# Case Study Name

“Property” and Aboriginal Land Claims in the Canadian Subarctic: Some Theoretical Considerations

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**Region:** North America

**Country:** Canada

**Ecosystem Type:** Mountain, grassland, woodland

**Social Characteristics:** Indigenous community

**Scale of Study:** National

**Resource Type:** Land

**Type of Initiative:** Research-driven project

**Community-Based Work:** Land claims and agreements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords:</th>
<th>Property, First Nations, aboriginal land claims, Canada, Subarctic.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary:</strong></td>
<td>Many of the world's aboriginal peoples are currently engaged in struggles over land and self-government with the states that encompass them. In Canada, aboriginal people have effectively used the concept of &quot;aboriginal title&quot; to force the government to negotiate land and self-government agreements with them. Such agreements, however, along with the notion of &quot;aboriginal title&quot; itself, are based on the European concept of &quot;property&quot;; they grant First Nations &quot;ownership&quot; of certain lands and spell out the rights they possess in relation to those lands. This means that aboriginal people have had to learn to think and speak in the &quot;language of property&quot; as a precondition for even engaging government officials in a dialogue over land and sovereignty. Yet the concept of property is in many ways incompatible with many Canadian First Nation people's views about proper human-animal/land relations. In this article, I argue that the land claim process - because it forces aboriginal people to think and speak in the language of property - tends to undermine the very beliefs and practices that a land claim agreement is meant to preserve.</td>
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