

## Pamphlet # 21

### Glossary of Terms – M- Z

**Ojibway** – Name of the First Nation peoples sometimes referred to as the Anishinaabe. It also refers to the Aboriginal language these people speak.

**Oji-Cree** – People who speak a mixture of Ojibway and Cree or the Oji-Cree language itself. (e.g. Garden Hill Manitoba.)

**Potlatch** – The Potlatch ceremony illustrates the importance of sharing and giving. This ceremony was the cultural backbone of the Northwest Coast Aboriginal peoples. A Potlatch was hosted by high-ranking chiefs to celebrate important public events such as an initiation, marriage, the investiture or death of a chief, or the raising of a totem pole. The ceremony lasted anywhere from a day to several weeks, and involved feasts, spirit dancing and theatrical performances. In 1884, the Canadian government banned the ceremony, questioning its moral basis. The ban was lifted in 1951 but it appears that the Potlatch was celebrated frequently after 1884 despite the ban.

**Pow-Wow** – Some say the word is derived from the Algonquian word meaning ‘to dream’. Pow-Wow is an ancient tradition among Aboriginal peoples and a ceremony used for celebrating and socializing. There is a Graduation Pow-Wow held on Campus every year for Aboriginal graduates. (Contact the Aboriginal Student Centre 474-8850).

**Registered Indian** – An Indian from a territory in Canada where Treaty was not signed. These Indians were added to the list of Indians under the Indian Act and so they are referred to as ‘registered’ Indians.

**Reserve/Reservations** – Blocks of land allotted

for status//treaty Indians through provisions in *The Indian Act*. These lands remain federal Crown Lands.

**Senator** – A First Nation or Métis Senator is a cultural and spiritual advisor to political leaders. S/he provides guidance with regard to First Nation or Métis laws, customs, government and history.

**Southern Chiefs Organization (SCO)** – The body which represents the political aspirations of 36 southern First Nation communities in Manitoba.

**Status Indian** – An Indian person who is registered as an Indian under *The Indian Act* or who is a Treaty Indian and thus recognized by the federal government as an Indian and accorded the accompanying rights, benefits and restrictions of *The Indian Act* and related policies.

**Thunderbird House** – Located at the corner of Higgins and Main in Winnipeg, Thunderbird House is the main inner-city meeting place for Aboriginal people. It houses a Sweat Lodge site and offers cultural and other resources to the entire community.

**Treaty Indian** – An Indian person whose forefathers signed a numbered treaty in which land was exchanged for certain payments, such as money, tools, health and educational benefits. The term is often used in the Prairie Provinces and is synonymous with status Indians. All treaty Indians are also status Indians. However, not all status Indians are treaty Indians because many status Indians in Canada never signed treaty. These people are ‘registered Indians’.

**Wampum** – Shell beads used by the Iroquois in strings or belts to pledge the truth of their words, and as symbols of high offices, records of diplomatic negotiations and treaties, and other

important events. From the Algonquian word *wampumeag* which means ‘white (bead) strings’.

### Contacts

Fred Shore, Office of University  
Accessibility, 474-6084  
[fred\\_shore@umanitoba.ca](mailto:fred_shore@umanitoba.ca)

Kali Storm, Aboriginal Student Centre  
474-8850 [kali\\_storm@umanitoba.ca](mailto:kali_storm@umanitoba.ca)

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