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

Alison Taylor & Tracy Friedel

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Keywords:

Indigenous, neoliberal, employment, education, state

Notes

1. Aboriginal rights, as referred to under Section 35, are based on the idea that the Aboriginal peoples of Canada have the right to govern themselves in relation to matters that are internal to their communities, integral to their unique cultures, identities, traditions, languages, and institutions, and with respect to their special relationship to their lands and resources.

2. The act including commentary was accessed online at:
[http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LegislativeSummaries/Bills_Is.asp?lang = E&ls = C7&source = library_prb&Parl = 37&Ses = 2.\[January 2010\].](http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LegislativeSummaries/Bills_Is.asp?lang = E&ls = C7&source = library_prb&Parl = 37&Ses = 2.[January 2010].)

3. INAC is the successor to the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

4. However, in a 10-year anniversary assessment of the government's fulfillment of the plan many pr argued that

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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, and the Mikisew Cree. There are significant numbers of Métis living in Fort McMurray (Conklin, 2009), and there are very few Inuit in the region (Conklin, 2009). The report also notes that there are very few Inuit in the region and Métis in the region.
13. TLE (2009) notes that the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation asserts that the ATC is a violation of the promises made under the 1982 Constitution.
14. Treaties 6 and 7 cover 100,000 square kilometres in the northwestern part of Alberta.
15. The ATC covers 100,000 square kilometres in the oil sands region of Alberta. The ATC is not a formal settlement under the Indian Act, not a formal settlement under the Indian Act/First Nations Act.



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 groups seek greater recognition of their rights by government.

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