

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFd-nM1\\_0IQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFd-nM1_0IQ)

### 1. Land Acknowledgement Is Not Symbolic — It's Foundational

- Canada exists on **unceded Indigenous land**, including Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh territories.
  - This isn't ceremonial language; it frames **everything that follows historically and legally**.
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### 2. Canada Has Two Origin Stories

- **Written colonial history** (French/English discovery narrative).
  - **Oral Indigenous histories**, which assert:
    - Indigenous peoples have been here **since time immemorial**.
    - Migration via the Bering Strait is **not part of Indigenous self-understanding**.
  - Oral tradition was systematically dismissed because Europeans equated "written" with "truth."
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### 3. Spiritual Worldviews Were the First Point of Clash

- Indigenous cosmologies (e.g. **Nanabush** in Ojibwe traditions) framed land as **created, sacred, relational**.
  - Europeans framed land as **claimable, ownable, extractable**.
  - Planting the cross was not religious symbolism—it was a **legal act of possession**.
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### 4. The Doctrine of Discovery Was the Original Theft Mechanism

- Rooted in **15th-century Papal Bulls**.
  - Non-Christian peoples were deemed:
    - Inferior
    - Non-sovereign
    - Enslavable
  - This doctrine later became **formal law** via U.S. Supreme Court rulings and shaped Canadian governance.
  - Its legacy still underpins Crown land ownership today.
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### 5. Europeans Survived Because of Indigenous Knowledge

- Cartier's crew survived scurvy **only because Indigenous peoples saved them.**
- Early colonial survival, trade, and settlement were **impossible without Indigenous expertise.**

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## 6. The Fur Trade Was Entirely Indigenous-Powered

- Indigenous men and women were:
  - Trappers
  - Canoe builders
  - Navigators
  - Interpreters
  - Traders
  - Diplomats
- The Hudson's Bay Company:
  - Could not function without Indigenous labor.
  - Was later **romanticized**, erasing this dependency.

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## 7. Alcohol Was Introduced as a Tool of Control

- Alcohol ("firewater") was unknown pre-contact.
- Traders used it deliberately to:
  - Create dependency
  - Enforce debt
  - Secure labor and compliance
- The term "firewater" comes from observing alcohol ignite when spilled.

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## 8. Evangelization Was Strategic, Not Benevolent

- Catholic orders (Jesuits, Oblates):
  - Learned Indigenous languages intentionally.
  - Embedded themselves culturally.
- English Protestants largely did not.

- Conversion efforts laid groundwork for later systems of control (residential schools).

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## 9. Rupert's Land: One of the Largest Land Thefts in History

- Hudson's Bay Company was granted:
  - **1.2 million km<sup>2</sup>**, later expanding to **8+ million km<sup>2</sup>**.
- Sold to Canada for:
  - £300,000 + 10 million acres
- **No Indigenous consent. No compensation.**
- Sparked resistance, including **Louis Riel** and multiple First Nations leaders.

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## 10. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 Still Matters

- Known by Indigenous peoples as the "**Indian Magna Carta.**"
- Acknowledged:
  - Indigenous land rights
  - Requirement to negotiate land purchases
- Embedded into the **1982 Canadian Constitution.**
- Foundation for modern Aboriginal title claims.

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## 11. Confederation Excluded Indigenous Peoples Entirely

- **British North America Act (1867):**
  - Negotiated solely by English and French interests.
  - Protected:
    - Language
    - Religion
    - Education
    - Legal systems
  - Indigenous peoples received **none** of these protections.
- Indigenous peoples were made "**wards of the state.**"

- Responsibility reduced to:

“Indians and lands reserved for Indians.”

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## 12. Treaties Were Never Negotiated as Equals

- Europeans treated Indigenous nations as children under a “Great White Mother.”
- Oral testimony, ceremony, and worldview were ignored.
- Written treaties favored Crown interests from the outset.
- This sets up the **next conversation**.

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## What This Session Really Does

- Reframes Canada’s history as **unfinished, contested, and living**.
- Establishes that:
  - The injustice is **systemic**, not accidental.
  - The law itself was built on exclusion.
- Prepares the ground for:
  - Treaties
  - Residential schools
  - Ongoing legal battles
  - Truth & Reconciliation