

Indigenous History Timeline



1600s-1800s

Colonization introduced devastating diseases, caused significant population loss, and displaced Indigenous Peoples from their traditional lands and food systems.



1883-1996

The Canadian Indian Residential School system caused lasting impacts on Indigenous health and well-being through family separation, abuse, loss of culture and language, intergenerational trauma, and mistrust of health care and other institutions.



1960s-1980s

The Sixties Scoop removed thousands of communities, and the ongoing over-representation of Indigenous children in child welfare systems continues to impact mental health, family wellness, cultural identity, and trust in healthcare and social services today.



2015

After hearing the experiences of thousands of Residential School Survivors, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada released Calls to Action, urging health care systems to address systemic racism, recognize the impacts of Residential Schools, and provide culturally safe care for Indigenous Peoples.



Present

Today, despite the ongoing impacts of systemic racism in health care, Indigenous communities continue to lead healing and reconciliation through resilience, Indigenous-led healthcare initiatives, traditional healing practices, cultural revitalization, and advocacy for culturally safe care.

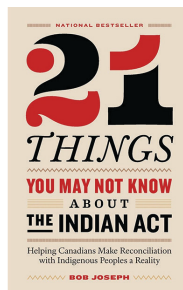
1600

Before colonization, Indigenous Peoples practiced holistic wellness through traditional medicines, ceremonies, strong community and family care systems, and a deep connection to the land.



1876

The Indian Act was introduced to impose government control over many aspects of First Nations life, restricting culture and self-governance and creating lasting impacts on health and well-being.



1940s-1980s

Many Indigenous patients were separated from their families and sent to Tuberculosis Sanatoriums and Indian Hospitals, where racism, isolation, and long-term trauma contributed to lasting mistrust in health care systems.



1985

Bill C-31 amended the Indian Act to restore status to many Indigenous women and families who had lost their legal status, community ties, and access to certain rights and supports after marrying non-Indigenous men, helping reconnect many individuals to cultural identity, community, and important health and social services.



2016

Canada officially adopted United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to self-determination, culture, and traditional medicines, while supporting efforts toward equitable, culturally safe, and Indigenous-led healthcare systems.

