

# Identity Quotations

BLM  
1.2.1

Read the following quotations concerning Aboriginal identity and analyze one or more using the BLM G.1 “Analyzing Quotations”. Add your analysis to your portfolio.

- “The fact is that when the settlers came, the Indians were there, organized in societies and occupying the land as their forefathers had done for centuries. This is what Indian title means...”  
Supreme Court of Canada  
Calder v. Attorney General of British Columbia (1973)
- “Assimilation policies failed because Aboriginal people have the secret of cultural survival. They have an enduring sense of themselves as peoples with a unique heritage and the right to cultural continuity.”
- “*Aboriginal peoples are nations*. That is, they are political and cultural groups with values and lifeways distinct from those of other Canadians.”  
“A Word from the Commissioners”, Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996  
[http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/rpt/wrd\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/rpt/wrd_e.html)
- “America, separated from Europe by a wide ocean, was inhabited by a distinct people, divided into separate nations, independent of each other and the rest of the world, having institutions of their own, and governing themselves by their own laws. It is difficult to comprehend... that the discovery of either by the other should give the discoverer rights in the country discovered which annulled the previous rights of its ancient possessors.”  
Chief Justice John Marshall - United States Supreme Court  
Worcester v. Georgia (1832)  
From a landmark case quoted by the Commissioners in “Looking Forward, Looking Back” -- Highlights from the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 1996.  
[http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/rpt/lk\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/rpt/lk_e.html)
- “We the Dene of the N.W.T. insist on the right to be regarded by ourselves and the world as a nation. Our struggle is for the recognition of the Dene Nation by the government and people of Canada and the peoples and governments of the world. . . .”  
Dene Nation. “Dene Declaration: Statement of Rights”, Indian Brotherhood of the Northwest Territories, 1975. <http://www.denenation.com/denedec.html>
- “There is something my uncle said, you know, ‘You’re not a true Indian unless you... follow the culture, then you are an Indian.’ It’s not a status thing. It’s not a piece of paper. It’s a spiritual thing, an emotional thing, a mental thing, a physical thing.”  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. “Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples” VOLUME 4 Perspectives and Realities Chapter 7 - Urban Perspectives. 1991

Etah, a 17-year-old street youth in Vancouver, quoted in Lauri Gilchrist and R. Anthony Winchester, “Kāptitipis e-pimohteyahk (Urban Perspectives: Aboriginal Street Youth Study): Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal”, research study prepared for RCAP (1995).

[http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/sj37\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ch/rcap/sg/sj37_e.html)

- “The First Nations people view themselves not as custodians, stewards or having dominion over the Earth, but as an integrated part in the family of the Earth. The Earth is my mother and the animals, plants and minerals are my brothers and sisters.”

Lickers, Henry F. The Cultural Divide in Science Education for Aboriginal Learners”, Canadian Council on Learning

<http://www.ccl->

[cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070116\\_Ab\\_sci\\_edu.htm](http://www.ccl-cca.ca/CCL/Reports/LessonsInLearning/LinL20070116_Ab_sci_edu.htm)