

CULTURAL IMPACT

Before European Contact

- Aboriginal people did not have a written language. Important events were recorded as symbols or figures in stone known as **petroglyphs**.



- Education included the mind, body, spirit and emotions of an individual.
- Oral history and experience were the primary teaching tools of aboriginal people.
- History was retold through the repetition of story, song and dance.





- All equal in respect were the lives of people and environment, one could not exist without the other.
- Extended family aided in raising children.
- The environment was the teacher (experience).
- Dreams and visions held great purpose and respect.
- When seeking knowledge or information, consultation would take place with respected elders.

Post European Contact



■ **Aboriginals exposed early explorers to new agricultural and survival techniques.**

- teaching the Europeans how to make warm winter clothing from furs and moccasins from leather; how to use canoes, snowshoes, and toboggans to travel; how to preserve food and how to use plants for medicinal purposes.
- they became educated of new foods such as corn, pumpkins and maple syrup.

Post European contact cont'd



- **The Europeans provided tools to foster the development of Aboriginal culture.**
 - they learned of new foods such as bread, peas and salt.
 - the were introduced to woolen cloth and blankets.
 - they were introduced to iron tools and weapons which they became increasingly dependent on.
- In 1755 the British created the first Indian Department of Canada to maintain good relations.

By 1900's

- Indigenous cultures had suffered near extinction because of:
 - warfare (allegiance to support Britain and maintain good relations).
 - introduction of European diseases (smallpox, measles, tuberculosis and influenza) carrying away the old and young – *the past and future*.

Weakening of self government

- Before Europeans' arrival to North America, Aborigines were self-governed – their government has been weakened through policies of control and assimilation.
- Indian Acts in both 1876 and 1895 encouraged adopting “white ways.”

Residential Schools

- Proved to be a purposeful act by the government to breakdown the culture at every level of life.
- Were operated by the government and churches.
- Were initiated as a method of destroying all native values, language, beliefs and social structure.
- Was a means of establishing the values of the dominant culture.

National Aboriginal Day

- June 21st
- Each year Aboriginal people celebrate their past and future together.