NATIONAL BESTSELLER



YOU MAY NOT KNOW

ABOUT

THE INDIAN ACT

Helping Canadians Make Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples a Reality

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INDIAN ACT

with author Bob Joseph

"When the present does not recognize the wrongs of the past, the future takes its revenge. For that reason, we must never, never turn away from the opportunity of confronting history together - the opportunity to right a historical wrong."

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, at the relaunch of Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, October 2009

"It is readily acknowledged that Indian children lose their natural resistance to illness by habituating so closely in the residential schools and that they die at a much higher rate than in their villages. But this does not justify a change in the policy of the Department, which is geared towards a final solution of the Indian Problem."

Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, 1910

"... to wean them by slow degrees, from their nomadic habits, which have almost become an instinct, and by slow degrees absorb them or settle them on the land. Meantime, they must be fairly protected."

John A. Macdonald, 1880

"It is worthy of consideration whether legislative measures should not be adopted for the establishment of some kind of municipal system among such bands as are found sufficiently advanced to justify the experiment being tried. It is hoped that a system may be adopted which will have the effect of accustoming the Indians to the modes of government prevalent in the white communities surrounding them, and that it will thus tend to prepare them for earlier amalgamation with the general population of the country."



Imposed the elected chief and council system

1869 to present day



Denied women status



Created Reserves

1876 to present day



Encouraged voluntary and enforced enfranchisement

"... we have been pampering and coaxing the Indians; that we must take a new course, we must vindicate the position of the white man, we must teach the Indians what law is, we must not pauperize them, as they say we have been doing."

John A. Macdonald, 1885



Could expropriate portions of reserves for public works

1880 to current version of **Indian Act** 1985



Renamed individuals with European names

1880 to undetermined time



Created a permit system to control Indians' ability to sell products from farms

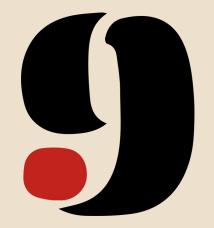
"The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change."

John A. Macdonald, 1885



Prohibited sale of ammunition to Indians

1882 to undetermined time



Prohibited sale of intoxicants to Indians

1884 to undetermined time

"The third clause provides that celebrating the 'Potlatch' is a misdemeanour. This Indian festival is debauchery of the worst kind, and the departmental officers and all clergymen unite in affirming that it is absolutely necessary to put this practice down."

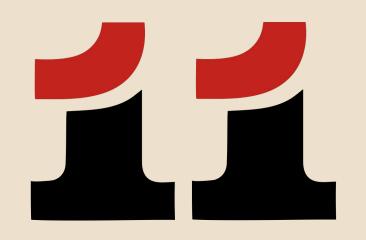
John A. Macdonald, 1894



Declared potlatch and other cultural ceremonies illegal

"No rebel Indians should be allowed off the Reserves without a pass signed by an I.D. official. The dangers of complications with white men will thus be lessened and by preserving a knowledge of individual movements any inclination to petty depredations may be checked by the facility of apprehending those who commit such offences."

Hayter Reed, 1885



Restricted Indians from leaving their reserve without permission from Indian agent

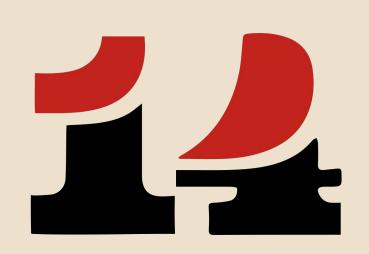
"The Governor in Council may make regulations, which shall have the force of law, for the committal by justices or Indian agents of children of Indian blood under the age of sixteen years, to such industrial school or boarding school, there to be kept, cared for and educated for a period not extending beyond at which such children shall reach the age of eighteen years."



Created residential schools



Forbade Indian students from speaking their home language



Forbade western Indians from appearing in any public dance, show, exhibition, stampede or pageant wearing traditional regalia

Late 1880s to early 1960s

"We would be only too glad to have the Indian use this land, if he would... But he will not cultivate this land, and we want to cultivate it; that is all."

Arthur Meighen, 1918



Forbade Indians from forming political organizations



Prohibited anyone, Indian or non-Indian, from soliciting funds for Indians to hire legal counsel



Prohibited pool hall owners from allowing Indians entrance

"It is the opinion of the writer that... the Government will in time reach the end of its responsibility as the Indians progress into civilization and finally disappear as a separate and distinct people, not by race extinction but by gradual assimilation with their fellow-citizens."

Duncan Campbell Scott, 1931



Forbade students from practicing their traditional religion

1940s



Denied Indians the right to vote

Until 1960



Is a piece of legislature created under colonial rule for the purpose of subjugating a group of people

Until 1960

Thank you for coming out and for your interest in learning about the *Indian Act*. It is people such as yourselves who will help change the world, for Indigenous Peoples and non-Indigenous Peoples.

Gilakas'la

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