

“This is an important, much-needed book. Here is context and wisdom about how Canada—and the world—can bring fresh approaches to rectifying historic injustices and getting real results.”

PHIL FONTAINE, *National Chief, Assembly of First Nations*

IN THE HUNDRED YEARS since British Columbia joined Confederation, Canada has negotiated only one modern treaty in the province. A decade after finalizing the Nisga'a treaty, and despite spending hundreds of millions of dollars, the B.C. Treaty Commission process established in 1992 has finalized not one treaty. This impassioned book examines why.

The long answer to the question, says author Tony Penikett, is rooted in colonial history: provincial resistance, federal indifference and judicial equivocation. The short answer is that Canadian governments have wanted treaties solely on their own terms. Drawing on three decades of experience as a negotiator and a politician, Penikett argues persuasively that successful treaty making requires not only principled mandates, imaginative negotiators and skilled mediators, but also the political will to redress First Nation grievances. The treaty process in B.C. is ailing, this book shows clearly, and Penikett has many practical remedies to offer.

“Tony Penikett has broad experience and a deep intellectual curiosity about treaty making in Canada. As this book shows, he is a strong advocate of the use of mediation in the process.”

MILES RICHARDSON,

Haida leader and former chief commissioner, British Columbia Treaty Commission

“With his great wit, deep knowledge of history and passion for social justice, Tony Penikett has been a remarkable presence at Canada’s constitutional table. No one understands better the encounter between native and non-native and north and south.”

BOB RAE, *former premier of Ontario*

“Complexity, history and constitutional detail have conspired to obscure the need for urgency on the First Nations’ self-governance file. Tony Penikett’s valuable tour de force shows a compelling way ahead for all those who value civility, fairness and humanity.”

SENATOR HUGH SEGAL



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