

(For the teacher)

WEBSITE BACKGROUND

In May 2005 the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) launched its on-line resource “Our Homes Are Bleeding Digital Collection”

(<http://www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/ourhomesare/>) . The material on the website is testimony to the longevity of struggle over Aboriginal title and rights to land in British Columbia. The bulk of the primary materials dates from the McKenna McBride Royal Commission (1913 - 1916), and includes a compilation of written historical testimonies, newspaper articles, photographs, and maps. Supplementary photographs, audio and video clips were added to illustrate connections between historic and contemporary assertions of Aboriginal title and rights. One of the goals of creating the website was to have the information accessible to teachers and students from many different communities to investigate, teach, and learn about Aboriginal rights and title from a First Nations perspective.

OUR HOMES ARE BLEEDING AND THE BC SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Currently, British Columbia’s teachers and students are expected to examine the issue of Aboriginal title and rights in the current social studies curriculum. The tools and resources provided to teachers are limited and are a not a proper representation of First Nations knowledge regarding the subject (Manore, 2005, Shaw, 2003, Furniss, 1999, National Indian Brotherhood/Assembly of First Nations, 1972). The intent of the website is to therefore offer teachers and students another perspective of the processes that made British Columbia what it is today. Teachers and students are provided the opportunity to critically examine historical political and social developments by investigating the on-line sources.