

# EDUCATIONAL PATHWAY





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OFFICE OF COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT



Foundation of Greater Montréal



RESEAU  
de la communauté  
autochtone à Montréal  
Montreal  
Indigenous  
Community  
NETWORK

## CREATION STORY

For decades, Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island, Inuit Nunangat and the Métis Homeland have shared knowledge, personal experiences and cultural ways of living in order to raise awareness about the abusive and oppressive relationship between the colonial state and the rightful stewards of this land. In the beginning, efforts went largely unnoticed. Recently however, as more and more devastating facts surfaced, many non-Indigenous people began reflecting about their role as settlers and asking themselves what they could do. After numerous public inquiries, commissions, official reports, and media reports, the truth has become impossible to ignore. However, unaware of the deep roots of colonialism embedded in their minds and ways of living, many well-intentioned settlers set off on their personal allyship journeys inattentive to the cost of labour associated with having to constantly explain Indigenous realities to non-Indigenous people. It is with this context in mind and in this spirit that the Decolonial Toolbox was born.

In recent years, Concordia University's Office of Community Engagement has worked to cultivate relationships with organizations that centre the leadership and expertise of Indigenous communities. In 2020, Concordia approached Mikana, an Indigenous-led organization with an educational mission to act on discrimination and racism against Indigenous Peoples, and the Montreal Indigenous Community NETWORK, a community-led organization committed to improving the lives of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities living in the Greater Montreal area, to form a partnership. From then on, a tripartite collaboration was born.

From this partnership emerged a unified vision to provide opportunities for young Indigenous leaders to consider how Indigenous lives and wellbeing are affected by ongoing colonialism and offer Indigenous-driven solutions to bridge the inequality gap. Our minds were equally convinced of the need to alleviate the burden and emotional labour Indigenous Peoples so often carry when educating non-Indigenous folks.





# NAVIGATING THE **PATHWAY**

The Office of Community Engagement, Mikana and the NETWORK have developed the Decolonial Toolbox, which includes a bilingual Educational Pathway that regroups resources for readers interested in learning about Indigenous realities. We recommend that the reader follows the five-level path carefully paved by its creators in order to ensure knowledge progression in the least overwhelming manner. With accessibility and Indigenous expertise as foundational principles, we chose main resources that were free to the general public and Indigenous-written, or resources that respectfully incorporated Indigenous ways of knowing.

Additional resources were chosen to complement and enhance the knowledge gained through the main resources. These additional resources are often lengthier, more specific and sometimes come with a fee. We invite the reader to consider consulting both the main and additional resources. As you navigate through this pathway, we hope you treat the texts that have been chosen with respect and become cognizant of the privilege of engaging with Indigenous knowledge.

At the very core of this pathway is the concept of decolonization. Every resource is a heartbeat giving breath to a living document dedicated to decentering the deep-seated false narrative non-Indigenous people have been taught to believe. Two essential (and perhaps frustrating) realities must be made clear to the reader from the

start - the first is that there is no standard, universally-accepted definition of decolonization or how to go about it, and the second is that despite this, it is the responsibility of settlers to decolonize their minds, relations, knowledge and ways of living.

Do not fret or feel discouraged, dear reader. Our aim is to gradually provide resources, reflection questions and Indigenous expertise to help you understand the complexity of decolonizing and how to incorporate change in everyday life. We hope these stepping stones will guide you as you embark on your personal journeys toward decolonization and meaningful allyship.

NIÁ:WEN  
TIAWENHK  
CHI-MIIGWECH / MIK8ETC  
MIKWETC  
NAKURMIK  
TSHINASHKUMITIN  
WELA'LIN  
ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ (KINANÂSKOMITIN)  
ᑭᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎᑎ (CHINISKUMITIN)  
WLIWNI (OLEOHNEH)  
WOLIWON

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# INTRODUCTION TO INDIGENOUS REALITIES

To begin this educational pathway, we will suggest some basic vocabulary when speaking about Indigenous people.

We want to help you understand why it is important to use the appropriate terminology. Once you familiarize yourself with the terms, we will talk about the notion of territory.

