

A very brief list of landmark moments in the colonisation of Mi'kma'ki

- 1534** Jacque Cartier's first voyage to territories which will be claimed as New France.
- 1713** The French and British empires sign the Treaty of Utrecht. The King of France claims sovereignty over Ile St. Jean (Epekwitk/PEI) and Ile Royale (Unama'ki/Cape Breton). The King of England claims the rest of Acadia. The Mi'kmaq are not informed about the assumed possession of the land.
- 1725** The Mi'kmaq abandon the pursuit of war in response to aggressive encroachment, and sign the Articles of Peace and Friendship with the British in the hope of achieving peaceful coexistence.
- 1744** France declares war on Great Britain. The British declare war upon the Mi'kmaq and proclaim the offering of bounties for the killing or capturing of Mi'kmaq men, women and children.
- 1749** Lord Edward Cornwallis is appointed governor of Halifax (established at K'jipuktuk) and signs a proclamation offering a reward for the killing or capturing of Mi'kmaq men, women and children.
- 1752** A new Peace and Friendship Treaty is signed promising hunting, fishing and trading rights. Despite a proclamation, knowledge of these developments is not widespread and bounty hunting continues under the assumption of continuing rewards. What's more, the colonial authorities do not respect the promises made in the treaty by issuing permits to clear and settle on Mi'kmaq hunting grounds and by passing regulations that restrict Mi'kmaq trade.
- 1761** Burying the Hatchet Ceremony in Halifax. Instructions issued from the King to British Governors following the ceremony mandate that all treaties between the Crown and First Nations should be honoured and enforced without exception.
- 1783** The Nova Scotia colonial government set aside nine licenses of occupation to the Mi'kmaq for poor quality parcels of their own land, dispossessing them of the rest now offered to Loyalist and other immigrant settlers.
- 1867** Three British colonies (Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia) adopt the British North American Act and proclaim the Canadian Confederation with four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Nova Scotia transfers all responsibilities for "Indians" to the Dominion of Canada. The Mi'kmaq are now considered wards of the federal government.
- 1876** The Indian Act is passed.
- 1941** Centralization policy is officially implemented in Nova Scotia where attempts are made to relocate Mi'kmaq communities to two large areas: Eskasoni and Shubenacadie.
- 1960** The Nova Scotia government divides the Mi'kmaq into eleven individual bands with assigned land holdings. Acadia is added in 1965, and Horton in 1984.
- 1969** Under the direction of Indian Affairs Minister Jean Chrétien, the federal government introduces the white paper on Indian policy designed to eliminate the Indian Act, end federal responsibility for Indians, and terminate special status for Native people. The new policy, if passed, would have also canceled previous treaties and wiped out related land claims.
- 1982** The Canada Act passes in British Parliament, which patriated the Canadian constitution and ended the need to go through British Parliament for certain amendments to the constitution. The act also reaffirmed aboriginal and treaty rights, encouraging developments in self-governance and land claim settlements.
- 1983** The Marshall Inquiry: Royal Commission on the Donald Marshall, Jr., prosecution, which revealed racism at the root of the wrongful conviction.
- 1991** Royal Commission initiated to investigate the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Canadian state following a decade of escalating actions culminating into the armed standoff at Kanesatake.
- 1999** R. v. Marshall: The Supreme Court of Canada rules that Mi'kmaq and Maliseet people on the East Coast continue to have treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather to earn a moderate livelihood.
- 2010** Canada reluctantly endorses the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- 2012** January 24: Crown-First Nations Gathering where PM Harper announced he would not implement changes to the Indian Act. Later in the year, the Harper government introduces bills C-45, C-27, C-428, S-2, S-6, S-8, S-207 and S-212 without consultation with First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples.

**Some resources for more learning about the
history of Mi'kma'ki and its colonization**

“Breaking down the Indian Act, with Russell Diabo.” *Rabble.ca*. Web.
[<http://rabble.ca/rabbletv/program-guide/2013/01/best-net/breaking-down-indian-act-russell-diabo>]

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