



NEED TO KNOW

TERMS FOR NAC

NATIVE SPIRITUALITY



- ▶ Aboriginal spirituality is defined as at the core of Aboriginal being, their very identity.
- ▶ It gives meaning to all aspects of life including relationships with one another and the environment.
- ▶ All objects are living and share the same soul and spirit as Aboriginals.
- ▶ There is a kinship with the environment.

ASSIMILATE

- ▶ To absorb one group into the culture of another.
- ▶ Before Europeans' arrival to North America, Aboriginals were self-governed – their government has been weakened through policies of control and assimilation.



ABORIGINAL WORLD VIEW

- ▶ A balanced, harmonious, and orderly relationship between people and the world. The Aboriginal peoples evolved distinctive lifestyles founded on these concepts:
- ▶ 1. **All things are sacred.** Everything has a spiritual side and contains a spirit.
- ▶ 2. **Everything is interconnected.** Humans need to live in balance with the Earth and all Creation.
- ▶ 3. **Everything is part of a never-ending circle.**



APPROPRIATION

- ▶ When Aboriginal cultural motifs, themes, images, and so on are used by non-Aboriginal peoples without authority.



ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

- ▶ The indigenous inhabitants of Canada, including status and non-status Indians, the Inuit, and the Métis peoples, without regard to their separate origins and identities .
- ▶ This collective term is interchangeable with ***Native peoples***.



BAND

- ▶ A specific group of Aboriginal people officially registered under the Indian Act and usually identified with specific reserve land.



INDIAN ACT

- ▶ Indian Acts in both 1876 and 1895 encouraged adopting “white ways.”
- ▶ Not written by Indian people

BILL C-31

- ▶ A bill that amended in 1985 certain sections of the Indian Act, in particular those related to status and band membership provisions.
- ▶ Addressed gender discrimination of the Indian Act (through marriage)
- ▶ Restored Indian status to those who had been forcibly enfranchised due to previous discriminatory provisions
- ▶ Allowed bands to control their own band membership as a step towards self-government



COMMUNITY

- ▶ A collection of people who are united by kinship, tradition, language, culture, or circumstance.
- ▶ Communities traditionally provide a sense of individual and collective identity.



FIRST NATION

- ▶ A term used in place of Indian band.



INDIGINEOUS PEOPLES

- ▶ Populations who are the original inhabitants of a particular region or environment.



INUIT

- ▶ A people also known as *Inuvialuit*, and previously known as Eskimo.



METIS

- ▶ People of mixed Aboriginal and European ancestry.
- ▶ Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba



RESERVE

- ▶ A tract of land set aside by agreement or treaty for the exclusive use of an Indian band, currently referred to as a First Nation community.



RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

- ▶ Under the Indian Act.
- ▶ Stipulated that the Federal Government was responsible for the education of Indian children after 6-18.
- ▶ Proved to be a purposeful act by the government to breakdown the culture at every level of life.
- ▶ Were operated by the government and churches.
- ▶ Were initiated as a method of destroying all native values, language, beliefs and social structure.
- ▶ Was a means of establishing the values of the dominant culture.
- ▶ Lasted over 100 years.
- ▶ Began to close in 1969; the last one closed in 1988.



SELF-GOVERNMENT

- ▶ The right to govern, including the right to administer taxes, pass laws, manage land and natural resources, negotiate with other governments, and, in some instances, take responsibility for education, health, safety, and welfare services for a given community.



