

# Let's Change How We View Indigenous Peoples

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Thunderbird and Salmon (1982) by Susan Point

No. 1: AFTER COLONIZATION, the government of Canada negotiated with First Nations bands to form treaties. Upon signing of these treaties, the Canadian government essentially took the land as their own, and forced First Nations to live on reserve land. However, most of the First Nations groups in British Columbia did not sign treaties, and therefore did not sell or give their land to the Canadian government.

- How do you feel about living on land that, in all technicalities, does not belong to the Canadian government?
- Does this change the way you view how you live and interact with where you live?

No. 2: ALTHOUGH THE last residential school closed in 1996, we still see negative consequences in generations who did not directly attend these schools. These consequences are called Intergenerational Effects, and these negative effects have been passed down from parents to children and are still being perpetuated.

- What kind of problems do you see or hear within Indigenous communities?
- Many of these problems are because generations of Indigenous peoples lost their culture, their spirit, and their identity. They also faced sexual, physical and mental abuse. Does this change your perspective on the contemporary problems that Indigenous peoples experience?

No. 3: DO YOU HAVE any stereotypes against Indigenous peoples that you want to address?

- Is there any way to change these perspectives?
- Do these perspectives align with your parents?
- If these perspectives do align with your parents, then is too far off to believe that perspectives and racial stereotyping are heritable, similar to how the negative consequences from residential schools are heritable?