



Surviving Canada: Indigenous Peoples Celebrate 150 plus Years of Betrayal

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March 15, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

How concerned are Indigenous peoples about the upcoming federal election? How concerned are Indigenous peoples about federal politics? How concerned are Canadians and federal politicians about Indigenous politics? More specifically, are they concerned about s.35/Aboriginal and Treaty Rights, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples? Indigenous resurgence and reconciliation? Do they understand these issues?

This workshop will attempt to educate, challenge and inspire settler Canadians, newcomers and Indigenous peoples about the past, present and future of Indigenous politics and of the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the state. We will examine topics including dispossession, violence, law, land rights, treaties, the Indian Act, implementing Indigenous rights, and our future together. This will not be a workshop on the so-called 'Indian Problem'. Instead, we will focus our attention on Canada, the legacies of colonialism and federal policies, and charting pathways forward.

Outline

Morning

Indigenous politics primer – treaties, law & survival

Afternoon

Contemporary politics - resurgence, rights, recognition

- A new federal agenda?
- Reconciliation – possibilities & roles





Required Readings

Kiera Ladner & Myra Tait (eds). 2017. *Surviving Canada*. Winnipeg: ARP Books.

BOOK AVAILABLE AT: Webster Course Reserve Room (3 hour loan)

- Mills, Aaron. "Nokomis & the Law in the Gift", pp. 17-27
- Irbacher-Fox, Stephanie, "Celebrating Canada's 150th Birthday: A Play in One Act", pp. 92-101
- Houle, Rob "Lets Talk Treaty", pp. 372-376
- Asch, Michael, "Building Relations: Confederation Treaties and Settler Obligations Today", pp. 351-371
- Ladner, Kiera L., "150 Years and Waiting", pp. 398-413
- Mandell, Louise, "We will Help Each other Be Great and Good", pp. 414-435

Additional Resources

Simpson, Leanne. 2017. *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

King, Thomas. 2003. *The Truth about Stories*. Toronto: House of Anansi Press.

Littlebear, Leroy. 2017. "Canada is a Pretend Nation" in Kiera Ladner & Myra Tait (eds), *Surviving Canada*. Winnipeg: ARP Books.

Peter Russell. 2006. "Chapter 2: Western Imperialism and its Legal Magic" in *Recognizing Aboriginal Title: The Mabo Case and Indigenous Resistance to English-Settler Colonialism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, pp. 30-50.

Epp, Roger. 2008. "Chapter 7: We are all Treaty People: History, Reconciliation, and the 'Settler Problem'" in *We Are All Treaty People: Prairie Essays*. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, pp. 121-142.

Canada. 1985. *Indian Act, R.S., c. I-6, s. 1*. Ottawa: Minister of Justice, Office Consolidation. Retrieved from Justice Laws Website: <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/i-5/>

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