Kimberly Murray of Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto has recently tabled a Charter challenge in regards to her cultural identity appropriately titled Lynn Gehl v. The Queen.

"The terms Aboriginal, Native, First Nations and Indian are used interchangeably and include all persons of Aboriginal descent. For the complete story see Silman. Parliament Hill is located on unsurrendered Algonquin territory. This is my Nation's traditional territory.

During a five-year period (June 1985-June 1990), the Department of Indian Affairs received over 75,000 applications for registration (Indian and Northern Affairs Canada 1990: 8). Keep in mind here that women marrying non-status was not disenfranchised, although they did make up the majority (Long and Dickason 1996: 104).

A person who is registered as an Indian under the Indian Act, as defined by the Indian Act.

This is the Algonquin word for grandmother.

The author originally used the word enfranchised, but I substituted it with freedom. Enfranchisement was a goal of the Indian Act as a measure of civilization and could be achieved both voluntarily or involuntarily as in the case of Indian women marrying white. This freedom was imposed on them.

Tables A and B are adapted from Brizinski.

The apostrophe is intentionally left out as it implies ownership.

References


Ruddy, H.P. Letter "Reply to Nationality." Ottawa: National Archives of Canada, RG 10 Volume 7109 #481/3-3-6, 1945.


LYNN GEHL

The Canadian Nation

I am not a person, I am a prisoner.

The Pope and the Queen they are my keepers.

I don't blame my parents for their only crime... my mother is French my father was "red" they did their best.

I have no feelings yet pain, pain, pain for I am a prisoner of the Pope and the Queen.

They took my spirit they took my identity and made me a prisoner of this Nation State.

Lynn Gehl is one of eight siblings who is presently on an intense healing journey.