

A DECLARATION OF FIRST NATIONS

Excerpt from Contemporary Issues

A DECLARATION OF FIRST NATIONS

We the Original Peoples of this land know the Creator put us here.

The Creator gave us laws that govern all our relationships to live in harmony with nature and mankind.

The Laws of the Creator defined our rights and responsibilities.

The Creator gave us our spiritual beliefs, our languages, our culture, and a place on Mother Earth, which provides us with all our needs.

We have maintained our Freedom, our Languages, and our Traditions from time immemorial.

We continue to exercise the rights and fulfil the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the Land upon which we were placed.

The Creator has given us the rights to govern ourselves and the right to self-determination.

The rights and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other Nation.

—Assembly of First Nations

This excerpt on Aboriginal rights ©Nelson Education Ltd., *Contemporary Issues*, Toronto, ON, 2005, p. 11.