

## **Glossary of Terms – D to I**

**Dakota** – Part of the First Nations formerly known as the ‘Sioux’. There are, in fact, three basic divisions of these people: the Dakota, Nakota and Lakota.

**Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council** – A service organization put together by a group of First Nations in the southwestern part of Manitoba. There are similar organizations across the Province. In general, Tribal Councils represent a group of bands to facilitate the administration and delivery of local services to their members.

**Elder** – An Elder is a person, male or female, who is accepted by Aboriginal peoples as possessing knowledge of oral sacred traditions, ceremonies and sacred wisdom. They are the teachers and counselors of the people and must be respected at all times. Roger Armitte is the Elder-in-Residence on campus.

**Enfranchisement** – Used to describe the process by which one’s right to register for status under the *Indian Act* was removed. It refers to the granting of the franchise or the right to vote which Indians did not have until 1961 under the *Indian Act*. This process was also predominant during the era of government policy for Indian assimilation. Bill C-31 put a stop to this practice in 1985.

**Fiduciary Responsibility** – The trust responsibility vested in the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in the *Indian Act*.

**First Nation** – In practice, this is the modern term used to refer to a registered or treaty Indian Band established under the authority of the Indian Act. It applies to Status Indians only.

**Half-Breed** – Pejorative term founded in the colonial mentality of Canada and used to identify Métis peoples. In this case, a ‘half-breed’ is any person who has Aboriginal and European ancestry. It is not usually used for other cultural, ethnic mixtures of human beings. It is highly racist and should not be used to identify humans. Biologically there cannot be such a thing as a ‘half-breed’ human.

**Higgins Street Centre** – The former CPR railway station in Winnipeg converted into an Aboriginal Centre containing a great variety of services and organization offices for Aboriginal people.

**Indian** – The legal term used to identify someone who has treaty status, registered status or non-status according to the Indian Act. In fact, someone could be a non-Aboriginal person and still be an ‘Indian’ (e.g. a pre-1985 non-treaty, non-Aboriginal woman who marries a treaty Indian) On the other hand, if an Aboriginal person is Cree, for instance, this does not guarantee that they are ‘Indian’ as they may be non-status. ‘Indian’ is the term used by the colonizers to identify the colonized.

**Indian Act** – Federal legislation that sets out certain federal government obligations and responsibilities towards First Nations and their reserved lands. The first *Indian Act* was passed in 1876. Since then, it has undergone numerous amendments, revisions and repeals. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development administers the Act.

**Indigenous** – The generic term used to identify Aboriginal people in any part of the planet.

**Innu** – First Nations people who live in Labrador.

**Inuit** – Northern Canadian Aboriginal peoples who have their homelands in the North West Territories, the Territory of Nunavut and the Yukon Territory. There are also Inuit people in

Alaska.

**Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC)** – Group dedicated to the needs and aspirations of the Inuit in Canada. Formed in 1971, it represents more than 41,000 Inuit living in 55 northern communities. It is the national voice of the Inuit, addressing issues of vital importance to the preservation of Inuit identity, culture and way of life. The ITC works in many areas, including but not limited to, self-government, human rights, environment, economic planning and development, language, health and social issues.

**Inuk – (Eenook)** Singular form of Inuit (refers to an individual).

**Inuktitut** – (Eenook-ti-took) the language spoken by the Inuit. Dr. Christopher Trott in Native Studies at the University of Manitoba speaks Inuktitut.

**Inuvialuit** – (Enu-vialuit) Inuit people living in the Western Arctic.

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