

The Royal Proclamation 1763

It is a unilateral declaration of the Crown's will in its provisions relating to First Nations. It is part of a treaty between First Nations and the Crown which stands as a positive guarantee of First Nation Self-government. The second part was ratified at Niagara in 1764.

History of The Proclamation

1st Contact early 1600's

First contact around the Great Lakes area in the early 1600's, when the French intruded on aboriginal territory.

First Nations present the initial Wampum belt to Europeans based on the principles of Peace and Friendship.

The French established Jesuit Missions near the shores of the Great Lakes and had contact with the First Nations through exploration and trade.

At the same time, the Dutch and later the English established settlement to the south of the Great Lakes.

The French and English each were seeking to establish greater control over territories within North America. They needed the First Nations to solidify their interests.

The First Nations continued to direct the relationship with the British. They used their sovereignty to uphold the diplomatic conditions.

Presents were important because they were regarded as a necessary part of diplomacy. Accepting gifts in return for others sharing their lands.

Presents had ceased, therefore fighting resumed, led by an Indigenous Leader named Pontiac.

Conflict between the French and English resulted because they each wanted control of the fur trade. This conflict would lead up to the 7 years' war.

Conflict resulted when the British did not meet all the conditions that First Nations established for coexistence.

1763 Seven years' war ends.

The First Nation peoples that lived around the Great Lakes would support the French in the war.

In order to maintain a state of coexistence between them, the English had to fulfil certain obligations such as the giving of gifts.

Articles of Capitulation are drawn up. These supported First Nations views regarding sovereignty.

Even though the French lost, the First Nation peoples would consider themselves a free people. Neither ruled by English or French, nor subjected to their laws.

The First Nations were not conquered. They reminded the English that they were reliant on each other for trade and peace.

Article 40

The agreement represented the promise that First Nations territory was not to be reduced, nor to be subsumed by alliance with either the French or the English.

We are not your slaves....

The Ojibwa chief, named Minavavana reminded the British that there are principles of peace for coexistence.

First Nations tribes began to see many changes on the lands with the introduction of the Royal Proclamation.

The Royal Proclamation

1763

The discontent caused by conflicts between settlers and First Nation land pressures necessitated mediation of principles between First Nation/settler contentions.

"Words" were placed in the Proclamation that did not agree with First Nation views of the parties' relationship with each other and to the land.

To alleviate conflict, the Royal Proclamation was declared to delineate boundaries and define jurisdictions between First Nations and the Crown.

The British were trying to convince First Nations that there was nothing to fear from the colonists.

The Proclamation reinforced First Nation preferences but also opened the door to the erosion of these same preferences.

The wording in the Proclamation recognized Aboriginal rights to their lands, but outlined the policy to extinguish their rights.

In implementing these principles, an area of land was designated as First Nation Territory.

Britain was attempting to secure territory through the proclamation and the First Nations were concerned with preserving their lands and sovereignty.

Principles to Aboriginal Rights

1) Colonial governments were forbidden to survey or grant any unceded lands.

2) Colonial governments were forbidden to allow British subjects to settle on Indian lands or to allow private individuals to purchase them.

3) There was an official system of public purchases developed in order to extinguish "Indian title".

The Treaty of Niagara

1764

The Royal Proclamation became a treaty at Niagara because it was presented by the colonists for affirmation and was accepted by the First Nations.

The treaty would be recorded in a way that the First Nations were familiar with: Wampum belts.

The Indian Affairs minister, Sir William Johnson read the terms of the Proclamation to the representatives of over 24 nations that attended the assembly.

A promise of peace was given by Aboriginals

Presents were exchanged to certify the binding promises.

A 2 row Wampum belt was used by First Nations to reflect their understanding of the treaty of Niagara and the words of the Royal Proclamation.

A treaty of alliance and peace was established.

Two Row Wampum Belts

The two row Wampum belt reflects a diplomatic convention that recognizes interaction and separation of settler and First Nation Societies.

PEACE, FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT.

The white represents purity of the agreement.

There are 2 rows of purple, one row represents the spirit of the European ancestors and the other, the spirit of the First Nations ancestors.

There are 3 beads of wampum separating the 2 rows and they symbolize peace, friendship and respect.

The belt illustrates a First Nation/Crown relationship that is founded on peace, friendship and respect. Each nation will not interfere with the affairs of the other.



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