

Issues with First Nation's Collective Rights



**To What Extent
Should Canadians
Support Collective
Rights?**

First Nations Collective Rights

- What are the collective rights of the First Nations?
- Why are FN's entitled to those rights?
- What document contains the rights?



What Obstacles Are There in Realizing the Collective Rights of the First Nations?



100%

Treaty Negotiations



Treaty Negotiations



Treaty Negotiations

SUMMARY

Honourable Alexander Morris told the First Nations that the government would help them in transitioning to a new way of life, that their way of life will not be disturbed and guaranteed for the future.

Morris promised tools and animals for farming, reserve lands, small cash payments, ammunition, twine, schools, and presents to the Chiefs and Headmen.

After hearing of what the government promised in the Treaty, the First Nations met with one another to decide whether they would agree to the terms.

Chiefs Ahtahkakoop and Mistawasis made a plea to the people to accept what the government was offering. First Nations wanted assistance with medical care and rations in times of starvation, terms not seen in earlier treaties.

- First Nations and Europeans had different views of terms
- First Nations recorded orally
- Treaty commissioners recorded in writing

Lost in Translation



First Nation's Perspective

- Land

- Shared with Canada



Shared Land



Rental Agreement

MONTH-TO-MONTH

This rental agreement, dated _____, is between _____, tenant, and _____, landlord, for the rental unit located at: _____.

Under this rental agreement, the tenant agrees to rent the above-mentioned residence on a month-to-month basis, with a monthly rental amount of \$ _____. The monthly rent will be due and payable on the _____ day of each month, starting on the first day of _____, 20 _____. A damage deposit is required at the time of signing this rental agreement. The deposit will be placed in an escrow account. The amount of this deposit shall be \$ _____. If the rental unit is returned to the landlord in a clean and good condition, this deposit will be refunded to the tenant within _____ days from the date the tenant returns said keys to the landlord. The tenant or the landlord may terminate this agreement with a _____ day written notice to the other party. The attached rental policy shall be made part of this agreement and shall be binding on all parties.

The tenant acknowledges reading and understanding this agreement and the rental policy that is part of this agreement. The tenant's signature below indicates acceptance of all terms and conditions of this rental agreement and the rental policy.

_____ [Landlord] _____ [Date]

_____ [Tenant] _____ [Date]

YOUR TREATY HAS
EXPIRED!!!

THEN,
YOUR LEASE
IS UP!!





First Nation's Perspective

- **Land**

- Shared with Canada

- **Education**

- Teach First Nations European knowledge



Education



First Nation's Perspective

- **Land**
 - Shared with Canada
- **Education**
 - Teach the First Nations European knowledge
- **Provide for First Nations**
 - Help in times of need
 - Help adjust First Nations to new lifestyle



Provide for First Nations



First Nation's Perspective

- **Land**
 - Shared with Canada
- **Education**
 - Teach the First Nations European knowledge
- **Provide for First Nations**
 - Help in times of need
 - Help adjust First Nations to new lifestyle
- **Length of Terms**
 - As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the river flows
 - (Forever)



In Force Forever



As long as the sun shines, the grass grows, and the rivers flow

First Nations Perspective



European Perspective

■ Land

- Surrendered to Canada
- First Nations no longer own it



Surrendered Land

“Surrender and yield up to the Government of the Dominion of Canada, for Her Majesty the Queen and Her successors forever, all their rights, titles and privileges, whatsoever, to the lands”



Surrendered Land



European Perspective

■ Land

- Surrendered to Canada
- First Nations no longer own it

■ Education

- Teach First Nations how to be European
- Assimilate First Nations



Teach How to Be European

- **Assimilation:** The process of becoming part of another cultural group



Assimilation



Residential Schools



European Perspective

■ Land

- Surrendered to Canada
- First Nations no longer own it

■ Education

- Teach First Nations how to be European

■ Provide for First Nations

- Paternalistic
- Control lives of First Nations



Provide for First Nations

- **Paternalistic:** the attitude that protects people, gives them what they need but does not give them any responsibility