It is important for us to illustrate the distinction between Indigenous Peoples' traditional land and the reserve land on which they were displaced. This will help you understand how colonization disrupted Indigenous Peoples' relationship with the land. In the last sub-section, you will have the opportunity to listen to Indigenous Peoples' expertise.

## TERMINOLOGY

Many of the labels given to Indigenous groups throughout history were imposed by Europeans: Indian, Savage, etc. By this process, Indigenous Peoples were stripped of their identities and belittled with denigrating labels.

For this reason, it is crucial to respect the process by which Indigenous groups reclaim their identity, their names, and the terms they use to describe themselves.



### How to talk about Indigenous People

CBC Indigenous

In this video, Inuk journalist Ossie Michelin presents a friendly how-to guide on terminology. He explains the difference between the terms Indigenous, First Nation, Inuit and Métis.



### A rose by any other name is a mihkokwaniy

Indigenous Issues 101, Chelsea Vowel.

In this online publication, Métis writer Chelsea Vowel explains why the terms used to refer to Indigenous Peoples keep changing and helps us understand the vocabulary used today by Indigenous Peoples when referring to themselves.



### Identity

Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada [Métis section, Chapter 1]

This chapter from the Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada will help clarify the distinction between métis identity and Métis communities. This atlas was written in collaboration with the Métis National Council.



### Lexicon of Terminology

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

This lexicon published by the "Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls" contains the definitions for many concepts and terms that are useful for understanding and talking about Indigenous realities.

## INDIGENOUS TERRITORIES

You may have heard North America referred to as "Turtle Island." In many First Nations' Creation Stories, it is said that the territory where we live is carried on the back of a turtle. For example, the Kanien'kehá:ka say that the first inhabitants arrived from the sky onto the back of a turtle. They describe it as a big island in the middle of a large body of water.

### ▶ KANATA

In this pathway, the name *Kanata* is used to refer to the country of Canada. The word Canada comes directly from Indigenous Iroquoian languages. In Kanien'kéha (Mohawk), Kanata means "town" or "village".<sup>2</sup>

### ▶ KEPEK

In this pathway, we have chosen to use the word Kepek to refer to the Province of Quebec. The name Quebec actually originates from the word *kepek* or *kapak*, an expression that means "get off" or "disembark" in Atikamekw Nehirowimowin, Innu-Aimun<sup>1</sup> and other Indigenous languages.

In this subsection, we invite you to learn about the history and long relationship that Indigenous Peoples have with the land and to deconstruct colonial concepts of borders and nations.

#### Native Land

[Native Land Digital](#)

This interactive map is designed to help users identify Indigenous Nations, territories and communities. It includes information on the languages spoken in each territory and the division of Indigenous traditional territories by treaty.

#### 11 Nations Map

[Amnesty International](#)

This map identifies the 10 First Nations and Inuit that live in Kepek. It shows the location of the 55 Indigenous communities. These territories are land that has been colonially delineated by the federal government. It is therefore not necessarily their traditional or ancestral territory.

#### Territorial Acknowledgement

[Indigenous Directions Leadership Group, Concordia University](#)

This resource was prepared by the Indigenous Directions Leadership Group of Concordia University. It provides a detailed explanation of how to pronounce a territorial acknowledgement for events that take place in Tiohtià:ke, the Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) word used to refer to Montreal, and explains its importance.

#### Beyond Territorial Acknowledgements

[âpihtawikosisân, Chelsea Vowell](#)

In this blog publication, Métis writer Chelsea Vowell gives her opinion on territorial acknowledgements. She provides suggestions in order to prevent territorial acknowledgements from being stripped of their power through repetition.

<sup>1</sup> Desjardins, C. *Guide d'accompagnement. Je m'appelle humain.* (2021).

<sup>2</sup> *The Origin of the name Canada, Canadian Encyclopedia.* (2019)

## UNLEARNING COLONIAL HISTORY

The history of Kanata was written by the settlers. Indigenous Peoples, though their bodies and voices, were erased from the narrative. In this section, you will have the opportunity to listen to Indigenous Peoples share their experiences and expertise.



