

# MYTH: Indigenous peoples have access to ample land and resources



**Fact:** Indigenous peoples often have limited access to land and resources, and many rural communities face challenges in accessing essential resources.

This myth fails to acknowledge the historical and ongoing struggles that Indigenous communities face in terms of land rights, resource access, and socioeconomic disparities.

## LESS DESIRABLE LAND

Indigenous reserves are commonly small and located in less desirable areas, far from urban centers, educational facilities, health centers, and employment opportunities, and near waste facilities and heavily polluted areas.



## RESTRICTED LAND

Indigenous rights and title over traditional territories were taken without consent or fair agreements. The Canadian government has authority over reserve lands and can determine their use and benefit.

Historic expropriation and restrictions on fishing grounds have further impacted Indigenous control over their lands and resources.

Only approximately

**0.2%**

of Canada's total landmass is reserve land.



## INDIGENOUS RESURGENCE

A secure land base is essential for Indigenous self-determination and resurgence as it allows communities to practice their culture, traditions, language, and to govern themselves according to their own values and aspirations.

Land claims seek to restore control over land and resources to Indigenous communities and empower them to make decisions about their own development and future. Indigenous peoples can create sustainable and thriving communities that meet their needs and contribute to their overall well-being with such control over their land and resources.

## RESOURCES

### Limited Services

Limited infrastructure and services in remote reserve areas can contribute to disparities in resource availability.



### Water Restrictions

Coastal waters and tidal lands do not form part of the reserve and Indigenous fishing grounds and their resources have been restricted by provincial and federal regulations.



### Housing Shortages

Indigenous peoples living on reserves face a shortage of adequate housing, with many living in overcrowded and unhealthy conditions.



### Legal Battles

Indigenous people must demonstrate that their ways are integral to their distinctive societies and was exercised at the time of first contact with Europeans. They must prove that fishing and hunting were practiced before the arrival of Europeans.



Boil-Water Advisories



Natural Resource Corruption



Lack of Control Over Land

Information adapted from:



This information is to educate and spread awareness on Indigenous peoples access to land and resources.