**We can’t go back but can we go forward? The collapse of indigeneity due to institutional colonialism**

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**Abstract**

The indigenous peoples of Canada represent the first recorded permanent residents of those lands now contained within the modern determination of the national boundary.  Twelve linguistically-identifiable indigenous groups with a total population of 300,000 existed at the time of the first European settlement in the 16th century.  At that time it was felt by the indigenous peoples that their way of life began being displaced by colonial thoughts and presence.  Scholars have studied the impact on local indigeneity of colonial expansion recognizing that as centuries have passed the colonial influences have altered an indigenous culture of self-reliance to one of institutional-reliance.

Dr. Philip Walsh addresses the dilemma facing indigenous communities today by providing examples to illustrate the displacement of self- determination and related cultural resiliency with ineffectual federal government support mechanisms that have resulted in an indigenous welfare state.