Social Studies 10-2

Unit 2: Legacies of historical globalization

The Indian Act and residential schools

Registers and reserves

- A federal register lists people with status under a law passed in 1876.
- A map shows reserve lands and a band council whose powers sit under federal authority.
- A timeline of a school system ends in 1996, with a 2015 commission report beside it.

The Indian Act and residential schools

- The Indian Act of 1876 registers status for people on its list.
- The Act also sets aside reserves and places band councils under federal authority.
- Métis land claims run through the Manitoba Act of 1870 and later scrip.
- A 1939 Supreme Court reference treats Inuit as a federal responsibility, separate from the Indian Act register.

Key terms

Indian Act

The Indian Act of 1876 is a federal law that defines status, organizes reserves, and sets band council structures under federal control for people registered under it.

reserve

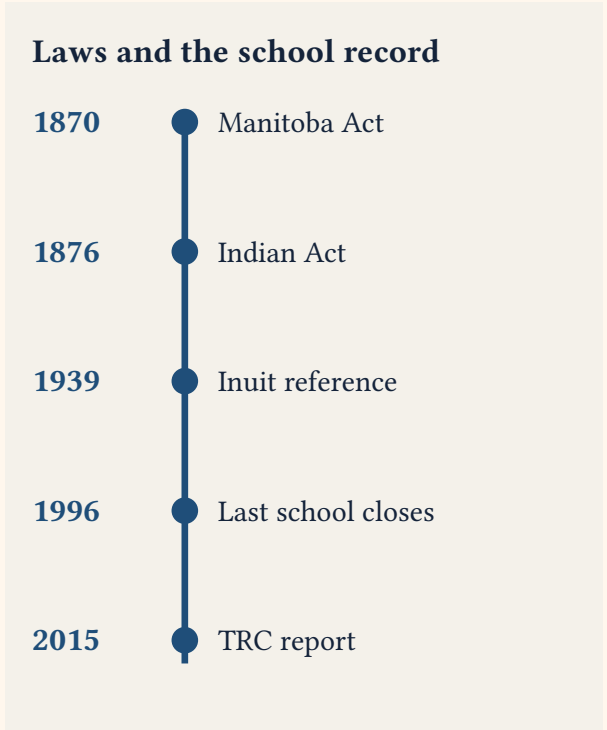
A reserve is land set apart under the Indian Act for the use of a band, with the federal government holding underlying title and wide control.

residential schools

Residential schools were a federally supported system that removed Indigenous children from their families and punished Indigenous languages, and the last such school closed in 1996.

The 1876 Act and the residential schools

- The Indian Act of 1876 registers which people have legal status under that law.
- The Act sets aside reserve land for the people on that register.
- The Act frames band councils so their powers sit under federal authority.
- The Act applies to the people whose names are on its register.



Métis land documents and the 1939 reference

- The Manitoba Act of 1870 promised land for Métis children.
- Scrip later offered land or money to individual Métis people.
- In 1939 the Supreme Court treated Inuit as a federal responsibility.

What the 2015 school report records

- The federal government supported residential schools with funds and rules.
- Children were taken from their families and housed at the schools.
- School rules punished students for speaking Indigenous languages.
- Some Métis children and many Inuit children were sent to those schools.
- The 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission report records student deaths and says that record is incomplete.
- The last residential school closed in 1996.

Who the Act registers

- One card holds an 1876 style status rule, a reserve schedule, and a band council clause.
- A Métis family file shows scrip and a Manitoba Act land path.
- A 1939 court reference places Inuit under federal responsibility on a separate card.

Public findings on the schools

- Federal funds and church staff operate residences, and children are removed from their families.
- School rules punish Indigenous languages, and some Métis children and many Inuit children are in the system.
- The Truth and Reconciliation Commission final report in 2015 records student deaths, says that record is incomplete, and the last school closes in 1996.



Review

- State three structures in the Indian Act of 1876 and who the Act applies to.
- State the distinct legal point for Métis history and for Inuit history in 1939.
- State family separation, language rules, the 2015 findings, and the closing year 1996.

Summary

- The Indian Act registers status, reserves, and federally framed band councils for people on its list.
- Métis and Inuit legal histories are distinct, including scrip and the 1939 reference.
- Residential schools removed children, punished Indigenous languages, and were examined by the 2015 commission, with the last school closing in 1996.

Image credits

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