



The Path
Your Journey through
Indigenous Canada

Module Descriptions

Module 1: What's in a Name?

Topic 1: Indians, Inuit and Métis

Video Length 10:52

Description

Your journey begins with an introduction to First Nations and Inuit, the original peoples in this land. For thousands of years they have explored and settled this hemisphere; hunted, fished and farmed; created trade and political networks; and created a rich mosaic of distinct cultures. You will also learn how the Métis Nation emerged with the birth of the fur trade in this country, how these three people groups are represented by national organizations today.

Topic 2: Name Calling

Video Length 16:31

Description

This module will help you to demystify the use of such terms as “Indian,” “Native,” “Aboriginal,” “Indigenous”, “First Nation,” “Eskimo,” “Inuit,” and “Métis”, and come to an understanding of which terms to use when identifying various groups in different contexts. You’ll also review and debunk some of the stereotypes and myths propagated in media and popular culture regarding Indigenous peoples.

Module 2: Defining Moments in History

Topic 1: History: Pre-Contact to the mid Nineteenth Century

Video Length 21:27

Description

All cultures have their own stories of how the world was created, how humans came to walk the earth, and how their own people came to be. This section will introduce you to the several creation and origin stories of First Nations and Inuit peoples. The lesson also explores some of the current theories regarding the migrations of paleo-Indigenous peoples to the Americas and presents an overview of different Indigenous groups that populated Canada prior to European

contact. The video also describes the First Nations who lived in what is now called Alberta as well as important Indigenous legal, ceremonial and hunting practices which include hunting for buffalo; as well as the Sun Dance.

Topic 2: Inuit across the North

Video Length 13:44

Description

This topic will introduce pre-contact Inuit culture, the major milestones that have impacted Inuit since the arrival of Europeans, and how each unique Inuit region came to be shaped and defined through the land claim process.

Module 3: More Defining Moments in History

Topic 1: A Colonial History

Video Length 29:32

Description

This topic will address some of the defining moments that have shaped the realities faced by Indigenous peoples. These include: the colonial relationship established by the *Indian Act*; the tragic legacy of residential schools; Métis resistances, Métis scrip, the hardships imposed by forced Inuit relocations; the tuberculosis epidemic and Indian hospitals, the fostering out and adoption of Indigenous children during the “Sixties Scoop”; and the underlying causes and events that fueled the Oka Crisis.

Topic 2: Indigenous History of Alberta

Video Length 27:04

Description

The fur trade brought an influx of European and other First Nation voyageurs, traders, and entrepreneurs to what is now Alberta. In this section, you will learn about how the Métis became instrumental as interpreters, guides, and traders. You will also learn about the hardships of the Métis in Alberta, caused by policies such as Métis scrip and the oppression that occurred after the Northwest Resistance of 1885. This video also explains the importance of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and includes some Alberta-specific stories of the impacts of colonialism described in Topic 1.



Topic 3: Milestones Along the Path

Video Length 14:00

Description

Although relationships between Indigenous peoples and Canada have been marked by conflict, there is progress. This video highlights the resilience demonstrated by First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples through four decades as they seek a renewed relationship with Canada. Topics include the birth of social movements like Idle No More, the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Finally, this section will introduce you to some successful Indigenous artists and public figures.

Module 4: It's the Law!

Topic 1: Understanding Historical Treaties and Métis Assertion of Rights

Video Length 19:24

Description

In the previous modules, you learned about Canada's historic relationship with First Nations, Inuit and Métis. In this topic, you will learn about the historical and legal framework that underlies Canada's current legal and constitutional relationship with Indigenous peoples. Historic treaties helped to define that relationship. You will also learn about the various ways that the Métis Nation has and continues to assert rights.

Topic 2: Understanding Aboriginal and Métis Rights, Aboriginal Title and Modern Treaties

Video Length 27:12

Description

The previous topic discussed the historic treaties, and the measures undertaken by the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, to assert their rights. This topic discusses the resurgence of Indigenous rights spurred by the Federal government's "White Paper." It distinguishes between modern-day treaties and historic and "numbered" treaties and explains how the courts and international law have helped Indigenous people to assert their rights. This section also describes land claims and self-government agreements in Alberta.

Module 5: Relationship-building with Indigenous Peoples

Topic 1: Cultural Values and Traditions

Video Length 17:29

Description

This topic discusses some of the cultural values and traditions of Indigenous peoples from different regions of Canada, and describes how these shape Indigenous perspectives and views today.

Topic 2: Relationship-Building

Video Length 10:02

Description

In the previous topic, you learned about the role that culture, language, tradition and spirituality play in the lives and perspectives of many Indigenous peoples. These cultural traditions, as well as the history of the relationship between Europeans and Indigenous peoples, also affect their behaviours. This section presents some suggestions on how to work and communicate with Indigenous colleagues and partners and strengthen your relationships with Indigenous peoples and outlines the importance of becoming culturally aware and pursuing truth and reconciliation.

Topic 3: “Reconciliation and the Way Forward”

Video Length 33:45

Description

This final video wraps up the course with a focus on Alberta-specific legal initiatives that, in the spirit of reconciliation, are responding to the TRC’s Calls to Action and are relevant to those in the legal profession. This includes an understanding of some Indigenous restorative justice practices and where they are located, Indigenous courts, UNDRIP and Bill C-15, implementation of Bill C-92 (An Act respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families), trauma-informed lawyering, and the difference between Indigenous and Aboriginal law.

The topic wraps up with some suggested actions that lawyers can practice professionally or personally to restore relationships with Indigenous clients and First Nations, as well as some Indigenous organizations lawyers can familiarize themselves with. All of this can assist lawyers in advancing the broader societal goal of reconciliation.

