

APPENDIX 1: GLOSSARY

This glossary is intended to assist teachers with implementation of the Aboriginal Studies 10–20–30 program of studies. The terms and definitions, while not prescriptive, take into consideration Aboriginal diversity and also relate to the overall generic understandings of Aboriginal historical chronology. The terms and definitions have been obtained from the following sources:

Aboriginal Policy Framework (APF)

Alberta. Government of Alberta. *Strengthening Relationships: The Government of Alberta's Aboriginal Policy Framework*. Edmonton, AB: Government of Alberta, 2000.

Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development (AAND)

Alberta. Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development.
Web site: <<http://www.aand.gov.ab.ca/aand>>.

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC)

Canada. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. March 2000. *Definitions*. Retrieved July 25, 2001 from the Internet: <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/info/info101_e.pdf>.

Knots in a String (Knots)

Brizinski, Peggy. *Knots in a String: An Introduction to Native Studies in Canada*. Saskatoon, SK: Division of Extension and Community Relations, University of Saskatchewan, 1989, pp. 408–414.

Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education (WCP)

Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education. *The Common Curriculum Framework for Aboriginal Language and Culture Programs: Kindergarten to Grade 12*. [N.p.] Western Canadian Protocol for Collaboration in Basic Education, 2000.

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS—COMMON USAGE

Aboriginal Peoples

The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. The Canadian Constitution [*Constitution Act, 1982*, s. 35] recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people—Indians, Métis people and Inuit. These are three separate peoples with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs. (INAC)

Aboriginal Rights

Rights that some Aboriginal peoples of Canada hold as a result of their ancestors' longstanding use and occupancy of the land. The rights of certain Aboriginal peoples to hunt, trap and fish on ancestral lands are examples of Aboriginal rights. Aboriginal rights will vary from group to group depending on the customs, practices and traditions that have formed part of their distinctive cultures. (INAC)

Aboriginal Self-government

Governments designed, established and administered by Aboriginal peoples. (INAC)

Aboriginal Title

A legal term that recognizes Aboriginal interest in the land. It is based on their longstanding use and occupancy of the land as descendants of the original inhabitants of Canada. (INAC)

AFN

Assembly of First Nations. (Knots)

Band

A group of First Nation people for whom lands have been set apart and money is held by the Crown. Each band has its own governing band council, usually consisting of one or more chiefs and several councillors. Community members choose the chief and councillors by election, or sometimes through traditional custom. The members of a band generally share common values, traditions and practices rooted in their ancestral heritage. Today, many bands prefer to be known as First Nations. (INAC)

A Band is defined in the *Indian Act* as a body of Indians for whose common use and benefit lands have been set aside or monies held by the Government of Canada or declared by the Governor in Council to be a Band. Most Bands prefer to be referred to as First Nations. (AAND)

Band Membership

What an individual Indian has when he or she is a recognized member of a Band and whose name appears on an approved Band List. Where a Band has adopted its own membership code, it may define who has a right to membership in the Band, so being a Status Indian is not necessarily synonymous with being a Band member. Status Indians who are not band members are listed in the General List. (AAND)

Bill C-31

The pre-legislation name of the 1985 *Act to Amend the Indian Act*. This act eliminated certain discriminatory provisions of the *Indian Act*, including the section that resulted in Indian women losing their Indian status when they married non-Indian men. Bill C-31 enabled people affected by the discriminatory provisions of the old *Indian Act* to apply to have their Indian status restored. (INAC)

This is an *Act to Amend the Indian Act*. It was enacted in June 1985. This legislation amended the *Indian Act* to remove discriminatory clauses against women, restore status and membership rights, and increase Indian control over their own affairs. Those people who have been reinstated as Status Indians under this *Act*, are often referred to as Bill C-31 Indians. (AAND)

Crown

This term denotes the British government, as led by the monarchy. When a document states that the role of the Crown is such and such, it means the role of the government representing the monarchy. (Knots)

