



Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh

What does this have to do with the Church?

- As witnesses or ‘guarantors’ to the treaties and promises that the Royal Proclamation defends, we have a moral obligation to make sure that it is followed.
- It enshrines the nation-to-nation relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians (and Anglicans) that is at the heart of the kind of respect reconciliation requires.
- It guarantees that Indigenous Peoples are viewed as people with authority and rights — contrary to the principles of the Doctrine of Discovery, which the Anglican Church of Canada has repudiated.

Want to know more?

To learn more about Truth and Reconciliation work in the Anglican Church of Canada, please visit:

<http://www.anglican.ca/reconciliationtoolkit>

Other titles in the series

- The Doctrine of Discovery
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The TRC 94 Calls to Action

Contact Us:



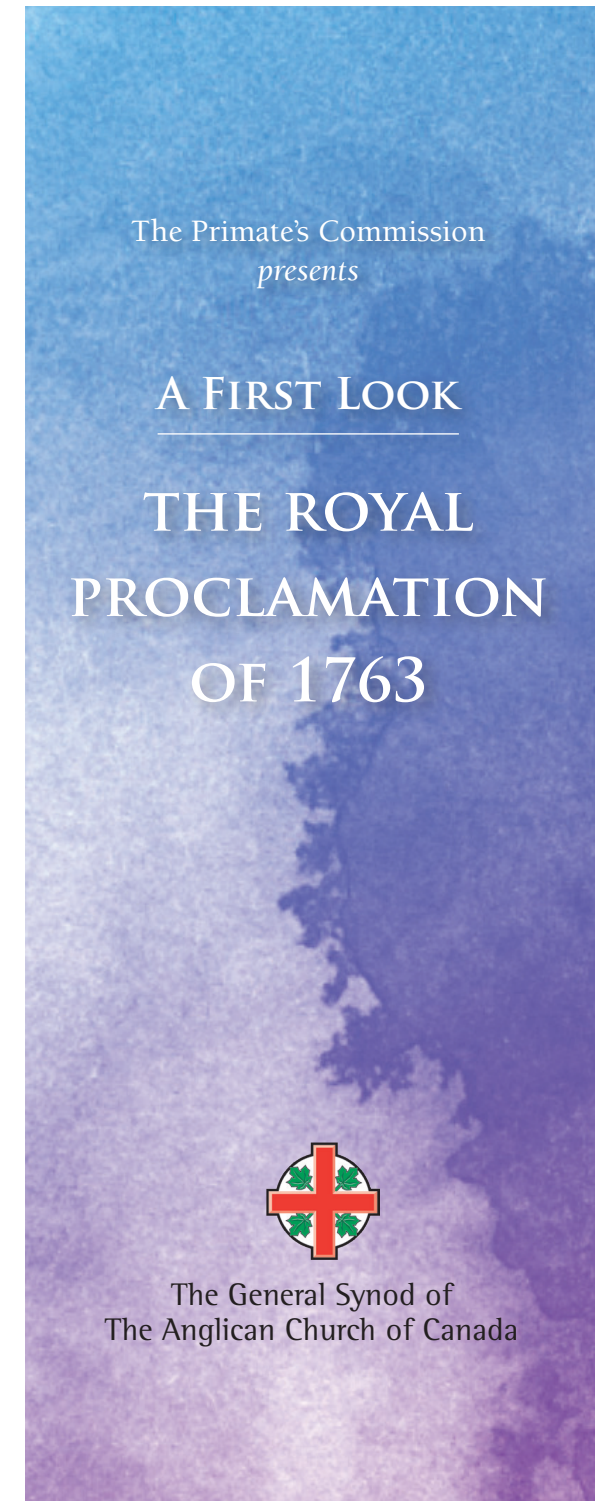
The General Synod of
The Anglican Church of Canada



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The General Synod of
The Anglican Church of Canada



The Primate's Commission
presents

A FIRST LOOK

THE ROYAL
PROCLAMATION
OF 1763

THE ROYAL PROCLAMATION OF 1763



Royal Proclamation Map: Canadian Encyclopedia

What is the Royal Proclamation of 1763?

The Royal Proclamation is a document that set out guidelines for European settlement of Aboriginal territories in what is now North America. The Royal Proclamation was initially issued by King George III in 1763 to officially claim British territory in North America after Britain won the Seven Years War.

The Proclamation forbade settlers from claiming land from the Aboriginal occupants, unless it has been first bought by the Crown and then sold to the settlers. The Royal Proclamation further sets out that only the Crown can buy land from First Nations.

*In the Royal Proclamation, ownership over North America is issued to King George. However, the Royal Proclamation explicitly states that Aboriginal title has existed and continues to exist, and that all land would be considered Aboriginal land until ceded [given up] by treaty.**

Most Indigenous and legal scholars recognize the Royal Proclamation as an important first step toward the recognition of existing Aboriginal rights and title, including the right to self-determination. In this regard, the Royal Proclamation is sometimes called “the Indian Magna Carta.” The Royal Proclamation sets a foundation for the process of establishing treaties and affirms the existing treaties..

*text in this section adapted from UBC Indigenous Foundations:

www.indigenousfoundations.arts.ubc.ca



Aboriginal Title and Rights Rally, Victoria, 2004. Photo: Northern Shuswap Tribal Council

What is Aboriginal title?

Aboriginal title refers to the inherent Aboriginal right to land or a territory. The Canadian legal system recognizes Aboriginal title as a sui generis, or unique collective right to the use of and jurisdiction over a group's ancestral territories. This right is not granted from an external source but is a result of Aboriginal peoples' own occupation of and relationship with their home territories as well as their ongoing social structures and political and legal systems. As such, Aboriginal title and rights are separate from rights afforded to non-Aboriginal Canadian citizens under Canadian common law.