### Discovery

#### Telling our Twisted Histories, CBC Podcasts

In the first episode of Telling our Twisted Histories, host Kaniehti:io Horn asks Indigenous Peoples what the word “discovery” means to them, in order to see how they envision decolonizing the word and to rewrite this part of history from an Indigenous perspective.



### Colonization Road

#### First Hand, CBC Docs

Anishinaabe comedian Ryan McMahon talks about the structure of colonization and the way in which roads were used to displace Indigenous Peoples by invading territory without consent. The documentary also explains the “logic” behind settler colonialism.

## Borders

Thomas King



In this short story, Cherokee author Thomas King invites his readers to think about how colonial borders have disrupted the way in which Indigenous Peoples live on their traditional land.

## Gifts of the Land | A Guided Nature Tour with Robin Wall Kimmerer

The Commons, Kansas University



Potawatomi botanist and author Robin Wall Kimmerer takes us on a guided tour in the forest. She talks about the land as a teacher, as a caretaker and she explains the relationality that links us to the territory.

## Additional Resources

- 📖 **Indigenous Writes: A Guide to First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Issues in Canada**, Vowel, C. HighWater Press.
- 📖 **The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America**, King, T. University of Minnesota Press.
- 📖 **Our Story: Aboriginal Voices on Canada's Past**, M. Campbell and al., Anchor Canada.
- 📺 **You Are on Indian Land**, National Film Board of Canada.
- 📺 **Meaningful Land Acknowledgements**, Lindsay Brant, Center for Teaching & Learning, Queen's University.
- 📺 **Kabak**, Wapikoni.
- 🎧 **Telling our Twisted Histories**, Terre Innue and CBC Podcasts
- 🎧 **The Border Crossed Us**, All my Relations.
- 📖 **Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada**, Canadian Geographic.



# COLONIAL STRATEGIES

When we talk about settler colonialism, we are referring to cases where settlers come to a new territory that does not belong to them in order to occupy it permanently and assert their sovereignty over it.<sup>2</sup>

Settlers rely on the displacement, elimination and assimilation of Indigenous peoples to gain access to the land. Their oppression becomes a structure; new political and economic systems are put in place to replace Indigenous societies.<sup>3</sup> This colonial structure does not come to an end when the adherence to the European metropole ceases<sup>4</sup> but rather it is an ongoing phenomenon characterized by the continuous occupation of the land.

**I WANT TO GET RID OF THE INDIAN PROBLEM...**

**Our objective is to continue until there is not an Indian that has not been absorbed into the body politic, and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department...**

**DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT, INDIAN AFFAIRS DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, 1920.<sup>5</sup>**

In this section, we will present examples of colonial strategies that were used to eliminate, assimilate and displace Indigenous peoples:

- \* THE INDIAN ACT
- \* RESIDENTIAL "SCHOOLS"
- \* SIXTIES AND MILLENNIAL SCOOPS
- \* DOG SLAUGHTER
- \* FORCED RELOCATION TO THE HIGH ARCTIC
- \* VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE

<sup>2</sup> Wolfe, Patrick. *Settler colonialism and the elimination of the native*. *Journal of Genocide Research* 8, no 4 (1 décembre 2006): 387-409

<sup>3</sup> Kohn, Margaret, et Kavita Reddy. *Colonialism*. *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> Barker, Adam J. *The Contemporary Reality of Canadian Imperialism: Settler Colonialism and the Hybrid Colonial State*. *American Indian Quarterly* 33, no 3 (2009): 325.

<sup>5</sup> National Archives of Canada, Record Group 10, vol. 6810, file 470-2-3, vol. 7, 55 (L-3) and 63 (N-3).



# THE INDIAN ACT

The Indian Act has been structuring the Canadian government's relationship with First Nations for the last 150 years. The law was passed in 1876 to control and govern all aspects of "Indian life". It only applies to First Nations, not to Inuit or Métis. Measures implemented by the Indian Act include:

- **Mandatory residential "school" attendance;**
- **Creation of reserves & Band Councils as a governing body;**
- **Outlawing cultural practices, objects and spaces;**
- **Renaming individuals with European names or numbers;**
- **Revoking First Nations status from women who married a non-Indian.**

The Indian Act received amendments over the years removing some of these measures but the law remains in place today and continues to affect First Nations' human rights.

