

Aboriginal labour inequalities in Canada: from colonization to the current context

An analysis of the role of the education system in reinforcing
inequalities in the Canadian labour market

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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This thesis intended to understand the role of the Canadian education system in reinforcing inequalities between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples in the Canadian labour market.

Using data analysis from Canadian census reports, this thesis assessed the relationship between education levels, employment rates and income levels for Aboriginal peoples living on and off the reserves, in comparison to their non-Aboriginal counterparts.

This research indicated that Aboriginal peoples have consistently lower rates of high school and university completion, which contributes to inequalities in the labour market, such as higher unemployment rates and lower incomes levels.

Through an analysis of the provincially funded public schools and federally funded on-reserve schools, this thesis has concluded that the Canadian education system is reinforcing inequalities in the Canadian labour market, by providing education frameworks that do not support the needs or promote the academic success of Aboriginal peoples.

Key words: Education, employment, labour market, income, inequality, economic marginalization, Aboriginal peoples, colonialism, residential schools, human rights, law, post- colonialism, anti- colonialism, Canada