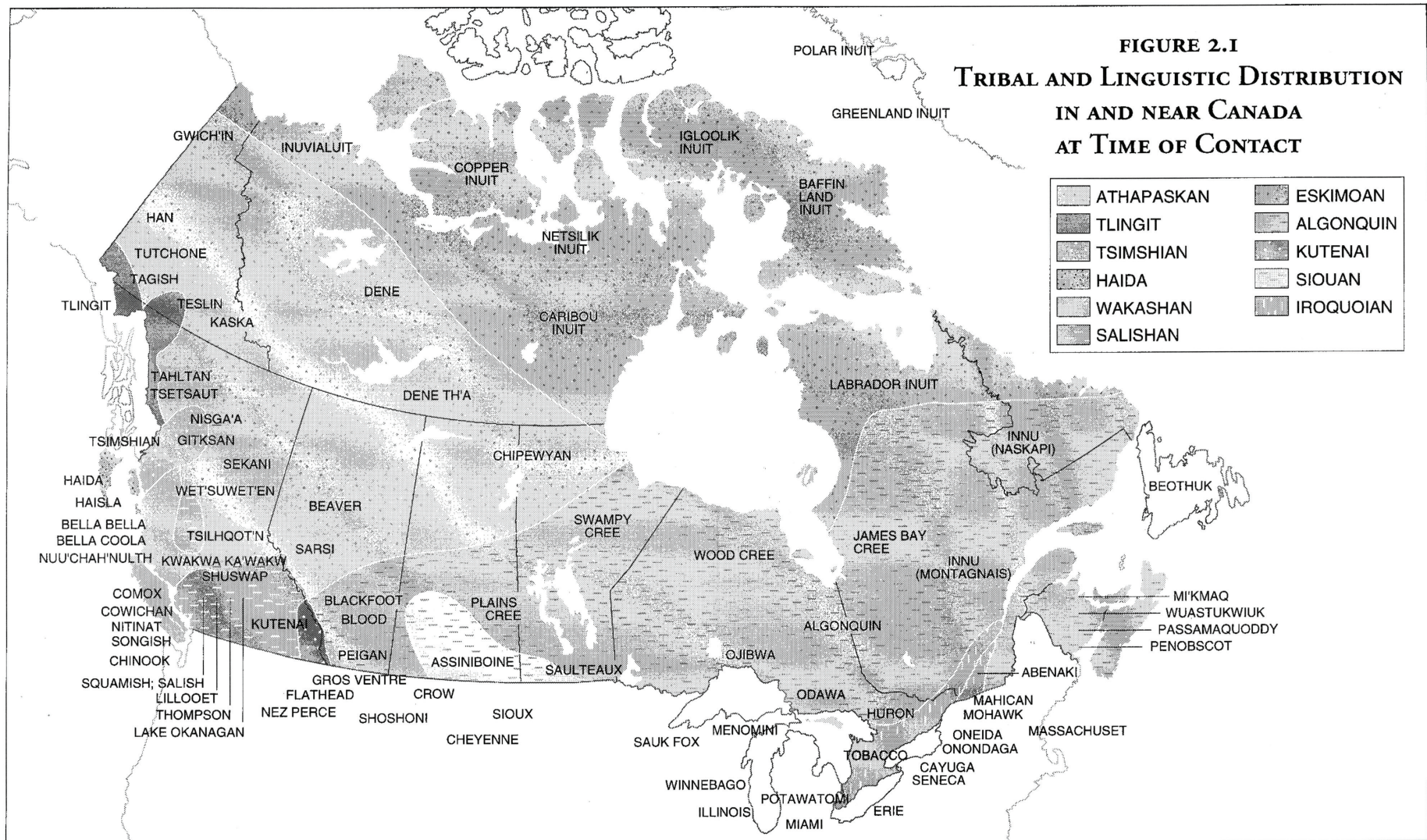


## Turtle Island

Long before the arrival of Europeans, Turtle Island (North America) was home to countless millions of First Nations Peoples, who lived in thousands of distinct societies.