- **It establishes reserve land as Crown land, which means First Nations are not allowed to own the land that they live on.**
- **It dictates the management of Band Council resources.**

## The Indian Act Said What?

### Native Women's Association of Canada

This infographic by the Native Women's Association of Canada provides a timeline of the various policies implemented by the Indian Act.



## The Indian Act Explained

### The Agenda

In this interview, Bob Joseph of the Gwawa'enuk Nation provides an in-depth explanation of many misunderstood aspects of the Indian Act.



## The Indian Act: What to do with it

### The Agenda

Roundtable between Dr. Suzanne Stewart of the Dene Nation, Professor Douglas Sanderson of the Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Russ Diabo of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, and Bob Joseph of the Gwawa'enuk Nation. They discuss the reasons the Indian Act is still in place today, and what we should do with this piece of legislation.



## Got Status?

### Indian Status in Canada, sort of explained

#### Indigenous Issues 101, Chelsea Vowel

In this blog publication, Métis writer Chelsea Vowel explains how the Indian Act determines who is and who is not recognized as an "Indian" and how these criterias continue to perpetuate gender discrimination.



## Additional Resources about the Indian Act

- 📖 **21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act**, Joseph, B. Page Two Books.
- 📖 **Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity**, Palmater, P. Purich Publishing.
- 📖 **The Indian Act: The Foundation of Colonialism in Canada**, Diabo, R. *Whose Land is it Anyway?*, p.22-26.
- 🎧 **The Indian Act 101**, Unreserved with Rosanna Deerchild, CBC Podcasts.
- 🎧 **Is Canada's newest solution to the Indian Act worse than the problem?**, Media Indigena, Ep. #124 and #125.
- 🎧 **Reserve, Telling our Twisted Histories**, CBC Podcasts.



# RESIDENTIAL "SCHOOLS"

Residential "schools" were officially imposed by the Canadian government through the Indian Act in 1920 and managed by religious congregations. The first church-run "schools" aiming to "kill the Indian in the child"<sup>6</sup> was established in 1831.<sup>7</sup>

The *Indian Act* made attendance at these institutions mandatory for all Indigenous children. Approximately 150,000 children were forcibly removed from their families to be assimilated into settler culture. The majority of children experienced physical, emotional, psychological and sexual abuse, and many died while attending these "schools".

<sup>6</sup> *The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. (2015). Canada's Residential Schools: The History, Part 1, Origins to 1939. Vol. 1. P. 105.*  
<sup>7</sup> *Residential School Timeline, National Center for Truth and Reconciliation.*

We are using quotation marks to express disagreement with the government's use of the word "schools" to designate these institutions.

## Additional Resources about Residential "Schools"

- 📖 *Five Little Indians*, Good, M. HarperCollins Publisher.
- 📖 *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Highway, T. Amsterdam University Press.
- 📖 *They Called Me Number One: Secrets and Survival at an Indian Residential School*, Sellars, B. Talonbooks.
- 📺 *Indian Horse*, Campanelli, S. Devonshire Productions and Screen Siren Pictures.
- 👉 *Aboriginal Peoples and Historic Trauma: The processes of intergenerational transmission*, National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health.
- 👉 *Residential School Timeline*, Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- 📖 *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*, 6 volumes.



### Second Stories – It had to Be Done

Tessa Desnomie, NFB

In this short documentary, two Indigenous women who lived through the experience of residential "schools" share how it profoundly affected their lives.



### School

Telling Our Twisted Histories, CBC Podcasts

In this episode, we hear from Indigenous peoples who share their stories and the impact residential "schools" had on the hearts, minds and spirits of their communities.



### Grave Concerns

Media Indigena [Ep #269]

The host leads a conversation after the bodies of 215 missing children were recovered in Kamloops, British Columbia. The number of graves recovered has multiplied to over 9,000 and is expected to increase.



### Residential School History

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

The NCTR website provides a space for education and dialogue where the truth about residential "schools" is honored and protected for future generations.



