernment, social, economic, environmental, health, and political welfare of Inuit in Canada, and preservation of language and history.

The Supreme Court

of Canada agrees that

Indigenous peoples held

title to land before European

colonization, that this title

existed in law, and that it

extinguished. Named for

continues unless specifically

Nisga'a chief Frank Calder

the **Calder Case** forces the

government to adopt new

policies to negotiate land

The **Gradual Civilization Act** is passed by the Province of Canada to encourage assimilation of Indigenous peoples to Euro-Canadian values. enfranchised and given 50 acres of land. Few



### Ottawa aboard the "Constitution Express" to

raise awareness about the lack of recognition of Indigenous rights in the proposed Canadian

## Activists travel by train from Vancouver to

and thanks to the advocacy of Indigenous peoples, Section 35 recognizes and affirms Aboriginal title and treaty rights. Later, Section 37 is amended, obligating the federal and provincial governments

## rights, education, health, land, and resources.

Final Agreement, Arctic land claim.

federal government sign the Inuvialuit a massive Western

Several politically charged standoffs occur on disputed lands. More than 800

Territories and Canada sign the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement, the largest in is created from the central and eastern portions of the N.W.T. in 1999.

a public inquiry into the effects of Residential governments, Indigenous peoples, and non-Indigenous Canadians.

The Supreme Court makes several key decisions respecting Indigenous people

oral testimony as a source of evidence; and 2) a 2003 ruling prescribing three

conditions for Métis status: self-identification as a Métis individual; ancestral

including but not limited to: 1) a 1997 ruling that traditional Indigenous land rights

and title cannot be extinguished by the British Columbia government and validating

connection to a historical Métis community; and acceptance by a Métis community.

The terms of the Nisga'a Final **Agreement** come into effect, granting the Nisga'a \$196 million over 15 years plus communal self-government and control of natural resources in parts of northwestern British Columbia.

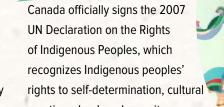
The Nunavik Inuit Land Claims

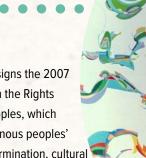
Prime Minister Stephen Harper issues a statement of apology to former students of Residential Schools in Canada for the harm caused by assimilationist goals, abuse, and cultural loss. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau extends the apology in 2017 to students of Residential Schools in Newfoundland

Supreme Court of Canada Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin notes that the mistreatment of Indigenous peoples is the "most glaring blemish on the Canadian historic record." She further states that assimilationist efforts constitute "cultural genocide.'

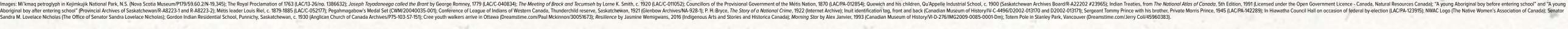
In Daniels et al. v. Canada, the Supreme Court rules that Métis and non-status Indigenous peoples are "Indians" within the meaning of s. 91:24 of the Constitution Act, 1867. Like the Inuit, they are not included under the *Indian Act*.













The Story of a National

Crime, published by Dr.

Officer for Canada's

P.H. Bryce, Chief Medical

Department of the Interior

and Indian Affairs, argues

that Indigenous people's

health is being ignored in

in violation of treaty pledges.

Residential Schools and Indian Hospitals

The League of Indians forms to advocate for improved living conditions and the protection of Indigenous rights and practices. Though its effectiveness is weakened by government harassment, police surveillance, and disunity among Indigenous groups, it forms the basis for Indigenous political



territorial, and Indigenous leaders on health, is promised, no formal agreement on how to dispense the money is reached. A federal election is called, and the Accord is not implemented by the new government.

## the League of Nations recognize the Six as a sovereign nation.

organizing in the future.

(Levi General)

campaigns to have

of consultation among federal, provincial, education, social, and economic improvements for Indigenous peoples. While 5 billion dollars

# Most do not receive the same Nations of Grand River support or compensation as other veterans upon

Project Surname.

The **Kelowna Accord** follows 18 months

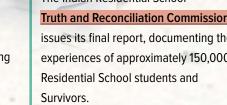
Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada formally acknowledges Supreme Court rulings on the Crown's "duty to consult" and, if appropriate, accommodate when the Crown considers initiating activities or decisions – often dealing with natural resource extraction – that might impact Indigenous peoples' treaty rights.

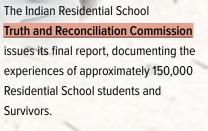




self-determination.







Sled dogs are killed as part of the

Sled Dog Slaughter, a government

nomadic lifestyle and move them

away from their traditional lands.

assimilationist initiative to force the

Inuit of Northern Québec to deny their









Eastern Arctic Inuit of the

Northwest Territories begin

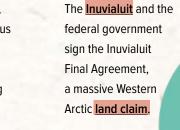
discussions about forming

an Inuit territory.









The **Assembly of First Nations** is formed

out of the National Indian Brotherhood to

promote the interests of First Nations in the

realm of self-government, respect for treaty

people are arrested during the "War in the Woods" when Tla-o-qui-aht and environmentalists fight to protect ancient forests from loggers in Clayoquot Sound British Columbia. The Oka Crisis sees Mohawk activists clash with Québec provincial police for 78 days. Tensions over the Kettle and Stony Point First Nation occupation at Ipperwash Provincial Park contribute to protestor Dudley George's death at the hands of an Ontario Provincial Police officer.

Inuit and the governments of the Northwest Canada's history. A new territory, Nunavut,

The closure of Gordon Residential

School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan,

system in Canada.

marks the end of the Residential School

The final report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples is published. It recommends Schools and calls for improved relations between

Agreement comes into effect, addressing ownership of land and resources in James Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Ungava Bay, as well as part of northern Labrador.

and Labrador.