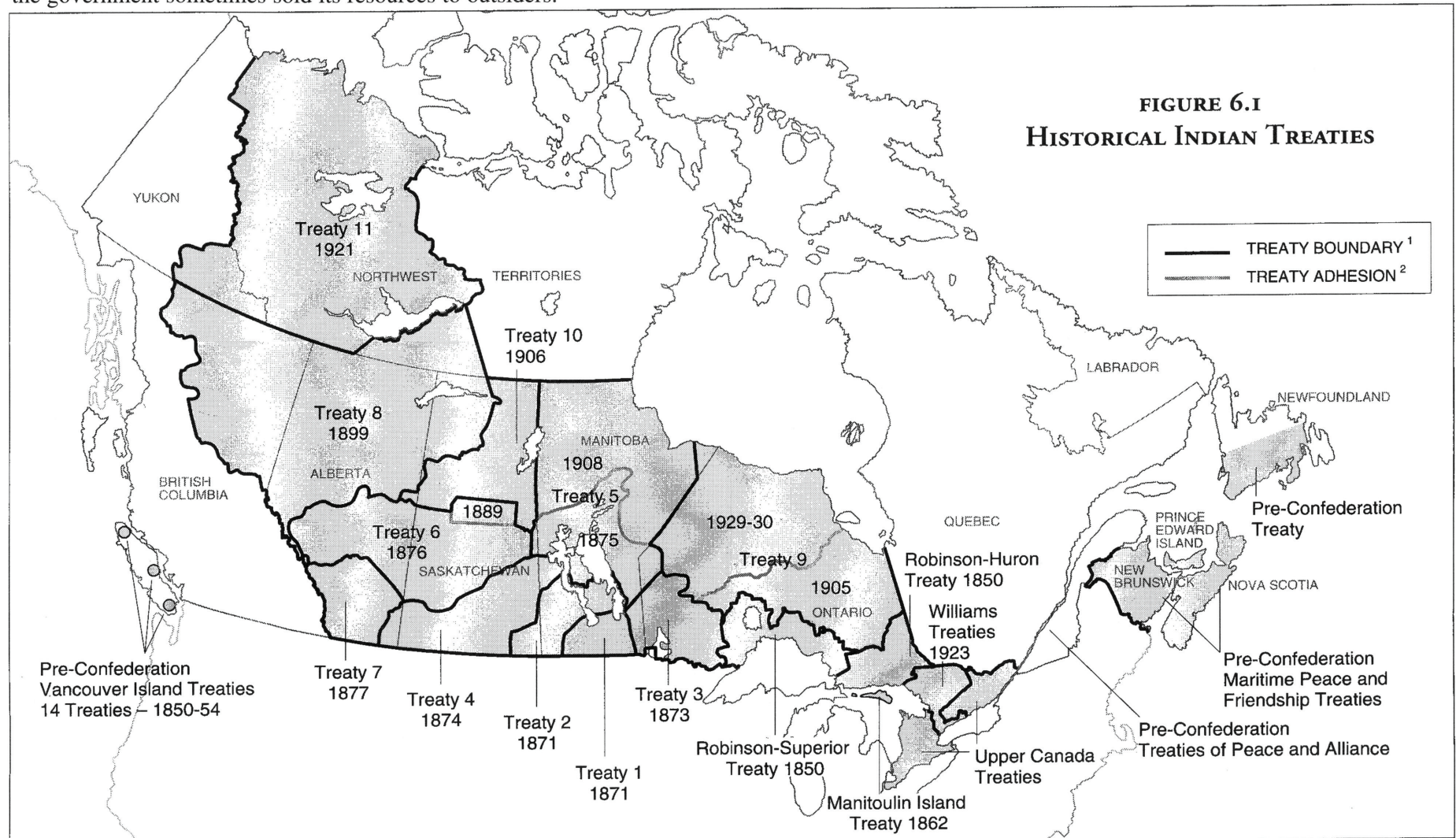
*Note:* The lines on the map separating the various tribal groups are not precise boundaries. The map provides a general picture of where populations were living at the time of first European contact.

*Source:* Adapted from Olive P. Dickason, *Canada's First Nations: A History of Founding Peoples from Earliest Times* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart Inc., 1992). Used with the permission of Oxford University Press. Adapted with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, and the Privy Council Office, 1997, from *Restructuring the Relationship, Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*.



## Treaties

Land reserved for Aboriginal Peoples was steadily whittled away after its original allocation. Almost two-thirds of it has “disappeared” by various means since Confederation. In some cases, the government failed to deliver as much land as specified in a treaty. In other cases, it expropriated or sold reserve land, rarely with First Nations as willing vendors. Once in a while, outright fraud took place. Even when First Nations were able to retain reserve land, the government sometimes sold its resources to outsiders.



