



Pathfinder: Indian Act: Selected Resources

Introduction

This pathfinder is intended as a starting point for students or researchers having little or no background knowledge of the Indian Act. It is a list of selected resources with which to begin a study of the Act. Further resources about the Indian Act can be found by searching the [Library catalogue](#), our [\[journal article\] databases](#) and web sites.

Overviews

Champagne, D. (Ed.). (1994). *The Native North American Almanac*. Detroit, Mich.:

Gale Research.

Consult this resource for brief overviews of the history and evolution of the Indian Act. Particularly useful is Chapter 5, "An overview of Canadian Aboriginal Law", pp. 510 to 514; pp. 523 to 525. You may also want to look up "Indian Act" in the Index at the back of the book for more page numbers containing pertinent information.

ARCHER Reference (main floor) E 76.2 N37

Primary sources

Canada. Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. (1969). *Statement of the Government of Canada on Indian Policy. [The White paper]*. [Ottawa]: Queen's

Printer. Retrieved November 24, 2008, from

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/arp/ls/pubs/cp1969/cp1969-eng.asp>

Among other measures, the "White paper" advocated repealing the Indian Act and ending the federal government's responsibility towards First Nations. Most First Nations peoples across Canada interpreted the White paper as a road map for assimilation and vehemently opposed it until it was withdrawn in 1970.

Also available in paper copy:

ARCHER Government publications CA1..IA....69S75

FNUNIV E 92 C226

Canada. Parliament. House of Commons. *Indian Act* (R.S., 1985, c 1-5). Retrieved

November 24, 2008 from <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/ShowTdm/cs/l-5///en..>

Nineteen eighty-five was the last time major changes were made to the Indian Act. These changes ended some, but not all, sex discrimination.

Canada. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. (c1997). *For Seven Generations: An information legacy of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples [Cd-Rom]*.

Ottawa: Libraxus.

In 1991, the Government of Canada launched an extensive study of issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples. Five years in the making, the *Report of the Royal Commission* covers the history and experiences of Aboriginal Peoples from first contact to contemporary times and makes recommendations for a renewed relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the peoples of Canada.

Prior to writing the Report, the Commission visited Aboriginal communities across Canada and heard briefs from over 2000 individuals and organizations. In addition, over 350 research studies were commissioned. *For Seven Generations* contains the documentation gathered during this initial phase of the Commission's work.

Briefs can be located by searching the **Public Consultations** portion of *For Seven Generations*. Several search methods are available; it is suggested that new users begin with Wordfinder. E.g. in the Wordfinder, go to the subject heading **Indian Act**.

Secondary sources on the Indian Act can be found by searching the Research Studies section of *For Seven Generations*.

A guide to *For Seven Generations* is available at http://library.law.uvic.ca/About_Us/rcap.html.

**Archer Contact Data Library Services to obtain disc. Phone 585-5420.
FNUIV E 91 R425**

Indian Association of Alberta. (1970). *Citizens plus*. Edmonton: Indian Association of Alberta.

This response to the "White paper" was presented to Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau by the Indian Chiefs of Alberta.

Archer E 92 I53

Indian History Film Project. Canadian Plains Research Centre, University of Regina:

Regina, Sask.

The [Indian History Film Project](#) is an archive of over 1000 interviews conducted with First Nations elders on a variety of topics. Once you are linked to the project collection, enter Indian Act into the **Search for** text box which appears.

The Film Project is part of the University of Regina's **Campus Digital Archives** which is accessible through the [Library's Home Page](#). In addition to the primary sources contained in the Indian history film project, the Digital Archives also contains secondary materials on the Indian Act. A short guide to searching the Digital Archives for information on the Indian Act is available at <http://dspace.cc.uregina.ca/dspace/handle/10294/1354>

Rebick, J. (2005). Indian rights for Indian women: changing the Indian Act. In Rebick, J.

(Ed.). *Ten Thousand Roses: the making of a feminist revolution.* (pp. 107-115)

Toronto: Penguin Canada.

Chapter Nine consists of several short interviews with First Nations activists who challenged discrimination against women and their children contained in Indian Act. In 1985, the Act was amended in order to rectify some of the discriminatory practices.

Archer HQ 1453 R423 2005

Smith, D.G. (Ed.). (c1975). *Canadian Indians and the law: selected documents, 1663-*

1972. [Toronto]: McClelland and Stewart.

Contains the original Indian Act of 1876 and amendments up until 1972 as well as other pertinent documents. Useful for tracing amendments to the Act.

Archer KE 7703.5 1975

FNUNIV KE 7703.5 1975

Secondary Sources

Canada. Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples [RCAP]. (1996). *Report.* Volume 1, Part two, Chapter 9: *False Assumptions and a Failed Relationship : The Indian Act.*

[Ottawa]: Minister of Supply and Services. Retrieved November 24, 2008, from

<http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ap/pubs/sq/cg/cg9-eng.pdf>

Canada. RCAP. (1996). *Report*. Volume 4, Chapter 2: *Perspectives and Realities:*

Women's Perspectives. [Ottawa]: Minister of Supply and Services. Retrieved

November 24, 2008, from <http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ap/pubs/sg/cq/cj2-eng.pdf>

See notes under *For Seven Generations* for a brief explanation about the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

Also available in paper copy and is included in "*For Seven Generations*."

Archer E 92 C2447 1996 Vol 1-5

Archer Government Publications (Library Use Only) CA1.. Z.... 1 91A15 Vol.1-2; 4-5

Cardinal, H. (c1969). *The Unjust society: the tragedy of Canada's Indians*. Edmonton:

M.G. Hurtig.

The Unjust society was activist Harold Cardinal's response to the 1969 White Paper on Indian Policy. Considered to be a rallying cry in the subsequent resistance of First Nations peoples to the White paper. In it, Cardinal examines the oppressive nature of the Indian Act and argues that, in the absence of an alternative plan to honour Aboriginal rights, First Nations are not amenable to the Indian Act being abolished.

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Native Women's Association of Canada and Quebec Native Women Association. (n.d.)

Quebec Native women & Bill C-7. Retrieved November 24, 2008, from

<http://nwac-hq.org/documents/QNWBILLC7.pdf>

Discusses ongoing discriminatory provisions in the Indian Act which were not completely resolved by the 1985 amended Indian Act and makes recommendations for redress. More information about how the Indian Act affects women and their children is available on the Native Women's Association web site at <http://nwac-hq.org/en/reports.html> under **The Indian Act, Bill C-31**.

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