

# The Crown

What do Indigenous Peoples mean when they refer to the Crown in Canada?

There is no single answer to this question as there are hundreds of Nations, as well as individual perspectives on their different Treaty relationships with the Crown. In most cases, it is important to remember that the Crown is in specific Treaty relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the land that were formed at different times, under circumstances unique to the partnerships that needed to be created in order to co-exist.

Some ideas to consider . . .



As the official representatives of The Queen federally and provincially, the governor general and lieutenant governors often are seen as in direct relationships with Indigenous Peoples.



For some Indigenous Peoples, Treaty relationships are very personal and mean that they are directly bound to The Queen in a familial bond. This bond carries with it important responsibilities for both partners.



Since the 1931 Statute of Westminster the Crown in Canada has been legally distinct from the British Monarchy. Since they were not consulted in this development, some Indigenous Peoples do not recognize a separate Canadian Crown.

Some Indigenous Peoples see their relationships with the Queen as distinct from her offices of Queen of Canada and/or Queen of the United Kingdom.



Since most of the Treaties in Canada were concluded with the British Crown, some Indigenous Peoples see their relationships with the Queen in her role as Sovereign of the United Kingdom.

For some Indigenous Peoples The Crown means the entire Government of Canada, including the prime minister and Ministry of Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