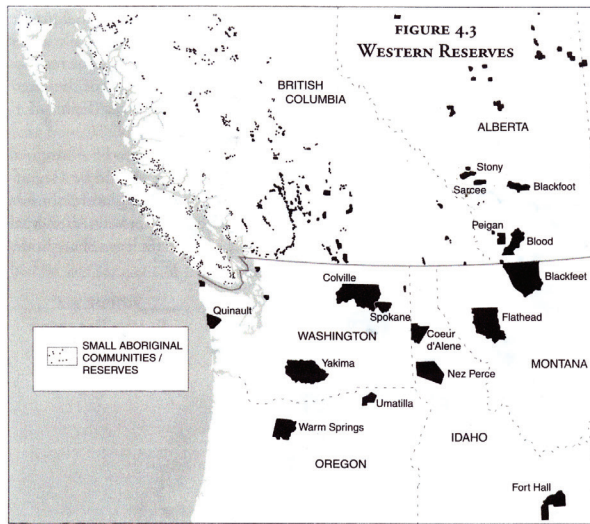
Notes: 1. Treaty boundary lines are approximate.

2. Extension of a treaty boundary as a result of later signatories who adhered to the terms of the original treaty.

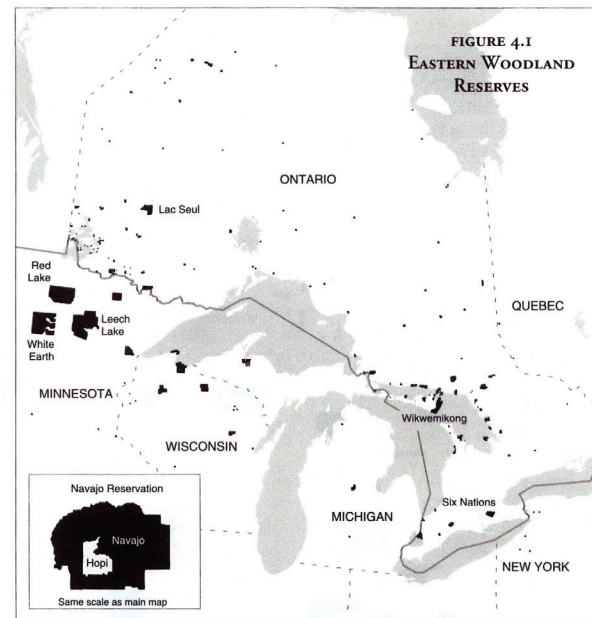
Source: Information taken from the *National Atlas Information Services* map sheet number MCR4162©1991. Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada with permission of Natural Resources Canada. Adapted with the permission of the Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada, and the Privy Council Office, 1997, from *Looking Forward, Looking Back, Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*.

### Aboriginal Lands Today

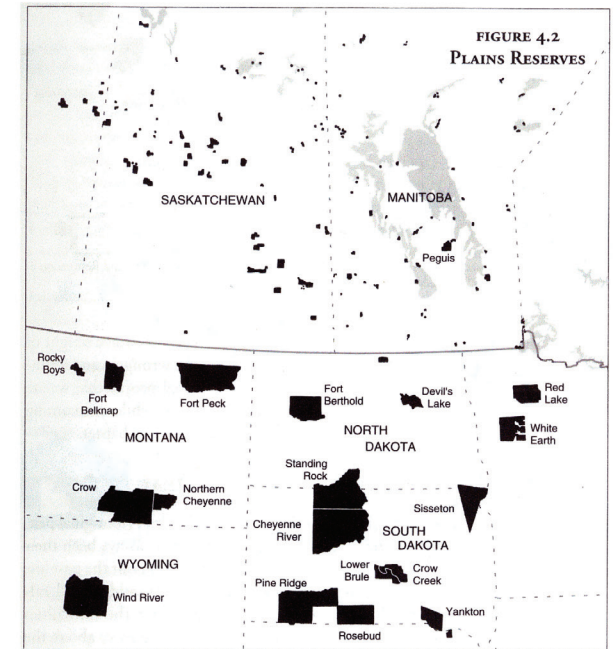
Aboriginal lands south of the 60th parallel - mainly reserves - make up less than one-half of one per cent of the Canadian land mass. By contrast, in the United States (excluding Alaska), where Aboriginal Peoples make up a far smaller portion of the population, they hold three per cent of the land. All of the reserves in every province of Canada combined would not cover one-half of the reservation held by Arizona's Navajo Nation.



Source: Adapted, with permission, from Robert White-Harvey, "Reservation Geography and Restoration of Native Self-Government", *Dalhousie Law Journal* 17/2 (Fall 1994), p. 588.



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