

February TRC Newsletter

James Whiteside Elementary

Monthly Focus: Policies of Colonization

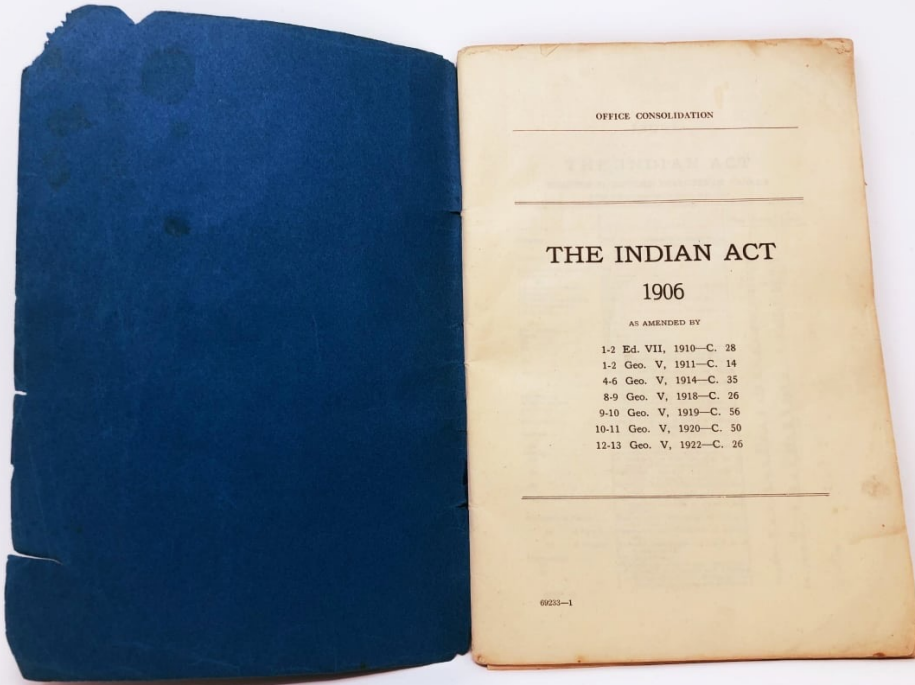


Image Credit: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/secretlifeofcanada/what-do-you-really-know-about-the-indian-act-1.5188255>

Resource #1

**Indigenous Foundations:
The Indian Act**

<https://indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca/the-indian-act/>

"The Indian Act is a Canadian federal law that governs in matters pertaining to Indian status, bands, and Indian reserves. Throughout history it has been highly invasive and paternalistic..."

Resource #2

The White Paper, 1969

<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/the-white-paper-1969>

"The 1969 White Paper... was a Canadian government policy paper... aimed to assimilate all "Indian" peoples under the Canadian state."

Resource #3

Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement
<https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indian-residential-schools-settlement-agreement>

"The largest class action settlement in Canadian history to date, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) recognized the damage inflicted on Indigenous peoples..."

Summary of this month's resources...

This month we have selected some resources regarding specific policies that have impacted Indigenous peoples living within Canada. The first is the Indian Act of 1876, followed by the White Paper of 1969 and the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. These links require a fair bit of reading, but they provide significant context to help understand the ongoing legacy of colonialism in Canada.

Questions to consider:

Are you familiar with the **pass system** that was in place for over 60 years?

Have you heard of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)?



PRINCIPLES



Respecting the Government of Canada's Relationship With Indigenous Peoples

The Government of Canada recognizes that:

All relations with Indigenous peoples need to be based on the recognition and implementation of their right to self-determination, including the inherent right of self-government.

1



Reconciliation is a fundamental purpose of section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

2

The honour of the Crown guides the conduct of the Crown in all of its dealings with Indigenous peoples.

3



Indigenous self-government is part of Canada's evolving system of cooperative federalism and distinct orders of government.

4

Treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements between Indigenous peoples and the Crown have been and are intended to be acts of reconciliation based on mutual recognition and respect.

5



Meaningful engagement with Indigenous peoples aims to secure their free, prior, and informed consent when Canada proposes to take actions which impact them and their rights on their lands, territories, and resources.

6

Respecting and implementing rights is essential and that any infringement of section 35 rights must by law meet a high threshold of justification which includes Indigenous perspectives and satisfies the Crown's fiduciary obligations.

7



Reconciliation and self-government require a renewed fiscal relationship, developed in collaboration with Indigenous nations, that promotes a mutually supportive climate for economic partnership and resource development.

8

Reconciliation is an ongoing process that occurs in the context of evolving Indigenous-Crown relationships.

9



A distinctions-based approach is needed to ensure that the unique rights, interests and circumstances of the First Nations, the Métis Nation and Inuit are acknowledged, affirmed, and implemented.

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