



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmYu-Wppp3c>

The Indian Act, 1876

Purpose?

To assimilate and civilize the Indigenous peoples in Canada

Combined earlier colonial & federal laws

- Land
- Indian status
- Local government



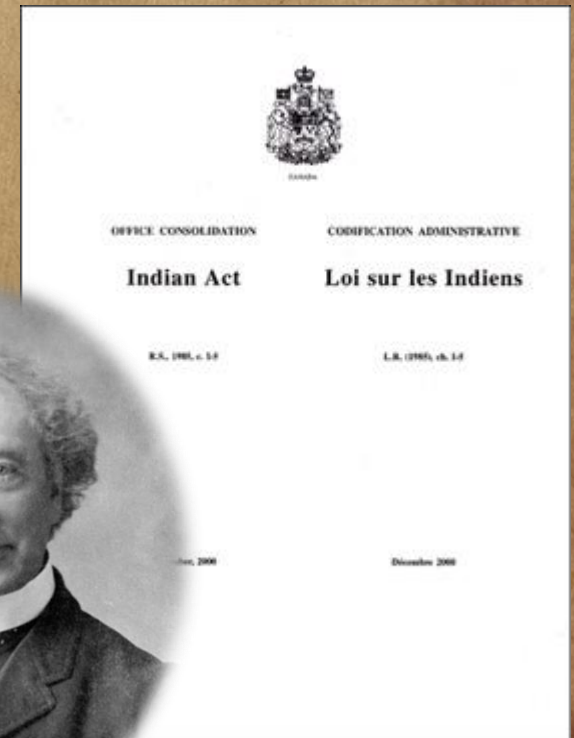
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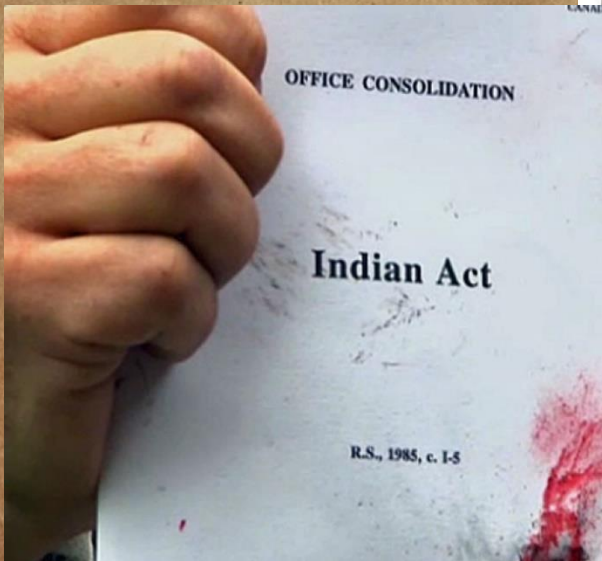
“The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change.”

John A Macdonald, 1887



“Status Indian”

Aboriginals = Wards* of the government



Indian and Northern Affairs Canada / Affaires indiennes et du Nord Canada		1420307
CERTIFICATE OF INDIAN STATUS - CERTIFICAT DE STATUT D'INDIEN		
This is to certify that - Le présent atteste que		
Family name - Nom de famille		
DOE		
Given name - Prénoms		
JOHN CARL		
Alias - Nom d'emprunt		
JOHNNY		
Registry no. - N° de registre		
4360000000		
is an Indian within the meaning of the Indian Act, chapter 27, Statutes of Canada (1985); est un Indien au sens de la Loi sur les Indiens, chapitre 27 des Lois du Canada (1985).		
Date of birth - Date de naissance	Registry group - Groupe d'enregistrement	
Dec.15,1970	PEIGAN	
Sex - Sexe	This card is valid until / Cette carte est valide jusqu'au	
M	Apr.26,2002	
Holder's signature - Signature du titulaire		
John C. Doe		
Issuing officer's signature - Signature de l'agent émetteur		Issue date - Date d'émission
Hazel G. Doe		Apr.26,1997
For further information, please contact the Registrar of Indian Status, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1A 0H4. Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec le registraire de l'état de l'Indien, Ottawa (Ontario) Canada, K1A 0H4. 83-004 (5-98) 7530-21-023-3673		

A person, usually a minor, under the care and control of a guardian

“Status Indian”

Negative consequences:

- Not “people,” denied certain rights
- Forbidden from buying alcohol
- Could not vote
- Could not own land or buy ammunition
- Women denied status
- Renamed individuals with European names
- Forbidden from speaking native language
- Forbidden from practicing religion or cultural ceremonies
- Reserves: had to have a pass to leave or sell any farm products



Giving up “Status”

- (+) Become “person” by voluntary enfranchisement
- (+) Same rights as other Canadians
- (-) Meant cutting themselves off from their reserve communities, culture, etc.

Reserves



NOTICE

THIS IS AN INDIAN RESERVE

Any person who trespasses on an Indian Reserve is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month, or to both fine and imprisonment.

DIRECTOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

**Department of Citizenship and Immigration,
Indian Affairs Branch,
OTTAWA.**

- Land set aside for the use of Status Indians
- Property of the Government
- Had to give up traditional territories
- Had to have a pass to leave
- Meant to be temporary
- Often very poor land for farming

DUPLICATE.

No. _____

Date December 27th 1898

Mr. Tamee Indian Agency

Deliver from Indian Supplies to

Pat Grasshopper of Bull Head's Band has
~~on account of~~ permission to be absent from
his Reserve until January 3rd. Going to
join his father near High River

ARTICLES.

AMT. for S. B. L. QUANTITY.
Agent:

Local Government

- Indian Act set out structure of local gov't
- Ignored traditional forms of government
- Replaced with “town council” model
- Band Council led by Chief Councillor
- Imposed system created disruption in society



Relevance Today



- Many amendments and changes have been made to original Indian Act
- Minister of Indian Affairs still has legal ability to interfere in many aspects of First Nations' lives
- Act does give some benefits... BUT they are outweighed by discrimination & oppression embedded in it.
- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnfITZOlaO4>