### My Auntie survived residential school. I need to gather her stories before she's gone

Inendi, CBC Docs

In this short documentary, Anishinaabe activist Sarain Fox gathers the stories of her aunt, a residential "school" survivor.





## SIXTIES AND MILLENNIAL SCOOPS

The Sixties and the Millennial Scoops refer to two governmental processes, separate in time but similar in impact, by which Indigenous children were separated from their families and communities without their consent. Between 1950 and 1980 more than 20,000 Indigenous children were removed from their homes, placed in foster care or adopted by non-Indigenous families throughout Canada and other countries such as Australia and Germany.

Many children were stripped of their cultural identity, and experienced emotional, psychological, sexual and/or physical abuse. The Sixties Scoop extended beyond the 1980s and into the Millennial Scoop, as Indigenous children continue to be disproportionately placed in foster care. In Kanata, 52% of children in care are Indigenous.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> *The Sixties Scoop Payoff: Canada's Strategy for Settling Colonialism*, Colleen Cardinal, 60s Scoop Network.



### The Sixties Scoop

Stepping Stone series

This document explains how Indigenous children went from being forcibly removed from communities to attend residential "schools" to being removed from families and communities by provincial child welfare agencies.



### The Sixties Scoop Payoff: Canada's Strategy for Settling Colonialism

Colleen Cardinal, 60s Scoop Network

In this article, Colleen Cardinal, a survivor of the Sixties Scoop, tells us about the impact of losing her culture. She also recounts the events that led up to a large compensation by the Canadian Government, and the way in which the process reopened old wounds for a lot of survivors.



### Cindy Blackstock on Justice for First Nation Children

Warrior Life [Ep #11, 12 and 13]

In this three-part interview, McGill professor and social worker Cindy Blackstock from the Gitksan Nation talks about her work with Indigenous children in care. She also explains the case she recently won before the Human Rights Tribunal, which concluded that the Canadian Government was discriminating against First Nations children.



### Child Welfare as an Arm of the Colonial State

Media Indigena [Ep #89]

In this episode of the podcast Media Indigena, host Rick Harp speaks with Sarah de Leeuw about the ongoing crisis of Indigenous child apprehensions in the welfare system.



### I was taken from my home and raised as a "nice Jewish girl," but I'm Indigenous

Becoming Nakuset, CBC Docs


In this short documentary, Nakuset, who was taken from her home in Thompson, Manitoba, and adopted into a Jewish family in Tiohtiá:ke, tells the story of how she reclaimed her Indigenous identity.


## Additional Resources about the Sixties and Millennial Scoops

- **Fighting for a Hand to Hold: Confronting Medical Colonialism against Indigenous Children in Canada**, Shaheen-Hussain, S. McGill-Queen's University Press.
- **Ohpikiihaakan-Ohpihmeh (Raised Somewhere Else): A 60s Scoop Adoptee's Story of Coming Home**, Cardinal, C. Roseway Publishing.
- **Birth of a Family**, Hubbard, T. NFB.
- **Daughter of a Lost Bird**, Pepion Swaney, B. Maker Media and Same Land Films LLC.

 **Finding Cleo, Missing and Murdered.** CBC Podcasts, S.2.

 **Ma Steals Larry the Cree Baby, Surviving the 60s Scoop,** *Coffee With My Ma*, Ep #4.

 **Another class action for another lost generation,** *Media Indigena*, Ep #153.

 **Identity lost and found: Lessons from the sixties scoop,** *Raven Sinclair, First Peoples Child & Family Review*.



## DOG SLAUGHTER

In the 1950s to the 1980s, the RCMP deliberately killed about 20,000 sled dogs. In Inuktitut, sled dogs are called “qimmiit.” Inuit use qimmiit for transportation and hunting; they are an integral part of their culture and family. The killings of the dogs had an intergenerational impact on the Inuit. Without the qimmiit, Inuit were forced to settle into a sedentary lifestyle because their way of life was cut off.



### QTC Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq Qikiqtani Truth Commission [p.38-45]

The Qikiqtani Truth Commission was put together after Makivik Corporation called upon the federal government to launch a public inquiry into the killing of sled dogs. Refer to pages 38 to 45 of the final report for a summary of the Commission’s findings.



