

### RESOURCE: WALK AROUND READING

- One aspect of the assimilation process was the renaming of each person for the purpose of registering Indigenous people. The government feared that leaving Indigenous people with their traditional names would take away their motivation to assimilate.
- Indigenous people were not allowed to leave their reserve without a permit to pass, given by the Indian agent. The pass system was a means of control and maintaining a separation between Indigenous people and European farmers.
- The most aggressive and destructive of all policies: Residential Schools. The goal of these schools was to “Kill the Indian in the child”. Over 6 000 children died.
- The dismissal of Indigenous spiritual beliefs contributed to the erosion of Indigenous cultures. The loss of culture and connection to the land experienced today by Indigenous people is considered a contributing factor to the high rate of suicide in Indigenous communities.
- Historical Indian Act policies made Indigenous women unequal to men. If you marry a non-Indian man, you lose your status as an Indian woman. Whereas, if an Indian man married a non-Indian woman, she would gain status (*using “Indian” in accordance with use of terms in the Indian Act*)
- Reserves were created as a means of controlling and containing Indigenous people while providing European settlers full access to the land and resources that had formerly sustained Indigenous life and culture.
- An objective of enfranchisement was to break up reserve land, undermine the collective worldview of the people, and promote the adoption of a European worldview. It had the potential to be a slow dismemberment of land and culture.

*Source: [21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act](#) by Bob Joseph*

