

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.

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.

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 km²**, later expanding to **8+ million km²**.
 - 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.”

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