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 Summon, the Library catalogue, [journal article] databases and web sites.

Overviews


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
FNUNIV Reference E 76.2 N37

Selected Books, Reports, and Web sites


Resources about Bill C-3. This bill amended the Indian Act so that eligible grandchildren of women who lost status as a result of marrying non-Indian men became entitled to registration (Indian status).


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peoples across Canada interpreted the White paper as a road map for assimilation and vehemently opposed it until it was withdrawn in 1970.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. The Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples’ [RCAP] Transcripts Online.
In 1991, the Government of Canada launched a 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. The Aboriginal Peoples’ Transcripts Online contains the documentation gathered during this initial phase of the Commission’s work. The online transcripts can be found at http://scaa.usask.ca/ourlegacy/solr?query=Repository%3A%22University%20of%20Saskatchewan%20Archives%22|Subject%3A%22Government%20commissions%22-%20Royal%20Commission%20on%20Aboriginal%20Peoples%22&mode=results


See notes under The Royal commission on Aboriginal Peoples’ [RCAP] Transcripts online for a brief explanation about the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples.

In 1985, with the passage of Bill C-31, changes were made to the Indian Act to address some, but not all, issues of sex discrimination. “Current to October 17, 2013. Last amended on April 1, 2013.”


Includes Commentary and Case Law for each section of the Indian Act.

ARCHER Reference (main floor) KE 7703.9 C36 2013


*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 his book, Cardinal examines the oppressive nature of the Indian Act but 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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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 oURspace digital repository which is available through the Library website. Find additional resources in oURspace by entering “Indian Act” in the general oURspace search box.

Native Women’s Association of Canada / L’Association des Femmes Autochtones du Canada.

Information about how the Indian Act and amendments affect women and their children is available on the Native Women’s Association web site at [http://www.nwac.ca/home](http://www.nwac.ca/home)

Try entering Indian Act, Bill C-31, or Bill C-3 into the search box on the home page.


Chapter Nine consists of several short interviews with First Nations activists who challenged discrimination against women and their children contained in Indian Act.

**Archer**   HQ 1453 R423 2005


Contains pre-confederation documents and legislation, the original Indian Act of 1876 (p. 86-115, C8) and amendments up until 1972.

**Archer**   KE 7703.5 1975

**FNUNIV**   KE 7703.5 1975

Saskatoon : University of Saskatchewan, Native Law Centre.

Provides, in chronological order, the full text of the Indian Acts of Canada from the time of Confederation to 1970. Amendments to each Act are inserted immediately following the original section along with the corresponding amendment citation. A subject index at the beginning of the work guides the reader to sections in the various Acts and amendments pertaining to a given topic.

ARChER Government Publications  CA1..YX…5 81I51
FNUNIV  KE 7704.5 1981

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