

ABORIGINAL PEOPLES - A GUIDE TO THE RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

The soon to be released CD-ROM titled *Aboriginal Peoples - A Guide to the Records of the Government of Canada* is part of the *ArchiVIA* Series, a long-term publishing project of the National Archives of Canada. The purpose of the series is to permit easier public access to information describing the National Archives' holdings.

Aboriginal Peoples - A Guide to the Records of the Government of Canada comprises 8 databases:

1. *Introductions to the Databases*

Introductions to the Databases includes both an Overview of Aboriginal History in Canada and introductory information about the other seven databases on this CD ROM.

2. *Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs) Inventory*

The *Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs) Inventory* database describes the National Archives' holdings of federal government textual, micrographic, and electronic records found in Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs). The records described document most aspects of the relationship between status Indians and the Canadian federal government since 1867. In addition, the holdings include significant records from the pre-Confederation period, the earliest dating from 1677. → correct to mid 1994

3. *Métis Scrip Records*

The *Métis Scrip Records* database provides a description of those series within Record Group 15 (Department of the Interior) which relate to the Métis Scrip Commissions. For a description of many of the records themselves, see the *Aboriginal Peoples - File and Item Descriptions* database. *Manuscript n/a*

4. **Aboriginal Peoples - File and Item Descriptions*

The *Aboriginal Peoples - File and Item Descriptions* database contains descriptions of federal government textual records in the National Archives' permanent holdings. The records described are found in Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs) and Record Group 15 (Interior). Not all records of these two agencies in the National Archives' custody are described in this database. Descriptions vary according to the type of record described. Descriptions include information such as archival reference (record group, series, volume, file, microfilm reel), record subject and title, inclusive dates, and finding aid number. → nearly all
final - arch.
23 - RG-10
10 - RG 15

5. *Aboriginal Peoples - Accessions*

The *Aboriginal Peoples - Accessions* database contains selected accession descriptions of federal government textual records. It provides preliminary descriptions of records in the National Archives' custody and included within Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs) but which have not yet been fully processed. Descriptions include information such as archival reference (record group, series number, accession number), series description

(creating office, inclusive dates, record extent), record description, and finding aid number.

6. Government of Canada Records

The *Government of Canada Records* database contains descriptions of federal government textual and electronic records relating to Aboriginal Peoples and located in 105 of the record groups in the custody of the National Archives. These records were created and accumulated by the many federal government departments, agencies, commissions, and Crown corporations which have had dealings with the Aboriginal population. The database does not include descriptions of all records in National Archives custody which relate to Aboriginal Peoples. Descriptions contained in the *Government of Canada Records* database vary according to the degree of involvement of each federal agency with Aboriginal Peoples. For each of the record groups found to contain relevant records, information is provided on the administrative history of the record-creating agency, the nature and extent of records relating to Aboriginal Peoples (with archival references to specific items), and the availability of finding aids, microfilm and related records.

7. Indian Treaties, Surrenders, and Agreements

The *Indian Treaties, Surrenders and Agreements* database contains descriptions of 524 Indian treaty, surrender and agreement documents in the National Archives permanent holdings. The records described are found within Record Group 10 (Indian Affairs). Not all Indian treaty, surrender and agreement documents in National Archives custody are described in this database. Descriptions include archival reference information (Record Group 10 volume number, item identifiers, microfilm reel number), item physical description (document form, extent, size, and special features), and content information (purpose, land and parties involved, province, date).

8. Bands and Agencies

The *Bands and Agencies* database contains information about the administrative link between Indian bands and Indian Affairs field offices. It also provides information about band and field office name variations and usage. Unlike the other databases included on this CD-ROM, which provide descriptions of records in the National Archives' custody, this database is a tool to be used to increase the effectiveness of searches in the other databases. It identifies which Indian Affairs field offices in Ontario, the Prairie Provinces and the two Territories, and British Columbia, were responsible for the administration of individual bands, and for what time period. This information, in turn, will help users to determine which Indian Affairs offices created records relevant to their research. Database entries include some or all of the following: administrative information about a field office (location, dates of jurisdiction, name variants, administrative history, bands or subordinate field offices responsible for, links to other field offices); information about a band (name variations, whether signatory to a treaty, circumstances of band creation, agencies responsible for the band, linguistic group affiliation).