

APPENDIX "A"
City Council Minutes – April 16, 2018

Poem by: damian lopes, Poet Laureate

Indian Act 1876 or citizens aren't indian

superseding the Gradual Civilization Act
and Gradual Enfranchisement Act
the post-confederation Indian Act introduced
status

intended as transition
less than citizenship
denied the franchise
land ownership constitutional rights
but granted
reserve lands and treaty entitlements
government obligations that would
disappear with enfranchisement
because citizens aren't indian

our Act defined you two ways:

*Indian: first any male of Indian blood reputed
to belong to a particular band
second any child of such
third any woman now or formerly
legally married to such
any illegitimate child may
at any time be excluded
membership by the band
any Indian having five years abroad
shall cease to be a member
thereof or of any other band
any Indian woman marrying out
ceases to be an Indian
if she marry into another band
she belongs to his band alone
no half breed in Manitoba
shall be accounted an Indian*

*non-treaty Indian: any person of Indian blood
belonging to an irregular band or
following the Indian mode of life
even if a temporary resident
in Canada*

but our Act defined us simply

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person: an individual other than an Indian

Indian Agents swept aside traditional governance
to save your souls
oversaw the diminution of people
forced enfranchisement and revoked status for
any Indian man or married woman
the full age of twenty-one
who from the degree of civilization
attained character for integrity
morality and sobriety appears qualified
to become a proprietor of land
may be granted a location ticket
as a probationary Indian
for the land allotted by the band
and becomes enfranchised

any Indian admitted to any degree
by any university or to practice law
or enters holy orders
becomes enfranchised

but citizens aren't Indian
so for land and vote
we required you to
declare the name and surname by which
he or she wishes to be enfranchised
and thereafter known
erasing hereditary and spirit names
clan and tribal connections
the languages that described this land
before us

disenfranchised from the land we sought
as settlers lost in a history selected
we are the colonized
to reconcile this ledger
we must still account and comprehend
partly repealed but not erased
these laws stain our history
as the red of our debt
still colours the present