

# Free Resources to learn more about Indigenous Land Struggles across Turtle Island

*\*This is a small, beginner's list of resources intended for settlers who wish to start their learning journey. There are many other amazing resources and materials out there.*

To learn about the Wet'suwet'en Nation's efforts to protect their land, check out the resources listed under their supporter toolkit here:

<http://unistoten.camp/supportertoolkit2020/>

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**LISTEN: *Frack Off*, 2014 (20 min)**

**Talk by filmmaker Elle-Máijá Tailfeathers**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ENPM-9vJxQ&ab>

Elle-Maija Tailfeathers is a Blood and Saami organizer and member of the Blood Indian Tribe in Southern Alberta, Canada. She was part of an Indigenous women-led action to stop two thirds of their lands from being leased to Murphy Oil for fracking, including the drilling of the deepest frack (2.1 km deep) in the history of the sector. She and four other women were arrested and detained for intimidation because of their peaceful non-violent action.

**WATCH: *You Are on Indian Land*, 1969 (36mins)**

**Documentary by Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell**

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/you\\_are\\_on\\_indian\\_land/](https://www.nfb.ca/film/you_are_on_indian_land/)

Released in 1969, this short documentary was one of the most influential and widely distributed productions made by the Indian Film Crew (IFC), the first all-Indigenous unit at the NFB. It documents a 1969 protest by the **Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) of Akwesasne**, a territory that straddles the Canada–U.S. border. When Canadian authorities prohibited the duty-free cross-border passage of personal purchases—a right established by the Jay Treaty of 1794—Kanien'kéhaka protesters blocked the international bridge between Ontario and New York State. Director Michael Kanentakeron Mitchell later became Grand Chief of Akwesasne. The film was formally credited to him in 2017. *You Are on Indian Land* screened extensively across the continent, helping to mobilize a new wave of Indigenous activism. It notably was shown at the 1970 occupation of Alcatraz.

**WATCH: *Incident at Restigouche*, 1984 (45mins)**  
**Documentary by filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin**

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/incident\\_at\\_restigouche/](https://www.nfb.ca/film/incident_at_restigouche/)

On June 11 and 20, 1981, the Quebec Provincial Police (QPP) raided **Restigouche Reserve, Quebec**. At issue were the salmon-fishing rights of the **Mi'kmaq**. Because salmon has traditionally been a source of food and income for the Mi'kmaq, the Quebec government's decision to restrict fishing aroused consternation and anger. Released in 1984, this ground breaking and impassioned account of the police raids brought Alanis Obomsawin to international attention. The film features a remarkable on-camera exchange between Obomsawin herself and provincial Minister of Fisheries Lucien Lessard, the man who'd ordered the raid. Decades later, Jeff Barnaby, director of *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*, cited the film as an inspiration. "That documentary encapsulated the idea of films being a form of social protest for me... It started right there with that film."

**WATCH: *KANEHSATAKE: 270 Years of Resistance*, 2015 (120 min)**  
**Documentary by Filmmaker Alanis Obomsawin**

[https://www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake\\_270\\_years\\_of\\_resistance/](https://www.nfb.ca/film/kanehsatake_270_years_of_resistance/)

In July 1990, a dispute over a proposed golf course to be built on Kanien'kéhaka (Mohawk) lands in Oka, Quebec, set the stage for a historic confrontation that would grab international headlines and sear itself into the Canadian consciousness. Director Alanis Obomsawin—at times with a small crew, at times alone—spent 78 days behind Kanien'kéhaka lines filming the armed standoff between protestors, the Quebec police and the Canadian army. Released in 1993, this landmark documentary has been seen around the world, winning over a dozen international awards and making history at the Toronto International Film Festival, where it became the first documentary ever to win the Best Canadian Feature award. Jesse Wenté, Director of Canada's Indigenous Screen Office, has called it a "watershed film in the history of First Peoples cinema."

**WATCH: *A Last Stand for Lelu*, 2016 (24mins)**  
**Produced & Directed by Farhan Umedaly & Tamo Campos**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RclXz9r1ze4>

"A great injustice is being done on Lelu Island near Prince Rupert, B.C., the sacred and traditional territory of the **Lax Kw'alaams** people for over 10,000 years. The B.C. provincial government is trying to green light the construction of a massive LNG terminal on the island – Pacific Northwest LNG, backed by Malaysian energy giant Petronas, without consent."

**EXPLORE: *Land Back***

**Website containing research, resources, and tools**

<https://redpaper.yellowheadinstitute.org/preface/>

From the origins of settler colonialism to the era of reconciliation, land remains at the centre of the conflict between Indigenous peoples and Canadians. So what could a just future look like?

“Land Back,” breaks down the current status of land dispossession in Canada, focusing on alienation through resource extraction. Also, we examine various forms of redress, recognition, and end with examples of reclamation — meaningful Indigenous economies outside of state policies and legislation.

This Red Paper is ultimately about Indigenous consent.