

Canadian Aboriginal History Timeline*

*Information taken from energyjustice.mcc.org

Year	Event
1612	Sir Thomas Button becomes the first white man known to have set foot in what is now Manitoba, landing on the shores of Hudson Bay.
1659	The Nonsuch sails from Hudson Bay to England with the first shipment of Manitoba furs to reach the Old World. European involvement in Manitoba slowly increases in subsequent decades.
1763	The Proclamation Act (commonly called the Royal Proclamation of 1763) is passed by the British Government. The Act is viewed by some as the Magna Carta of Aboriginal rights. Though the Act assumes the colonial right to take over the continent, it also assumes that the indigenous inhabitants are autonomous political bodies with basic rights. The Act establishes a colonization pattern in which settlers cannot simply take over indigenous lands without first obtaining some form of surrender or cession of the land.
1867	Canadian Confederation
1870	The Manitoba Act creates the province of Manitoba (the northern part of the province was added in 1912).
1871	Treaty #1 is signed at Upper Fort Garry. This treaty covers much of southern Manitoba.
1873	The North West Mounted Police are created. In 1905 they become the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
1875	Treaty #5 is signed at Norway House. The treaty, and its 1908 adhesion, cover approximately the northern two thirds of Manitoba.
1876	The Indian Act is passed by the Government of Canada.
1880	The Department of Indian Affairs is created by the Government of Canada.
1880 s- 1996	More than 140 church-run Indian Residential Schools operate across Canada. While most schools were closed in the 1970s, the last one remained open until 1996.

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1930	Control of Crown Lands is transferred from Federal to Provincial Governments by means of the Natural Resources Transfer Act.
1960	Aboriginal people finally gain the right to vote.
1969	Pierre Trudeau's Minister of Indian Affairs, Jean Chretien, releases a White Paper that proposes to abolish the Department of Indian Affairs, and eliminate special status for Indian peoples and lands. It is vehemently opposed by Aboriginal leaders who say it language of equality masks a sinister assimilation agenda.
1975	The Inter Church Task Force on Northern Flooding holds a public inquiry into hydro development in northern Manitoba.
1977	The Northern Flood Agreement is signed by Canada, Manitoba, Manitoba Hydro and five Cree nations impacted by Manitoba Hydro's Churchill River Diversion and Lake Winnipeg Regulation projects, which began operation the year before.
1980	The First Quebec Referendum on sovereignty is held. The Separatists are defeated (as they were again in 1995).
1982	Patriation of the Canadian Constitution, which includes the Charter of Rights and Freedoms that recognizes Aboriginal and treaty rights.
1990	Prime Minister Mulroney's Meech Lake Accord is defeated, in part by Elijah Harper's famous stand in the Manitoba Legislature.
1990	Plans to create a golf course Aboriginal burial grounds lead to the Oka Crisis in Quebec.
1991	The Aboriginal Justice Inquiry is created by the Government of Manitoba to investigate the deaths of Helen Betty Osborne and J.J. Harper.
1991-1996	The federally created Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples becomes the longest and most expensive royal commission in Canadian history.
1992	Prime Minister Mulroney's national referendum on the Charlottetown Accord is defeated. The Accord promises to recognize the "inherent right to self government" of Aboriginal people.
1992-1997	Four of the five First Nations that signed the 1977 NFA sign subsequent implementation agreements.

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1997	20 Manitoba First Nations sign a Treaty Land Entitlement framework agreement with Canada and Manitoba. It sets out a program to fulfill obligations of treaties with respect to land allotment with Canada and Manitoba. It sets out a program to fulfill obligations of treaties with
1999	The Manitoba Aboriginal Rights Coalition (MARC) – a successor to the Inter Church Task Force on Northern Flooding – holds a public inquiry to examine whether hydro-affected Aboriginal peoples have been treated fairly.
2004	The Manitoba Government gives Manitoba Hydro the green light to construct the Wuskwatim hydro dam in northern Manitoba. It is the first new dam since in Manitoba since Limestone, which was completed in 1990.
2005	With the Kelowna Accord, the minority Liberal government commits \$5 billion over 10 years to improve education, employment and living standards for Aboriginal people. The subsequent Conservative government chooses a different path.
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2006	Aboriginal people and citizens of Caledonia, Ontario enter into a heated and much-publicized land dispute.
2010	The Truth and Reconciliation Commission holds its first public event in Winnipeg.
2011	Construction of the Wuskwatim Dam nears completion. Manitoba Hydro continues to plan for construction of the Keeyask and Conawapa dams.