

1980's and Beyond

Multiculturalism and Aboriginal Rights

Multiculturalism

Immigration encouraged
- Less coming from Europe
- More coming from Asia and the Middle East

Raised new cultural issues
- Christian based holidays challenged in Public Spaces
- More highlight was given to represent the wider community (Example: Ramadan, Chinese New Year, etc)

Multiculturalism Act (Bill C-93)
- Aimed to reinforce racial and cultural equality in Canada



Small Group Discussion

Read Pages 246 - 247

Do you think Canada needs multiculturalism protected by law? Why or Why not?

Why do you think views differ on Multiculturalism?

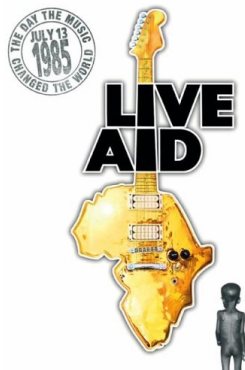
**Elect a speaker to present the following:
As a group, imagine you are the federal ministers of multiculturalism. Prepare a speech announcing that you are either going to ...**

- a) Continue the policy as is and why**
- OR**
- b) Make changes to it**

You must take possible consequences into account

How do you think social policies affected minority groups?

Consider:
Gay Rights - 2005 Civil Marriage Act
Aboriginal Movement
Equal Status to women marrying non-Native
Women's Movement
Global relief efforts
(Celebrities banded together to raise money for international aid)



Aboriginal Rights Treaties and Claims

agreements between the Crown and Aboriginal people that set out promises, obligations and benefits for both parties.

treaties were signed to define, among other things, the respective rights of Aboriginal people and governments to use and enjoy lands that Aboriginal people traditionally occupied.

There are Historic as well as contemporary Treaties known as *comprehensive land claim settlements*.



Are Treaties Enough?

Some First Nations want to go beyond having treaties with the crown

Want SELF-GOVERNANCE
- Would separate them of paternalistic law
- Give them power over their own resources, education, culture, justice systems, etc

How would this look in practice?



Aboriginal Rights The Oka Crisis

Municipality of Oka allowing a golf course to expand into the pines — Ancestral Burial grounds

Blockades throughout the area restricted motorists to/from Montreal
- Groups throughout Canada created blockades in support
- Tensions between non-aboriginal and Aboriginal HIGH



Aboriginal Rights The Oka Crisis

Police advance resulted in gunfire killing an officer
- Premier Bourassa called in the military
- 2 month stand-off

Eventually the feds purchased the land and gave it to the Mohawks of Kanesatake to protect.





Looking Back on Oka

[CBC Archives Video](#)

Royal Commission of Aboriginal Peoples

Post-Oka investigation into the conditions Canada's Aboriginal peoples face

In 1996 released findings:
 - 1/4 First Nations children live in poverty
 - Less life expectancy
 - Unemployment over 50% (goes up to 60% without HS Diploma)

2006 - UN reported that Canada had "Failed in terms of its action to date" on protecting the Rights of Aboriginal Peoples



Aboriginal protesters march through downtown Ottawa to Parliament Hill

British Columbia Land Claims

Royal Proclamation of 1763 lands that have "not been ceded or purchased" are for "the Indians"

At this time British Columbia fell within those lands

Contemporary treaties outlining traditional territories have been established

Historical treaties (Douglas Treaties) in BC are being contested as the First peoples were manipulated and coerced



BC's Nisga'a Treaty

In 2000, "the Nisga'a people became full-fledged Canadians" and were able to step out from under the Indian Act

Government recognized they were a self governing people before the colonizers arrival

Self-Governance protected under Canadian law





Largest Canadian Treaty Ever!

Created Nunavut
Gave Inuit control over 2 Million Square KM of the Eastern Arctic
