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Effective Indigenous Terminology in Canadian Legal Research for the Arctic

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What terms would you use to search aboriginal issues?



- Aboriginal
- Indigenous
- Native OR Native Peoples
- Indian
- First Nations
- Métis
- Inuit
- Indians of North/South/Central America
- Eskimo
- names of individual nations or tribes

Indians of North America

Métis
First Nations
Indigenous Peoples
Aboriginal Peoples
Inuit
Eskimo
Native Peoples
Indian

Explanation of Terms through Working Definitions

Term	Working Definition
Indian	Used in Canada today to reflect those Indigenous Peoples with status under the <i>Indian Act</i> . Historically, this term was used to describe the Indigenous Peoples in Canada as was done in the 1867 <i>BNA Act</i> and are defined in the Indian Act “Indian means a person who pursuant to this Act is registered as an Indian or is entitled to be registered as an Indian.”
Indians of North America	Terms from the Library of Congress Subject Headings .
Eskimo	Outdated collective term for Indigenous Peoples in Canada’s North .
Inuit	Indigenous Peoples living in Canada’s North (Nunavut, North West Territories, Quebec, and Labrador)
Innu	A separate group located in Northeastern Quebec and Southern Labrador often incorrectly included as part of Inuit. They are the Montaigne people of Quebec.
Métis	People of mixed ancestry between European settlers and Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Term	Working Definition
Aboriginal Peoples	Used in the <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i> to include all Indigenous Peoples in Canada, “aboriginal peoples of Canada” includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.”
First Nations	A term developed by Indigenous Peoples in the 1970s and is seen as a preferred term by educators today. However, Métis and Inuit peoples are excluded in this term’s definition.
Indigenous Peoples	Used to reflect international law respecting Indigenous Peoples. Also, increasingly more popular today to reflect Aboriginal Peoples living in Canada .
Native OR Native Peoples	Outdated collective term for all Indigenous Peoples in Canada which some see as derogatory .
names of individual nations, tribes, or organizations	Researchers need to use outdated/incorrect and current terminology (e.g., Sarcee, Tsuut’ina Nation, Reserve 145, Sarsi)

- Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) since 1898 for structure
- Canadian Subject Headings (CSH) since 1968 adds specific Canadian terminology

1966

- Eskimos
- Indians of North America – Canada
- Indians of North America – Mixed bloods
- Metis – Canada [Manitoba, etc.]
- (*See Also* references)

1992

- Indians of North America – Mixed descent
- Indians of North America – Canada
- Inuit – Canada
- Metis
- (*See Also* references)

1999

- Shift to Native peoples – Canada [CSH]

2005

- Cancelled Indians of North America – Mixed bloods and Indians of North America – Mixed descendent [remains valid LSCH heading]
- Add Innu

2009

- Decision to keep Native peoples & use individual First Nations wherever possible

2011

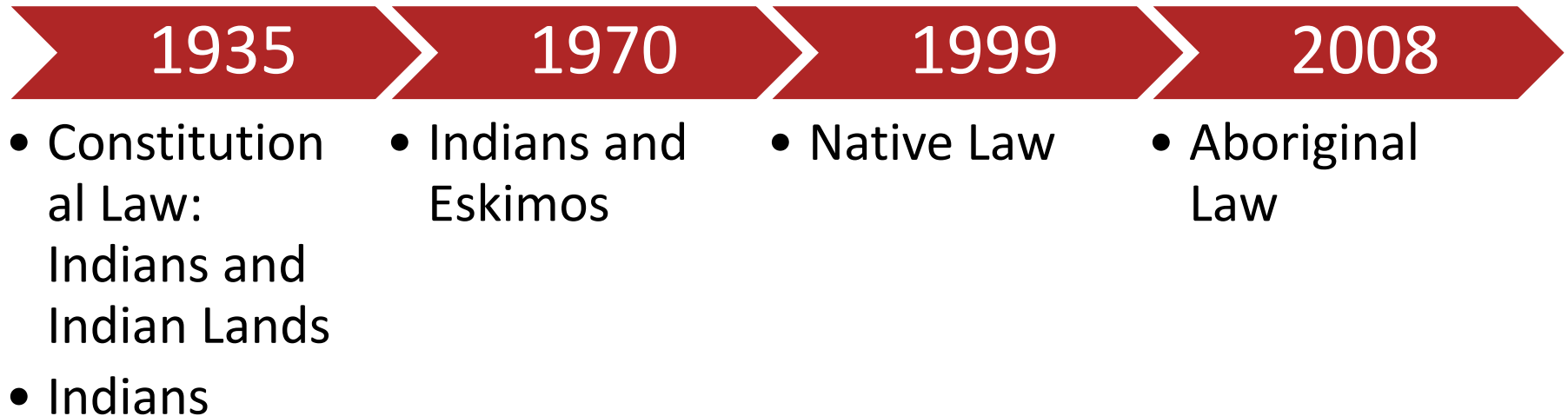
- Shift to Indigenous peoples by LCSH as the Broader Term for Canada

Canadian Subject Headings (CSH) for Arctic

Year	Summary of Headings
1966	Arctic regions (used for all aspects of Canadian Arctic regions) Eskimos (used for Eskimauan Indians; Esquimaux; Inuit; Inuit)
1992	Inuit – Canada Inuit literature – Canada Inuit poetry – Canada Inuktitut imprints – Canada Inuktitut language Inuktitut language – Dictionaries – English
1999	Inuit – Canada [now an LCSH heading and cancel the use of Eskimos for Canada]
2002	Inuit – Clothing – Canada
2003	Change Inuit land transfers – Canada to Inuit – Land tenure – Canada ADD more First Nations, e.g., Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Indians [from Yukon]
2004	Inuit in motion pictures Inuit women artists – Canada
2005	Inuit – Québec (Province) – Nunavik

- *Index to Canadian Legal Literature*, 1980-present
- *Index to Canadian Legal Periodical Literature*, 1961-2006

Canadian Abridgment Example:



- **Controlled vocabulary**
 - Powerful way to search library catalogues, discovery tools, and databases.
 - Ensures consistent treatment
 - Valid for print & electronic research
 - Society's vernacular can change
 - Legal definitions
- **Arctic terms changed faster than collective terms for Indigenous Peoples**

- Aboriginal Law recommended search string
 - “Indigenous Peoples” OR “Aboriginal Peoples” OR “Native Peoples” OR “First Nations” OR Indians OR Inuit OR Eskimo OR Innu OR Métis
- Incorporate appropriate modifications for specialized emphasis

- Locate older/retired law cataloguers and/or institutional policy manuals to confirm early subject headings in library catalogues
- Investigating Aboriginal primary material organization & metadata