### Echo of the last howl Makivik Corporation

This documentary, produced by Makivik Corporation, is meant to address the issue of the Inuit dog slaughter.



### If the Weather Permits Elisapie Isaac, NFB


Artist Elisapie Isaac explores the daily intersection of tradition and modernity in Kangirsujuaq, Nunavik.

## Additional Resources about the Dog Slaughter

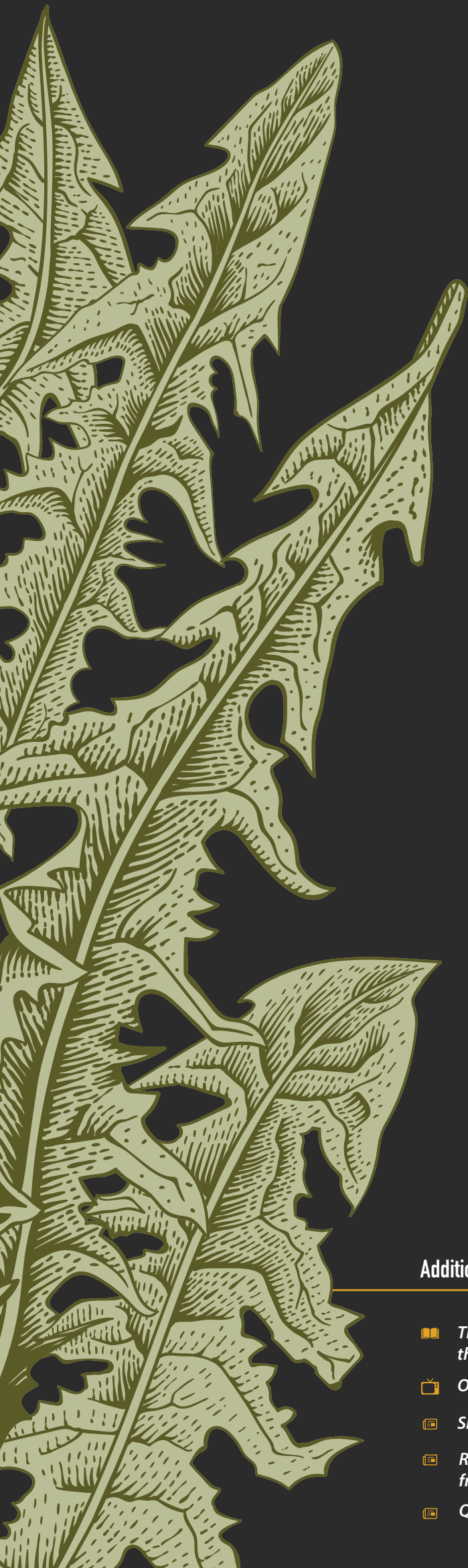
 **The Right to Be Cold: One Woman’s Story of Protecting Her Culture, the Arctic and the Whole Planet,** *Watt-Cloutier, S.* Amsterdam University Press.

 **Okpik’s Dream,** *Rietveld, L.* Catbird Productions.

 **Sled Dogs,** *Atagutsiaq, I.* Inuktitut Magazine, p.59-63.

 **Regarding the Slaughtering of Nunavik “Qimmiit” (Inuit Dogs) from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s,** *Makivik Corporation*, p.43.

 **QTC Final Report: Achieving Saimaqatigiingniq,** *Qikiqtani Truth Commission*.



## FORCED RELOCATION TO THE HIGH ARCTIC

As a means of asserting Canadian sovereignty over the Arctic during the Cold War, more specifically in 1953, the federal government displaced 97 Inuit from their homeland to the High Arctic. Contrary to what they had been promised by the government, the Inuit were not provided with the housing, food, support or services that they needed in order to survive in this new environment. They were not used to the conditions of the High Arctic and had difficulty finding food, water and adapting to these new environmental conditions. Many community members died from this displacement.



### Grise Fiord

**Quikiqtani Truth Commission [p.21-34]**

This report on the community of Grise Fiord explains how the community was founded, the events that led up to the High Arctic Relocation and how the government broke many promises made to the people it relocated. Pages 21 to 34 of the report focus on the years 1950 to 1960, when the relocation took place.