Culture

The collection of rules, values, and attitudes held by a society which allows people to communicate, to interpret behaviour, and to attach shared meaning to behaviour and events. (Knots)

The customs, history, values and languages that make up the heritage of a person or people and contribute to that person's or people's identity. (WCP)

First Nations

The term First Nations is preferred by many Aboriginal peoples and is used to refer to the various governments of the first peoples of Canada. The term First Nations is preferred over the terms Indians, Tribes and Bands, which are used extensively by the federal, provincial and territorial governments. (WCP)

A term that came into common usage in the 1970s to replace the word "Indian," which many people found offensive. Although the term First Nation is widely used, no legal definition of it exists. Among its uses, the term "First Nations peoples" refers to the Indian people in Canada, both Status and Non-Status. Many Indian people have also adopted the term "First Nation" to replace the word "band" in the name of their community. (INAC)

Usually used to refer to a politically autonomous band under the *Indian Act*—a nation of First Peoples. (Knots)

The people of the First Nations are the descendants of the original inhabitants of North America. ... Some 117,465 persons in Alberta identified themselves as North American Indian during the 1996 Canada Census. A registered Indian is a person registered under the *Indian Act*. (APF)

Indian

A term with many usages: could be a person of Indian ancestry, a Status Indian under the *Indian Act*, or a Treaty Indian. (Knots)

A term that describes all the Aboriginal people in Canada who are not Inuit or Métis. Indian peoples are one of three groups of people recognized as Aboriginal in the *Constitution Act*, 1982. The act specifies that Aboriginal people in Canada consist of Indian, Inuit and Métis people. In addition, there are three legal definitions that apply to Indians in Canada: Status Indians, Non-Status Indians and Treaty Indians. (INAC)

Indian Act

Canadian legislation first passed in 1876 and amended many times since then; defines an Indian in relation to federal obligation, and sets out a series of regulations applying to Indians living on reserves. (Knots)

This is the Canadian federal legislation, first passed in 1876, that sets out certain federal government obligations, and regulates the management of Indian reserve lands. The act has been amended several times, most recently in 1985. Among its many provisions, the act requires the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development to manage certain moneys belonging to First Nations and Indian lands, and to approve or disallow First Nations by-laws. (INAC)

Indigenous People

Refers to all inhabitants indigenous to North America (before contact with EuroCanadians) and their descendants. (Knots)

Inuit

An Aboriginal people in northern Canada, who live above the tree line in Nunavut, the Northwest Territories, Northern Quebec and Labrador. The word means “people” in the Inuit languages—Inuktitut. The singular of Inuit is Inuk. (INAC)

Métis

People of mixed First Nation and European ancestry who identify themselves as Métis people, as distinct from First Nations people, Inuit or non-Aboriginal people. The Métis have a unique culture that draws on their diverse ancestral origins, such as Scottish, French, Ojibway and Cree. (INAC)

A term for people of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry. The history of the Métis dates back to the days of the fur trade when Aboriginal people, particularly the Cree, and French or French-Canadian people married. Although the Métis have historically been refused political recognition by the federal government, they were recognized as Aboriginal people in the *Constitution Act* of 1982. The Métis are excluded from registration in the *Indian Act*. They were allotted money scrip or land scrip. (WCP)

A French word meaning “mixed blood” which usually refers to people of mixed ancestry who emerged during the days of the fur trade when Europeans and Indian people had children. The Métis are recognized as Aboriginal people in the *Constitution Act*, 1982. (AAND)

People born of, or descended from, both European and Indian parents. A distinctive Métis Nation developed in what is now southern Manitoba in the 1800s, and the descendants of these people later moved throughout the prairies. There are also many other groups of mixed ancestry people, some of whom, but not all, consider themselves Métis. Some people of mixed ancestry identify themselves as EuroCanadian or Indian. (Knots)

Métis Settlements

Métis Settlements Accord 1989

In 1989 the Government of Alberta and the Federation of Métis Settlement Associations signed an historic accord. This led to the co-operative development of unique legislation that establishes the only land base and the only form of legislated Métis government in Canada. Proclaimed in 1990, the legislation includes: the *Métis Settlements Act*, the *Métis Settlements Land Protection Act*, the *Constitution of Alberta Amendment Act*, and the *Métis Settlements Accord Implementation Act*.

