

“chiefs and principal men do freely, fully and voluntarily surrender, cede, grant and convey unto Her Majesty, Her heirs and successors forever, all their right, title and interest in the whole of the territory above described, save and except the reservations set forth in the schedule hereunto annexed, which reservations shall be held and occupied by the said Chiefs and their Tribes in common, for the purpose of residence and cultivation”

– Robinson Treaty 1850 with the Ojibewa Indians of Lake Superior

Our policy is to encourage the Indians "to mingle with and live amongst the white population, with a view to weaning them by degrees from savage life, and gradually leading them ... to adopt the habits of peace, honesty and industry." Small reserves would encourage them to enter the workforce and ensure that "the advantages of well directed labour were impressed upon them."

– Memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by George Walkem, Victoria, Aug. 17, 1875

No outsider could come onto a reserve to do business with an Aboriginal resident without permission from the Indian agent.1

– Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples,
(Ottawa: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1996.) 14. Reproduced by permission.

1 This was more of a strategy than a condition of the Indian Act. It prevented gatherings that would encourage illegal ceremonies or parents from visiting students of residential schools. Continued after 1885 Northwest Resistance to prevent participation in future uprisings.