

# Timeline: Key dates for Canada's dealings with First Nations

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**1763:** A Royal Proclamation notes aboriginal claims to lands and says treaties with natives will be handled by the Crown.

**1867:** The British North America Act gives the federal government responsibility for aboriginals and their lands.

**1871-75:** The first five numbered treaties deal with native lands in northwestern Ontario and what is now southern Manitoba, southern Saskatchewan and southern Alberta.

**1876:** The Indian Act is passed, essentially extinguishing any remaining self-government for natives and making them wards of the federal government.

**1870s:** The first residential schools open. Their painful legacy would stretch to today.

**1885:** The Northwest Rebellion was a brief and unsuccessful uprising by the Metis people of Saskatchewan under Louis Riel. Some Cree groups also fought, but for a variety of reasons, some unrelated to the Metis grievances

**1951:** Major changes to the Indian Act remove a number of discriminatory rules, including a ban on native consumption of alcohol, although it is only allowed on reserves.

**1960:** Natives are given the right to vote in federal elections.

**1973:** In the Calder case, the Supreme Court held that aboriginal rights to land did exist, citing the 1763 Royal Proclamation.

**1975:** Quebec signs the James Bay agreement with Cree and Inuit communities, opening the way for new hydro projects.

**1984:** The Inuvialuit Claims Settlement Act gave the Inuit of the western Arctic control over resources.

**1985:** Changes to the Indian Act extend formal Indian status to the Metis, all enfranchised aboriginals living off reserve land and aboriginal women who had previously lost their status by marrying a non-aboriginal man

**1990:** The Oka Crisis focuses attention of native land claims.

**1999:** Nunavut is created in the western Arctic, with lands set aside where Inuit can live, hunt and control sub-surface resources.

**2000:** The federal government approves the Nisaga'a Treaty, giving the tribe about \$196 million over 15 years plus communal self-government and control of natural resources in parts of northwestern British Columbia.

**2005:** The Kelowna Accord called for spending \$5 billion over five years to improve native education, health care and living conditions. Paul Martin's minority Liberal government fell before the accord could be implemented.

**2008:** Prime Minister Stephen Harper offers a formal apology on behalf of Canada over residential schools.

**2010:** Canada signs the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**2011:** A winter housing crisis in the northern Ontario native community of Attawapiskat rivets national attention on native living conditions.

**2012:** Harper holds a summit meeting with First Nations chiefs.