Under the *Métis Settlements Act*, Métis means a person of Aboriginal ancestry who identifies with Métis history and culture.

The legislation established eight Settlement Corporations (Buffalo Lake, East Prairie, Elizabeth, Fishing Lake, Gift Lake, Kikino, Paddle Prairie and Peavine), the Métis Settlements General Council, the Métis Settlements Transition Commission and the Métis Settlements Appeal Tribunal.

An elected Settlement Council governs each Métis Settlement. The members of the Settlement Councils comprise the Métis Settlements General Council, which elects a four-person executive. The General Council deals with matters that affect the collective interests of the eight Settlements and holds the Letters Patent for the Settlement lands. (APF)

Nation

A group of native people with common ancestry who are socially, culturally, politically, and linguistically united. (Knots)

Non-Status Indian

A term that is frequently used and which usually means a person who is not registered as an Indian. Often Indian people lost their right to be registered as an Indian as it is defined by the *Indian Act*. For example, prior to 1985, women who married non-Indian men lost their status. The enactment of Bill C-31 in 1985, has restored Indian status to those who lost it through marriage. (AAND)

An Indian person who is not registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act*. This may be because his or her ancestors were never registered, or because he or she lost Indian status under former provisions of the *Indian Act*. (INAC)

Reserve

Land set aside by the federal government for the use and occupancy of an Indian group or band. (INAC)

The *Indian Act* describes a reserve as lands which have been set apart for the use and benefit of a Band, and for which the legal title rests with the Crown in right of Canada. The federal government has primary jurisdiction over these lands and the people living on them. (AAND)

Scrip

A token or paper entitling the bearer to goods, money, or land. It is not itself considered currency. (Knots)

Sovereignty

Ultimate jurisdiction or power. Claiming sovereignty for an Indian nation means claiming it has the right to rule itself without any external control. (Knots)

Status Indian

An Indian person who is registered under the *Indian Act*. The act sets out the requirements for determining who is a Status Indian. (INAC)

A person who has been registered or is entitled to be registered according to the *Indian Act*. Most Registered Indians are members of an Indian Band. By virtue of the *Indian Act*, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is responsible for providing support and services to all Registered Indians. (AAND)

An Indian person who is registered as an Indian under the *Indian Act* and thus recognized by the federal government as an Indian and accorded the accompanying rights, benefits, and restrictions of the *Indian Act* and related policies. (Knots)

Treaty Indian

A person affiliated with a First Nation that has signed, or whose ancestors signed, a Treaty and who now receives land rights and entitlements as prescribed in a Treaty. Not all First Nations have signed treaties; for example, in British Columbia there are almost no treaties. (AAND)

A Status Indian who belongs to a First Nation that signed a treaty with the Crown. (INAC)

Treaty Rights

Special rights to lands and entitlements that Indian people legally have as a result of treaties. (AAND)

First Nations signed treaties with various British colonial and, later, Canadian governments before and after Confederation in 1867. No two treaties are identical, but they usually provide for certain rights, including reserve lands, annuities (a small sum of money paid each year) and hunting and fishing rights. The treaty rights of an individual Treaty Indian will depend on the precise terms and conditions of the treaty that his or her First Nation signed. (APF)

Worldview

The worldview of the Aboriginal cultures is distinct from the worldview of the mainstream culture in Canada. This worldview presents human beings as inhabiting a universe made by the Creator and striving to live in respectful relationship with nature, one another and oneself. Each Aboriginal culture expresses this worldview in different ways, with different practices, stories and cultural products. (WCP)