I acknowledge with respect the Lekwungen peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.
Democracy and colonialism in Canada
A Long-term perspective

Elder Academy “Modern Democracy” series
15 May 2021

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Three moments in the history of settler democracy in North America

1. The American Revolution’s western face (1770s - 1780s)
2. Responsible government in the Canadas (1840s)
3. Confederation and the Manitoba Act (1860s - 1870s)

• How did these events affect Indigenous peoples?
Final page of the Treaty of Paris, 3 September 1783
Colonial settlement in eastern North America, circa 1780
The Royal Proclamation, 7 October 1763
Brant by Charles Willson Peale, 1797
Detail of a map published at London in 1813 showing St Regis (Akwesasne) and the Indian Lands in Upper Canada.
Source: University of Toronto Library digital map collection.
Detail of a 99-year lease from St Regis chiefs to William Gray, 1806.

Nor’Wester Museum, Williamstown, ON
The arrival of the Royal Mail Steamer Acadia, has put us in possession of Regis' data to the 5th inst., from which we have copied copiously in our place.

Pursuant to previous arrangement, a large and respectable meeting of the Inhabitants of the Indian Reservation, in the Eastern District, took place at Martintown on Saturday the 25th inst., to take into consideration the expediency of adopting some measures, that may tend to the obtaining an amelioration of the disadvantages under which they have laboured for nearly half a century in not being admitted to the exercise of the elective franchise. When on motion of Mr. Alexander McDonald of the 4th Concession seconded by Mr. S. Stelts, Mr. Sheriff McMartin was appointed Chairman, and Doctor J. Grant Secretary.

After a short but and lengthy explanation from the Chairman of the objects of
Resolved—That the Indian Reservation in the Eastern District contains a population of about Two Thousand souls, and altho’ its Inhabitants are in loyalty, industry, wealth, moral and physical influence, equal to any other portion of the Eastern District of the same extent and population, and altho’ they are assessed and pay rates in the same ratio with all other of Her Majesty’s subjects in this portion of the Province of Canada, especially for indemnity to a Member in Parliament, yet they are not, under the present law, deemed eligible to exercise the dearest rights of Britons, i.e. the elective franchise.
“The Chiefs of the Iroquois Indians to Her Majesty - Surrender of certain land in the county of Glengarry,” 1 June 1847

Library and Archives Canada
If Canada acquires this territory it will rise in a few years from a position of a small and weak province to be the greatest colony any country has every possessed, able to take its place among the empires of the earth. The wealth of 400,000 square miles of territory will flow through our waters and be gathered by our merchants, manufacturers and agriculturists. Our sons will occupy the chief places of this vast territory, we will form its institutions, supply its rulers, teach its schools, fill its stores, runs its mills, navigate its streams.

— 22 January 1863
The Métis provisional government of 1869-70. Louis Riel is seated at centre.
Source: Library and Archives Canada, http://data2.collectionscanada.gc.ca/ap/a/a012854.jpg
Red River settlements and Wolseley’s march, 1870

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