**Issues Affecting Aboriginal People in Canada**

***CLN4U Assignment #1 Due: Sept. 29th 2015***

*Submit via Turnitin & Paper Copy*

*What’s Happened to Politics?* Is former politician, and current lawyer, professor, and community activist, Bob Rae’s latest book. Within its pages he explores the roots of our dysfunctional political system and offers suggestions on how to begin to remedy many of our societal ills.

Of particular interest to our first unit is his chapter, “*What’s happened to Aboriginal Peoples in Canada?,”* as it provides for the reader, an insightful overview of the circumstances leading to the current condition facing many First Nations people and their communities today.

**Step 1**

While reading the assigned chapter, make notes addressing the following questions. This will help organize your thoughts and solidity your understanding of this vast and contentious topic. \*not marked- checked for completion

**Questions to answer as you read:**

1. Explain the Aboriginal condition pre-colonization. What was the European view of Aboriginals (and land settlement) upon colonization? (p. 78)
2. Contrast the Aboriginal view of land ownership with that of the European settlers. (p. 79)
3. What did the Royal Proclamation of 1763 state? (The Indian Magna Carta) Was it honoured? Explain. (79-80)
4. How did the increasing number of settlers affect Aboriginal people? (p. 80)
5. Explain how “Social Darwinism” affected Aboriginal people, either directly or indirectly. (p. 80)
6. What were the 3 policies that devastated Aboriginal people? (p. 81)
7. Explain the inequality between those Aboriginal people subjected to “Historic Treaties” versus those covered under “Modern Treaties.” (p. 81)
8. When were these “Historic Treaties” “signed”?... AND… What is the discrepancy between the interpretation of those treaties by the governments and the Aboriginal people? (p. 81-82)
9. What did the Calder decision assert? What happened afterwards in terms of land claims? (p. 82)
10. Further S.C.C rulings benefitted Aboriginal people, yet had less impact on those covered under “Historic Treaties.” Explain. (p. 83)
11. What is the reality for many of those Aboriginal people affected by Historic Treaties? (p. 83)
12. What, according to Rae, makes the legitimacy of Historic Treaties dubious? (p. 84)
13. Explain:

Treaty 6 – What was its objective? Why?

What strategy did the Crown use to ensure it was signed? (p. 85)

Treaty 9 - What was its objective? Why?

What strategy did the Crown use to ensure it was signed? (p. 86-87)

\*What are the Aboriginal people’s views of the treaties?

1. Considering the details discussed above, do **you** feel these treaties are legitimate? (p. 87-89)
2. What does Rae suggest should be done with Historic treaties? Why? (p. 90)
3. What is the unmistakeable message being delivered by the courts since the Calder case? (p. 91)
4. What social issues are plaguing so many Aboriginal communities today? (p. 91)
5. What does Rae observed is impeding improvement for Aboriginal people, despite court rulings? Explain. (p. 92-93)

**Step 2**

**Assignment:**

***“…[T]he unresolved relationship between indigenous people, and other Canadians and their governments stands out emphatically as nothing less than our national shame”***

Bob Rae p.77

You will produce a series of paragraphs, responding to the questions below, which will show your understanding of the issues affecting Aboriginal people in Canada today.

Your answers should be based on the reading provided as well as, our class lessons and independent research, culminating with the presentation by our guest speaker, Ms. Kimberly Murray.

Altogether, your assignment should not exceed 1000 words (4 pages, double spaced)

1. Using Bob Rae’s book, summarize in your own words, the history of First nations relations with Europeans up to the Supreme Court Ruling in the Calder Case.
2. Discuss Rae’s arguments regarding the Historic treaties. Provide your own opinion in terms of their legitimacy and explain your feelings. What do you think should be done in terms of these treaties, considering the discrepancy in quality of life for those subjected to their terms?
3. Explain how the Calder case resulted in improvements for the First Nations. Include details from a later case that was favourable to First Nations. (Rae mentions 2)
4. Explain what you feel is the most significant problem affecting aboriginal communities today. Based on the reading, our guest lecturer, and your own research, what do you feel are the causes of this problem (past and present)? How can we begin to remedy the problem?
5. Write a short reflection based on Ms. Murray’s presentation. Include highlights that you found most interesting.

