

Introduction

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This marks the third and final issue of the first volume of *aboriginal policy studies*. In the first year of journal publication, we have been lucky enough to receive submissions on Aboriginal languages, along with other papers on a wide array of issues pertaining to the journal's mandate. That said, however, we would continue to encourage readers and prospective authors to submit on issues pertaining to Metis policy. Knowledge production regarding issues pertaining to the Metis has largely taken place in the context of historical studies—comparatively little research takes place on a twentieth or twentieth-first century context, and the little that does tends to be produced in the context of evidence for court cases (usually spanning both the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries).

This third issue of *aboriginal policy studies* explores a great diversity of Aboriginal policy issues. The opening article represents the final part of a large data analysis undertaken by Mary Jane Norris, Canada's leading demographer on Aboriginal language issues. Her article presents findings and indicators on the state, patterns, and trends of Aboriginal languages in urban areas over a decade. More specifically, it does so in the context of city specific variations across most of Canada's urban areas with Aboriginal speakers. Norris's research speaks to the city-specific aspects of urban Aboriginal language dynamics and, as such, shows that any policy relations must reflect a commitment to this specificity.

Following from Norris's discussion, Tracy L. Friedel and Alison Taylor's article speaks to the larger structural context within which Aboriginal policy is carried out across geographical locations and legal categories (i.e., Metis and First Nations), with a specific look at labour market development policies around Alberta's tar sands development. More specifically, their work points to the various (but largely hidden) inequalities that disproportionately impact Aboriginal individuals and communities involved in large-scaled resource extraction, at odds with the dominant thinking and policy relations around this topic.

Still speaking to issues of economic development, Maria Bargh's article focuses on the issues of alternative economies. In particular, she explores a single Indigenous-owned power corporation in the complex contexts through which it attempts to remain viable while traversing "corporate" and "traditional" systems of values. In particular, Dr. Bargh's work paints a more complex picture of these social relations in a way that renders them less easily divided into binarisms like "modern/corporate" and "traditional." While the empirical context of this research is international (taking place, as it does, in Aotearoa/New Zealand), it nonetheless speaks to issues of central importance to Canadian Aboriginal policy issues.

In addition to the peer-reviewed articles, we were fortunate to receive a submission from Dr. Kim TallBear, one of North America's leading Indigenous scholars on the impact of science on Indigenous citizenship and, more generally, on the intersection of science and Indigenous identity. TallBear's research speaks to the forms of citizenship that have characterized US governmental relations with Indigenous tribal communities within their geo-political borders. While created in the political economy context of the United States of America, these nonetheless bear directly on the kinds of avenues many First Nations (in particular) have taken in their policy relating to citizenship and membership. This is especially pressing in the context of urban Indigenous social relations, as an increasing number of First Nations members reside in cities.

The second commentary of this journal issue, by Michael Hankard, pertains to a policy issue that many institutions, increasingly, are required to deal with as traditional healing begins to take on more formalized policy contexts in urban areas. Hankard's research explores the gap between policy and practice as it pertains particularly to non-Insured Health Benefits for traditional healers working off-reserve. Using first person interviews with traditional healers, he demonstrates the tensions between bureaucratic requirements and traditional healing principles. He suggests several relationship-building principles that create the possibility for more equitable policy relations.

In addition to the articles and commentaries, this issue contains two book reviews and a set of foundational documents. The book reviews feature Logan Mardhani-Bayne's review of Renisa Mawani's historiography of on- and off-reserve Indigenous governance issues in Vancouver, British Columbia. Similarly, Charles Horn has reviewed historical urban relations in the Pacific Rim as a basis of colonial modernity of the era and region. Finally, the set of foundational documents in this issue consist of the foundational principles for the National Association of Friendship Centres, which speaks to the longstanding institutional contexts within which Metis, Non-Status Indian, and urban Aboriginal policy issues have played themselves out over the past four decades.

We thank you for your continued support of the journal. Please enjoy volume one, issue three. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at apsjournal@ualberta.ca.

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