

BACKGROUNDER

Termination in this context means the ending of First Nations pre-existing sovereign status through federal Indian Act legislation/funding, or coercion of First Nations into Land Claims and Self-Government Final Agreements that convert First Nations into municipalities, their reserves into fee simple lands and extinguishment of their Inherent, Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

The Harper government is implementing a First Nations Termination Plan through two tracks:

- 1) A “Modern” amended Indian Act; or through;
- 2) Self-Government/Comprehensive Claims Final Agreements.

Since the **Constitution Act 1982** became law and Aboriginal and Treaty rights were “*recognized and affirmed*” the federal government has continued to impose land claims and self-government negotiation positions in an attempt to “empty out” section 35 of any legal or political meaning. Currently, according to AANDC, there are 93 comprehensive claims/self-government negotiation tables.

The federal core objectives in the 1) amended Indian Act, 2) the imposed funding agreements and 3) land claims/self-government negotiations are to coerce First Nations into compromising their constitutionally protected rights by signing final agreements that:

- Get First Nations consent to the extinguishment (modification) of Aboriginal Title;
- Get First Nations sign-off on the legal release of Crown liability for past violations of Aboriginal Title & Rights;
- Get First Nations acceptance of the elimination of Indian Reserves by accepting lands in fee simple;
- Get First Nations acceptance to removing on-reserve tax exemptions;
- Get First Nations to respect existing Private Lands/Third Party Interests (and therefore alienation of Aboriginal Title/Treaty territory without compensation);
- Get First Nations to accept (to be assimilated into) existing federal & provincial orders of government;
- Get First Nations to accept application of Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms over governance & institutions in all matters;
- Get First Nations to accept Funding on a formula basis being linked to own source revenue;

Canada’s First Nations Termination Plan is a direct threat to the survival of First Nations as sovereign Indigenous Peoples with an international right of self-determination. Article 3 of the **United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples’** confirms that the **United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** right of self-determination applies to Indigenous Peoples!

The leaders of these Treaty Alliance First Nations are pursuing fulfillment of historic Treaty obligations, respecting their nation-to-nation treaty jurisdiction, and fair distribution of Treaty Trust Funds.