



# **First Nations Connectivity: Barriers and Challenges**

Derrick Houle





## Topics for today:

History

Barriers

Challenges

Solutions



## **Mission**

Smoke Signal Communications Inc. believes that internet connectivity should be accessible for all Canadians, and access to information can be a force for good.

Our end game is to provide sustainable connectivity and access to Rural and First Nations communities across Canada. In doing so, we hope to empower all communities to uncover the power of technology.

# **And so, we Begin!**

# History

## **Gomes Eannes de Azurara - Portuguese Chronicler**

1450 - *Chronicle of the Siege and Capture of Ceuta*

1452 - THE CHRONICLE OF THE DISCOVERY AND CONQUEST OF GUINEA.

*alternatively, Life and Work of Prince Henry the Navigator*

*The Chronicler justifies his task by summing up the profits that had accrued from the Prince's efforts—firstly, the salvation of the souls of the captives taken by the Portuguese in their expeditions; secondly, the benefit which their services brought to their captors; and thirdly, the honour acquired by the fatherland in the conquest of such distant territories and numerous enemies.*

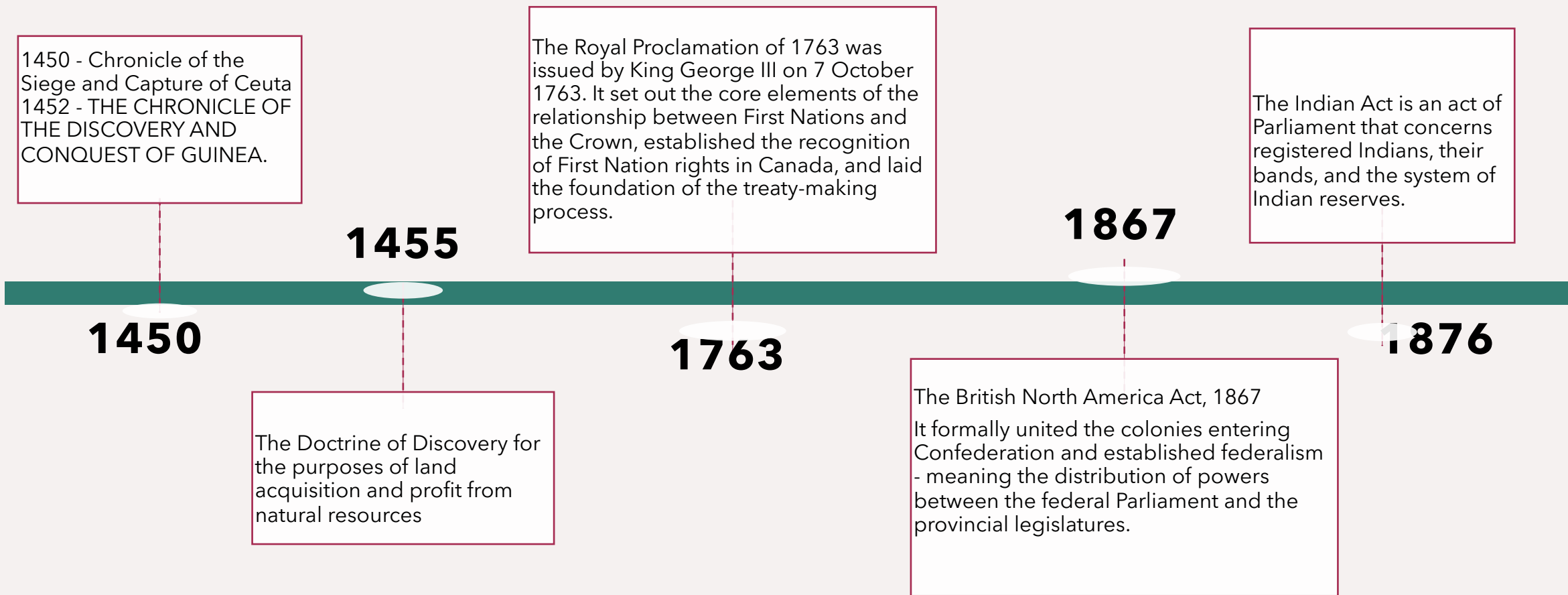
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/35738/35738-h/35738-h.htm>

**The Doctrine of Discovery** finds its root in the 1455 papal bull *Romanus Pontifex* of the Roman Catholic Church.<sup>6</sup> Pope Nicholas V authorized the conquest and enslavement of non-Christian Indigenous Peoples for the purposes of land acquisition and profit from natural resources.

*Terra Nullius* finds its legal root in eighteenth century European law, but the concept was used to justify the right to colonize Indigenous lands throughout the sixteenth to twentieth centuries.

[https://caid.ca/doc\\_dom.html](https://caid.ca/doc_dom.html)





# First Nation Economic System



**The way to get  
started is to quit  
talking and  
begin doing.**

Walt Disney

# Economic Reality

## Barriers

- Government Direction and Influence
- Education
- Indian Act other legislation ..... Radio Communications Act.
- Chattel
- Investment
- Financial Tools

## Challenges

- Education
- Fear of Reprisals
- Misinformation
- Misleading agreements
- Industry push back

# Solutions : Sovereignty



## Education

- Government Education
- Transferable Information
- SWOT analysis of the industry
- Inform Communities in a way that works

## Planning

- Fair Market Development
- More than inclusion
- Financial Tools that do not exist

## Leadership

- Gap analysis
- Develop new market leaders through education and mentorship
- Challenge the current assumptions about what “we know”

# RECONCILIATION





### **What is a sovereignty example?**

**An example of sovereignty is the power of a king to rule his people, without interference from another country.**

# Summary

Everyone in Canada has an experience of First Nations. Some have extreme hate, and some have extreme sympathy. What would be most helpful is support in getting to Sovereignty rather than prescriptions for what's wrong. We know how and where things started and now, we have a path forward on what we can do to change the future.

**If you want to know more on how you can make a difference, contact me.**

**Derrick Houle**

[Derrick.Houle@sscigroup.ca](mailto:Derrick.Houle@sscigroup.ca)

[www.sscigroup.ca](http://www.sscigroup.ca)

