

# THE BRUNSWICKAN NATIVE SUPPLEMENT

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Strangely, most Canadians are better acquainted with the history of native people in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries than they are with the insavoury realities of recent years. Canadians know that the early settlers and governments took land from the Indians, but it is easy to feel detached from those events of long ago. It is more difficult to deny responsibility for the misguided policies of the twentieth century.

There are about 450,000 status Indians in Canada, about two thirds of whom live on Indian reserves. They are the members of 596 registered Indian bands. In addition, there are perhaps 500,000 non-status Indians and people of Metis origin. Together the Metis and Indians represent about 4 percent of the national population - the fourth largest ethnic group in the country.

Geoffrey York, *The Dispossessed*