

150 Years' Relationship

Documentary Evidence

Documented Time Periods

- Page 3** **1876** The "Indian Question"
- Page 8** **1887-1888** Introducing Industrial Schools
- Page 13** **1906-1910** The Bryce Report
- Page 18** **1913-1916** McKenna-McBride Commission
- Page 24** **1920-1923** Indian Act Becomes More Restrictive
- Page 31** **1947-1948** Post War Social Change
- Page 41** **1967-1968** Canada's Centennial and the White Paper
- Page 48** **2005-2006** Accords and Agreements
- Page 59** **Today** Contemporary Comment

Working with the Documentary Evidence

Evaluating Primary Sources

How do historians evaluate primary source documents? Historians never accept a document at face value but evaluate it for accuracy, bias and its place in a historical context.

- 1 Who was the writer? What do you know about the writer from the document or other sources?
2. When was the document written? What else was happening in that time period?
3. What was the purpose of the document? Who was its audience?
4. How reliable is the information provided in the document?
5. What evidence does the document add to your inquiry?
6. What further questions does this document raise?

General Document Questions

Use these questions to guide your reading of the documents.

1. How does the speaker express attitudes toward First Nations people?
2. What terms were used for First Nations people and issues, particularly land title and rights, education and health?
3. What are examples, if any, of social will influencing, or trying to influence government policy makers.
4. What are the stated goals of government, church and Canadian citizens? Do the writers reveal any hidden or underlying goals that seem to differ from their stated intentions?

General Time Period Questions

1. What is the major political and social context of this period? How does it relate to First Nations issues?
2. Comment on the diversity of opinions expressed. Do most people in that time period agree with one another, or do some hold opposing views, as far as you can tell from the documents?
3. How would you describe the level of racism expressed in this time period? How overt is it?
4. Do you see any major shifts in public opinion about the relationship between First Nations and other Canadians in this time period?