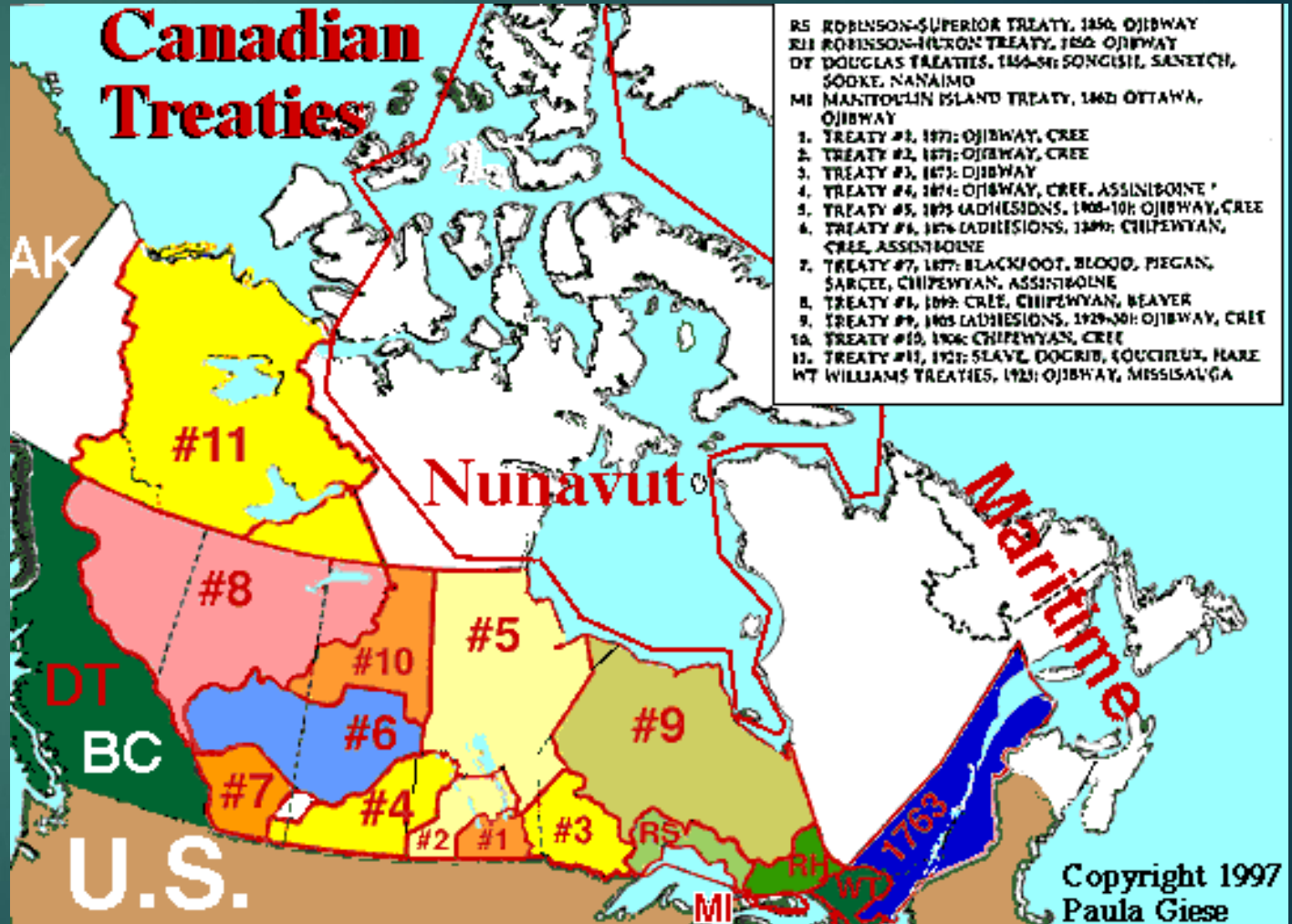
SOVEREIGNTY

- ▶ Freedom from outside control (in the case of a nation, freedom to govern itself).



TREATIES

- ▶ Agreements in which Indians gave up their rights to land in exchange for certain promises made by the federal government.



SMUDGING

- ▶ Purification of the mind and spirit plays an important role in Aboriginal spirituality.
- ▶ Tobacco is considered a sacred plant and the smoke is a spiritual way to clear one's thoughts, to wash away impurities, to help focus on the task with freshness and renewal.
- ▶ Burning sweet grass, or sage and tobacco in a smudge pot and drawing the smoke ritually over one's face, head, arms and torso, and inhaling the smoke is all part of a smudging ceremony of cleansing.



SHAMAN

- ▶ A shaman is a religious or mystical expert (male or female) who, in traditional Aboriginal societies, functions as a healer, prophet and custodian of cultural tradition.
- ▶ They are also often the coordinators of religious and cultural ceremonies.



VISION QUEST

- ▶ The rite of passage to adulthood.
- ▶ Common to most native cultural groups.
- ▶ The vision quest seeker is first purified, involving a confession, or at least a desire to atone.
- ▶ The shaman tells the youth to go to a place far from camp. The youth prays, fasts (food and water) and endures the elements while awaiting a “vision”.
- ▶ By the end of this period, the seeker hopes to receive a message from a guardian spirit which could appear in an animal, object, or another natural form.
- ▶ If the person is unable to see the vision, they must try again.
- ▶ The shaman helps to interpret the vision and its message.

