



# The Rights of the People

Self Determination &  
Self Government



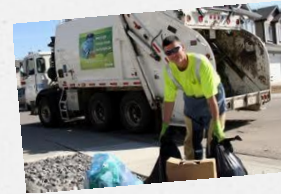
# Municipal Government



# Provincial Government



# Federal Government





## Municipal Government



## Provincial Government



## Federal Government



# Where do Band Councils Fit in?

Curve Lake current government structure encompasses a large full time staff complement of 80 employees, in addition to other part time and contract staff (approximately 25). Employees are organized in several departments:

- Finance and Administration
- Health and Family Services
- Education
- Economic Development
- Public Works
- Lands



DYK?  
There are  
614 Bands  
in Canada

## Curve Lake Band Council

- o Curve Lake First Nation is governed by an elected Council comprising of a Chief and **eight (8)** Councillors serving for a two-year term.

## More about Curve Lake

### The Police

Curve Lake people are policed by  
a local detachment of the  
Anishinabek Police Service (APS).



- o What do you think?
- o Which government is this most like compared to Canada's other tiers?

# Self Determination

- is the right to control one's life individually and collectively
- the right of Aboriginal people to determine their political future and to freely pursue cultural and economic development
- respect for Aboriginal culture

# Self -Government

freedom to regulate their own affairs without interference



# Rights to Govern?

- o What do you think gives First Nations the desire for self government?
- o In your opinion, what gives First Nations bands the right for self government?
- o Is sovereignty what First Nations groups want?
  - o Not according to Wab Kinew!

What does our government say about this?



# What does the Canadian Government Say?

Go  
back

- o With few prospects for constitutional change following the 1992 referendum, the Liberal government elected in 1993 committed itself to recognizing the inherent right of self-government and implement it without reopening constitutional discussions. In August 1995, the federal government formally announced its new policy. Key principles of the policy are:
- o the inherent right is an existing Aboriginal right under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.
- o self-government will be exercised within the existing Canadian constitution.
- o the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* will apply to Aboriginal governments.
- o federal funding for self-government will be achieved through the reallocation of existing resources.
- o where all parties agree, rights in self-government agreements may be protected in new treaties under section 35 of the Constitution, as additions to existing treaties, or as part of comprehensive land claims agreements.
- o laws of overriding federal and provincial importance will prevail, and federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal laws must work in harmony.





# A different way of looking at the world

- o The word sovereignty comes from Europe, that's the European way of understanding what a nation is... it comes from the crown
- o It is based on the idea that there is one person at the top telling people what to do
- o Our ways are different we have nations groups of people who agree to speak the same language and work and live together our governments are based on consensus
- o If we are going to go after some form of self government it should be based on our own ways

- o In Canada, many people are threatened by the thought of sovereignty, nationhood and identity – try to discredit indigenous nationhood
- o We have land we have culture we have identity we have language – we are nations
- o I would hope that in the future your generation would recognize that indigenous nations are not a threat to Canada, we strengthen Canada
- o It is only a threat if you view sovereignty as something that only one group can have
- o We can be our own nation and can coexist with one another
- o Indigenous nationhood is not competing with Canada

# The Concept of Nationhood

- o Brandon: would you say that the concept of a nation within a nation would be a better way to explain that?
- o Wab: the idea of a nation within a nation is not quite the right concept because we cannot be delineated by the Canada US border? “We didn’t cross the border the border crossed us...”
  - o Things which are not mutually exclusive we are not competing with each other
  - o We can have a Anishnabe nation that is on both sides of the border and we can also participate in the nation of Canada

## What 3 Goals Could Self Government Allow First Nations Communities to Achieve?

1. increase local control and decision making
2. to recognize and respond to the diverse needs and cultures of Indians throughout Canada; and
3. to provide accountability to local electors rather than to a federal bureaucracy



Westbank First Nation  
Government Story