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2,453 12 0
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Original Articles

Enduring neoliberalism in Alberta's oil sands: the troubling effects of private-public partnerships for First Nation and Métis communities

Pages 815-835 | Received 25 Jan 2010, Accepted 08 May 2010, Published online: 26 Oct 2011



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Keywords:	
Indigenous, neoliberal, employment, education, state	
Notes	
1. Aboriginal rights, as referred to under Section 35, are Aboriginal peoples of Canada have the right to govern the that are internal to their communities, integral to their untraditions, languages, and institutions, and with respect their lands and resources.	emselves in relation to matters nique cultures, identities,
2. The act including commentary was accessed online as http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LegislativeSummaries/Blang = E&ls = C7&source = library_prb&Parl = 37&Ses =	ills_ls.asp?
3. INAC is the successor to the Department of Indian Affa	airs and Northern
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- 9. For example, Franklin et al. argue that a discourse of partnership was associated with the Third Way policies enacted under Prime Minister Tony Blair, in this case, used to navigate between social democratic statism and neoliberal free markets by weakening 'once important distinctions between public and private, left and rights, government and industry, state and market' (2004, p. 3).
- 10. Bradford (2003) draws on the ideas of Hall and Soskice about LMEs and CMEs in his discussion of policies introduced by New Democrat and Conservative governments in Ontario. He argues that neoliberal partnerships are more often associated with LMEs because of their historical absence of institutionalized networks and structures to support partnership. An institutional focus, in his view, helps to explain implementation challenges to social democratic partnership innovations that he observed in Ontario.
- 11. Max Weber suggested that for certain jobs to confer high income and special advantages, it is important for their incumbents to have various means of excluding others from access to them, a process described as 'social closure' or 'opportunity hoarding' (Wright 2009, p. 104). Educational credentials are a common way of restricting access to jobs.

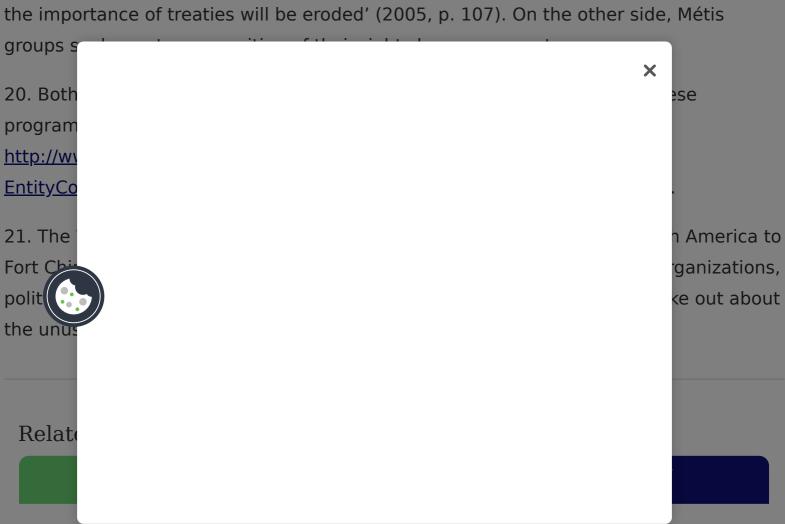
12. The five First Nations that compose the ATC are the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, Chipewyan Prairie First Nation, Fort McKay First Nation, Fort McMurray 468 First Nation, in Fort X McMurra), and Conklin. are very few and Métis in Inuit in t the repo t Nation 13. TLE mised asserts unde 14. Trea netres in northwe in the oil 15. The sands) a ling the Act, not a scope of

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Nations funding agreement in the late 1990s that allows the group to manage its budget with greater authority over program delivery and funding allocation (Slowey 2008). The MCFN has also become a player in local industrial activity with its group of companies; MCFN-operated businesses employ close to 200 local people, translating into an annual impact on the community of roughly \$5 million (Slowey 2008).

- 16. The majority of interviews (41) were audio-taped and transcribed and notes were taken for all others.
- 17. This information was presented by Dr. Ali Abdelrahman at a Statistics Canada conference in Edmonton called 'Strength in Numbers' in March 2008.
- 18. Information about this program was available on the following website: http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/employment/aboriginal_training/about_asep/fact_sheet.shtml [Accessed 19 October 2008].
- 19. Conflict between Métis and First Nations groups is not surprising given the differential treatment of groups by government. As Abele et al. note, 'First Nations are often uneasy when federal attention turns to Métis and Non-Status Indians, fearing that an already inadequate financial pie will be sliced into every smaller pieces, and ... that the importance of treaties will be eroded' (2005, p. 107). On the other side, Métis



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