

## *Aboriginal Status in Canada ~1900*

- government's goal was **assimilation**
  - abandon one's culture
  - adopt European living, language, and culture
  
- **reserves** were established
  - treaties were forced by aboriginal economic status
    - between 1880 and 1885, approximately 3000 plains First Nations died of starvation
    - were once the majority of the population, but by 1880 only constituted 3% of the population
      - disease (TB, smallpox, influenza, etc)
      - alcohol dependency
      - malnutrition
  
  - settle in one place
  
  - encouraged to farm (move from nomadic/seasonal life to sedentary)
    - given marginal land
    - often promised farming supplies would not arrive
    - no knowledge of farming and sparse and erratic training provided
      - set up for failure, although mostly unintentional
  
- **residential schools**
  - children taken away for education
  - forced to speak English
  - many were victims of physical and sexual abuses
  - families split up