

## GLOSSARY

The following definitions of terms are intended to help in understanding historical and contemporary concepts surrounding the history of Aboriginal people.

Edited by Deirdre Buckley-McKie.

Aboriginal peoples	The indigenous inhabitants of Canada, including status and non-status Indians, the Inuit, and the Métis peoples, without regard to their separate origins and identities. This collective term is interchangeable with Native peoples.
Aboriginal rights	The rights that Native peoples retain based on their original occupancy of the land.
Aboriginal world view	A balanced, harmonious, and orderly relationship between people and the world. The Aboriginal peoples evolved distinctive lifestyles founded on this concept.
appropriation	When Aboriginal cultural motifs, themes, images, and so on are made use of by non-Aboriginal peoples without authority.
assimilate	To absorb one group into the culture of another.
band	A specific group of Aboriginal people officially registered under the Indian Act and usually identified with specific reserve land.
Bill C-31	A bill that amended in 1985 certain sections of the Indian Act, in particular those related to status and band membership provisions.
catalyst	A determinant or factor that provokes or speeds significant change or action.
community	A collection of people who are united by kinship, tradition, language, culture, or circumstance. Communities traditionally provide a sense of individual and collective identity.

colonization	Defined as some form of invasion, dispossession and subjugation of a peoples. The invasion need not be military; it can begin—or continue—as geographical intrusion in the form of agricultural, urban or industrial encroachments. The result of such incursion is the dispossession of vast amounts of lands from the original inhabitants
culture	The system of shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours, and artifacts that the members of society use to cope with their world and with one another, and that are transmitted from generation to generation through learning.
DIN	Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.
First Nation	A term used in place of Indian band.
historic trauma	A cluster of traumatic events that operate as a causal factor in a variety of maladaptive social and behavioural patterns. Hidden collective memories of trauma can be passed from generation to generation, just as the maladaptive social and behavioural patterns that are symptoms of many social disorders.
Indian Act	Canadian federal legislation, first passed in 1876, and amended several times since. It set out certain federal government obligations and regulates the management of Indian reserve lands, Indian moneys and other resources.
Indigenous peoples	Populations who are the original inhabitants of a particular region or environment.
Intergenerational impact or effects	The effects of sexual and physical abuse that were passed on to the children, grandchildren and great-

	grandchildren of Aboriginal people who attended the Residential School System.
Intergenerational survivors	Children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of Survivors. While they did not attend Residential Schools themselves, many suffered similarly at the hands of their ancestors, who passed on the abuses they suffered in the Residential School System.
Inuit	A people also known as Inuvialuit, and previously known as Eskimo.
Métis	People of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry.
reserve	A tract of land set aside by agreement or treaty for the exclusive use of an Indian band, currently referred to as a First Nation community.
residential schools	The Indian Act stipulates that the federal government is responsible for the education of status Indian children from the ages of six to eighteen. The act authorizes the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs to enter into agreements regarding the education of status Indian children with the government of a province, a public or separate school board, or a religious or charitable organization. Residential schools controlled by the churches comprised the basis of Native education for over a hundred years. Residential schools began to be closed in 1969; the last one closed in 1988.
segregation	Means to keep apart from a larger collective society
self-government	The right to govern includes the right to administer taxes, pass laws, manage

	land and natural resources, negotiate with other governments, and, in some instances, take responsibility for education, health, safety, and welfare services for a given community.
sovereignty	Freedom from outside control (in the case of a nation, freedom to govern itself).
spirituality	The experience or relationship with an empowering source of ultimate value, purpose and meaning of human life producing healing and hope, and is articulated in diverse beliefs and practices of individuals, families and communities.
treaties	Agreements in which ancestors gave up their rights to land in exchange for certain promises made by the federal government. The word treaty implies that it was an agreement on how both parties would treat each other.

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