

Terminologies:

Aboriginal- The descendants of the original inhabitants of North America; comes from the Latin word 'ab' (from) and 'origine' (origin, beginning). The Canadian Constitution recognizes three groups of Aboriginal people – "Indian, Metis and Inuit". These are 3 separate people with unique heritages, languages, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

Indigenous- All inhabitants indigenous to their lands and territories and their descendants; comes from the Latin word *indigen*, which means "spring from the land; native."

Using Indigenous over Aboriginal encourages territory acknowledgements, a practice which links Indigenous Peoples to their land and respects their claims over it. It recognizes their internationally legal right to offer or withhold consent to development under the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In Canada the accepted term for people who are Indigenous and who do not identify as Inuit or metis is *First Nations*.

1. First Nations People – Replaced the word Indian. Includes both Status and Non Status

Status: person who meets the requirements of the Indian Act, who is registered under the Act.

Non-status: of Aboriginal descent, who does not meet the criteria of the Indian Act, or lost their status or despite meeting criteria, has not been registered as a Status Indian.

Treaty Indian: descendant of family members who signed treaties with the colonial government (British Monarchy). Generally, all Treaty Indians are Status, but Status Indians are not necessarily treaty Indians. They belong to a First Nation or Indian Band that signed a treaty with the crown.

2. Metis – A person who self identifies as Metis, is distinct from other Aboriginal Peoples and is of historic Metis Nation Ancestry. They have a unique, mixed First Nation and European ancestry and culture.

3. Inuit – Inuit Register defines as "Inuit" all children born to an Inuk and a person of another race, regardless of the race. People living mainly in Northern Canada, Greenland, Alaska and eastern Siberia, who are original inhabitants of the Arctic.