ILLUSTRATION: ALISON SELPER



White Man's Burden



Banning the Potlatch and Sundance



European Perspective

■ Land

- Surrendered to Canada
- First Nations no longer own it

■ Education

- Teach First Nations how to be European

■ Provide for First Nations

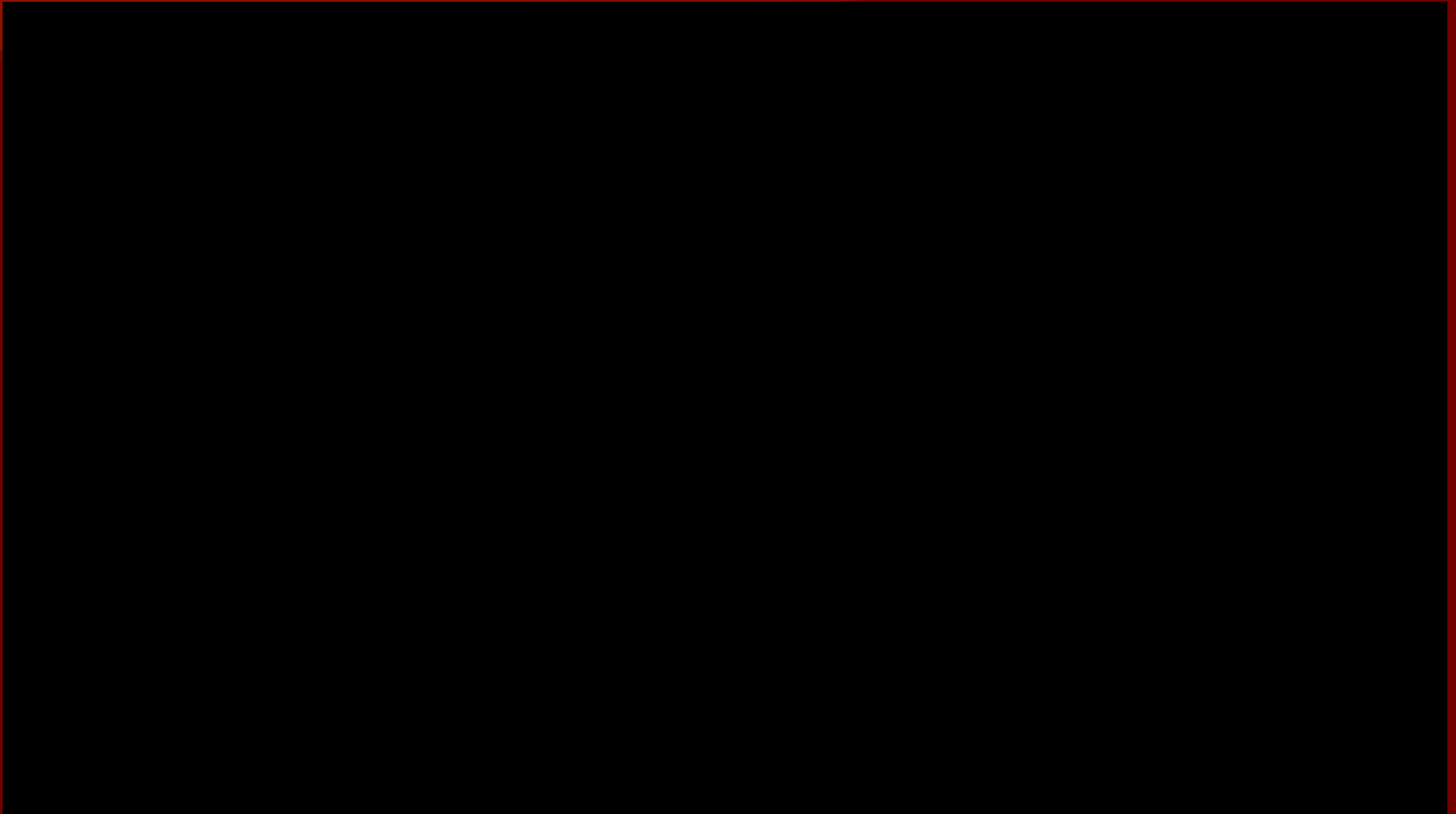
- Paternalistic
- Heavy control over all First Nations people

■ Length of Terms

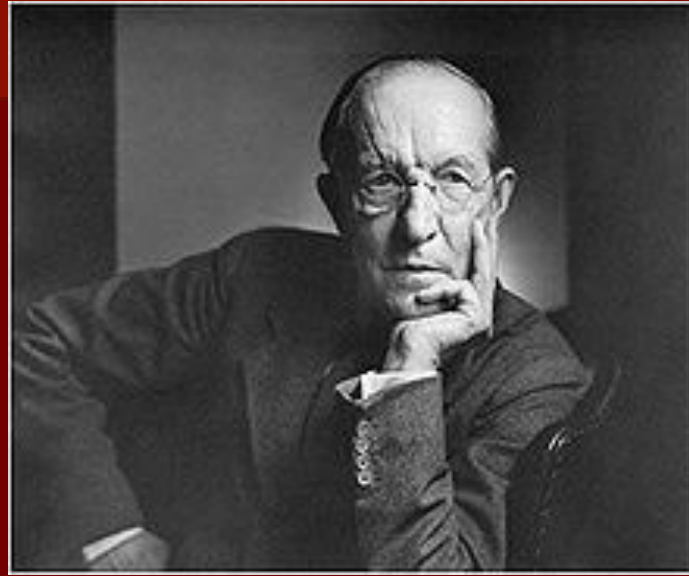
- Until First Nations become “civilized”



Length of Terms



Length of the Terms



- “I want to get rid of the Indian problem.... Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department”



Red Works

What Did They See?

