

Yellowhead Institute Launches New Report on Getting the Land Back

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Toronto – On October 29, 2019, the Yellowhead Institute, the first Indigenous-led think tank in Canada, based in the Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University in Toronto, launches their inaugural Red Paper report, *Land Back* with a breakdown of current state-sanctioned industry techniques of land dispossession and Indigenous counter-strategies of reclamation.

Authored by Research Director Shiri Pasternak and Executive Director Hayden King, the report is the product of year-long community engagement and collaboration with Indigenous leaders from coast to coast.

Research Highlights:

- The first national-scale analysis on the role of injunctions in land dispossession found that **76 percent** of injunctions filed against First Nations by corporations are granted, while **81 percent** of injunctions filed against corporations by First Nations are denied. The vast majority of cases involved resource extraction and development.
- The first public overview of all provincial and territorial government resource revenue-sharing schemes in Canada.
- A *Mine Sweeper Map* that is only the publicly accessible and searchable map of mining claims linked to First Nations in Ontario and Quebec.
- Case studies from across the country of Indigenous community restoration of Indigenous law and governance on the ground.

This Red Paper is ultimately about Indigenous consent. We argue that Indigenous consent-based jurisdiction must go beyond current state interpretations. It must incorporate restorative, reciprocal, and legitimate engagements with Indigenous peoples as decision-makers over lands, territories, and resources.

Background on the term "Red Paper": This Red Paper follows a tradition of Indigenous agenda-making reports, like the first famous Red Paper released in 1970 by the Indian Association of Alberta in response to Canada's 1969 White Paper.

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Yellowhead Institute generates critical policy perspectives in support of First Nation jurisdiction. The Institute is a First Nation-led research centre based in the Faculty of Arts at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario. Privileging First Nation philosophy and rooted in community networks, Yellowhead is focused on policies related to land and governance. The Institute offers critical and accessible resources for communities in their pursuit of self-determination. It also aims to foster education and dialogue on First Nation governance across fields of study, between the University and the wider community, and among Indigenous peoples and Canadians.