City & Reserve: Spaces of Aboriginal Citizenship

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Natives and the City

Aboriginal peoples’ experience of the city is older and more profound than the migrations from reserves to urban centres of the late-twentieth century. The cyclical nature of reserve-city movement and the long history of the use of cities by Natives challenge present policy models of economic and community development, governance and citizenship.

A Better Shared Understanding

This research explores the social, political and ecological relationships between communities and landscapes. Understanding the many meanings and uses of the city for Native communities within and outside urban areas opens up possibilities for collaboration instead of conflict. Drawing on social sciences, literature and film, this collaborative research works with Native and non-Native communities to build stronger relationships that create a basis for new solutions to the challenges of rapid urbanization.

The Cost of Not Acting

Native/non-Native relations in Canada remain a challenge for governments and civil society. Without a richer and more meaningful dialogue, we will never overcome past injustices nor address current problems. We must build a mutually respectful and beneficial relationship from which to work on the critical issues facing Aboriginal communities. Participatory, interdisciplinary, collaborative and innovative research with Native communities is crucial to a Canada that is healthy, peaceful and just.

Real-World Solutions to Real-World Challenges

Real-world challenges demand different angles, different approaches, and different attitudes. Interdisciplinary and collaborative, York University research delivers relevant insights and meaningful solutions that address today’s complex social issues.

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