### Broken Promises - The High Arctic Relocation

**Patricia Tassinari, NFB**

This documentary presents how in the summer of 1953, the Canadian government relocated seven Inuit families from Northern Kepek to the High Arctic under false pretenses.



### Martha of the North

**Marquise Lepage, NFB**

This documentary focuses on Martha Flaherty's lived experiences during the Canadian government's Inuit relocation project. This is the only resource you will have to pay for during this pathway.



## Additional Resources about the Forced Relocations to the High Arctic

- 📖 **What I Remember, What I Know: The Life of a High Arctic Exile**, Audlaluk, L. Inhabit Media.
- 📺 **One Day in the Life of Noah Piugattuk**, Kunuk, Z.
- 📄 **QTC Final Report: Achieving Saimaqaatigiingniq**, Qikiqtani Truth Commission.
- 📄 **Resolute Bay**, Qikiqtani Truth Commission.
- 📄 **The High Arctic Relocation**, Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.





# VIOLENCE AGAINST INDIGENOUS WOMEN, GIRLS AND TWO-SPIRIT PEOPLE

With the colonial implementation of binary gender roles, Indigenous peoples saw their community roles dismantled. Most notably, the implementation of the Indian Act and other colonial policies eliminated their rights. The stereotyping and sexualization of Indigenous women coupled with their lack of rights led to the general acceptance of the violence affecting them. There is a lot of disagreement on the number of Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people that have gone missing, but Indigenous women's groups estimate the number to be around 4,000 from the 1980s to 2012.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Brant, J. (2017). *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada*. Dans *The Canadian Encyclopedia*.

<sup>9</sup> *National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls*. (2018). *Lexicon of Terminology*.

## TWO-SPIRIT

*"Two-Spirit or two-spirited is used by many Indigenous people for both sexual orientation and gender identity. It is a term to describe Indigenous people who are not limited to the gender binary, and who can move freely between the gendered identities. Two-Spirit describes a societal and spiritual role that people hold within traditional societies, as mediators, keepers of certain ceremonies, transcending accepted roles of men and women, and filling a role as an established middle gender. It is important to note that this is an English language umbrella term and that some Indigenous peoples have multiple recognized genders with their own terms."*<sup>9</sup>



### Tina Fontaine Taken the Podcast

In this first episode of Taken the Podcast, Lisa Meeches, an Anishinaabe woman from Long Plain First Nation, sheds light on the story of Tina Fontaine, a 15-year-old girl whose body was pulled from the Red River in Winnipeg in 2015.



### SQ Abuse, Women Break the Silence Enquête

In 2015, the TV show Enquête broadcasted their investigation into the sexual violence and abuse of power committed by Sûreté du Québec police officers towards Indigenous women living in Val D'Or.



### Alisa Lombard on Forced & Coerced Sterilization Warrior Life, [Ep #38]



Mi'kmaq lawyer Alisa Lombard, who is currently working on a class action suit concerning the forced sterilizations of Indigenous women in Kanata, explains how the practice is a product of colonization.



### Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada Jennifer Brant, The Canadian Encyclopedia

This article, written by Dr. Jennifer Brant of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, addresses the disproportionate rate of violence experienced by Indigenous women compared to the settler population.

## Additional Resources about Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit People

-  **Where will Tina Fontaine's Family Find Justice**, *Media Indigena*, Ep #104.
-  **Who killed Alberta Williams**, *Missing and Murdered*, CBC Podcast, S.1.
-  **Rustic Oracle**, *Bonspille Boileau*, S. Nish Media.
-  **Finding Dawn**, *Welsh, C.* NFB.
-  **Forever Loved: Exposing the Hidden Crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada**, *Level-Harvard, M. and Brant, J.* Demeter Press.
-  **The Break**, *Vermette, K.* House of Anansi Press.
-  **Reclaiming Power and Place: Final Report**, *National Inquiry into Missing Indigenous Women and Girls*.
-  **A Legal Analysis of Genocide**, *National Inquiry into Missing Indigenous Women and Girls*.

