

[Free pdf] Two Families: Treaties and Government

## Two Families: Treaties and Government

*Harold Johnson*

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**Harold Johnson : Two Families: Treaties and Government** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Families: Treaties and Government:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very positive and timely discussion on the treaties between Canadian settlers and First Nations. By Daniel Johnson With First Nations issues jumping into the forefront of the public mindset with the sudden rise of the Idle No More movement, it would be a good time for a lot of people to read this book. At times it feels closer to a respectful and friendly conversation with a wise old man than the stern lecture it could be, it addresses the reader, presumed to be settlers descendants, as 'cousin', and re-affirms the rights that treaties give Canadian settlers as much as those they give First Nations, and makes it clear that fulfillment of the treaties, with

no further dishonest, selective misinterpretation by governments, is in the best interests of all Canadians as much as First Nations.

First Nations Elders interpreted treaties as instruments that gave Europeans the right to settle here, share resources, and build a relationship of equality with those who were here before. These elders did not intend the treaties to allow the subjugation and impoverishment of First Nations, or give settler governments the right to legislate every aspect of First Nations activities. In an easy to read narrative, Harold Johnson presents an eloquent view, on behalf of a people, of what treaties represent, including the justice system and reconciliation of laws, resources and taxation, assimilation, leadership and sovereignty, Constitutional rights, youth, and relations between next generations.

While initially it may appear to be a strange addition to a law library, this slender text should be required reading for anyone working in aboriginal law or treaty interpretation. (Patrick Fawcett Canadian Law Library )Writing in response to a student asking him what the treaties mean, Harold Johnson's narrative on the relationship between First Nations, governments, and society in general presents a different view of the treaty relationship. Treaties were the instruments that gave Europeans the right to settle here, share resources, and build a relationship of equality with those who were here before. Johnson's ancestors did not intend the treaties to allow the subjugation and impoverishment of First Nations, or give settler governments the right to legislate every aspect of First Nations activities. In an easy to read style, the author presents his eloquent view, on behalf of a people, on what treaties between First Nations and governments represent. Topics discussed include the justice system, reconciliation of laws, political divisions, resources, taxation, assimilation, leadership, sovereignty, the Constitution, youth, and relations between next generations. Two Families is a passionate plea for the restoration of harmony and equality between First Nations and the rest of Canadian society. It is a must read for everyone seeking to understand an Aboriginal perspective on treaties. "Kiciwamanawak, my cousin: that is what my Elders said to call you. You have a treaty right to occupy and use this territory. You received that right when my family adopted yours." As Chief of the Montreal Lake Cree Nation, I endorse the writing of Harold Johnson. His use of the inclusive Kiciwamanawak in the discussion formally introduces him as the speaker for all of us to all of you... (Chief Lionel Bird)About the AuthorHarold Johnson practices law in La Ronge, northern Saskatchewan, and balances this with operating his family's traditional trap line using a dog team.