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ALBERTA'S CENTENNIAL 2005

Aboriginal History



- More than 12,000 Aboriginal people fought for Canada in the First and Second World Wars (1914-1918; 1939-1945) and in the Korean War (1949-1953). This 1910 image shows Blood recruits with the 191st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, at Fort Macleod. *Photo courtesy of the Glenbow Museum.*
- There are 43 First Nations, which make up the 105 reserves in Alberta. Reserves for First Nations were established in Treaties 6 (1876), 7 (1877) and 8 (1899).
- The main Alberta-based tribal communities include the Siksika (Blackfoot), Kainai (Blood), Piikani (Peigan), Tsuu T'ina (Sarcee), Nakoda (Stoney), Plains Cree, Woodland Cree, Dene (Chipewyan), Tsattine (Beaver) and Dene Tha' (Slavey).
- The pictographs and petroglyphs at Writing-on-Stone Provincial Park are part of one of the most extensive collections of rock art in North America
- Alberta's pow wows are special events including song, dance and traditional entertainment. They include the International Peace Pow Wow in Lethbridge and the Siksika Nation Youth Awareness Week Pow Wow.

Signposts of Alberta History

- 1908: James Patrick Brady, a Métis activist and one of the founders of the Métis Nation of Alberta Association, is born in St. Paul, Alberta.
- 1932: L'Association des Métis de l'Alberta (Métis Nation of Alberta Association) is established to represent the interest and concerns of the Métis people of Alberta.
- 1938: The *Métis Population Betterment Act*, which sets aside land for Alberta's 12 Métis Settlements, is signed.
- 1958: James Gladstone, a member of the Alberta Blood Tribe, is appointed to the Canadian Senate. He is Canada's first Aboriginal Senator.
- 1960: Canada's treaty Aboriginal people win the right to vote in federal elections.
- 1974: Ralph Steinhauer, a full treaty Aboriginal person of the Cree tribe, is appointed as Alberta's first Aboriginal lieutenant governor.
- 1987: The federal government begins transferring the authority to plan and deliver health services to Aboriginal communities.
- 1987: Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump Interpretive Centre opens near Fort McLeod. The site is one of the world's oldest, largest and best-preserved buffalo jumps and has been used continuously by the plains Aboriginal people for more than 5,500 years.
- 1992: The first annual Dreamspeakers Film Festival is held in Edmonton to promote Aboriginal film making.
- 1996: June 21 is declared as National Aboriginal Day to celebrate the contributions of the Aboriginal, Inuit and Métis communities to Canada.
- 1997: The Edmonton Métis Cultural Dance Society is formed to promote and preserve Métis traditions.

Celebrate our past. Imagine our future.



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