

# CHAPTER 3

**1939 TO PRESENT-DAY**  
*Modernization of Québec,*  
*Quiet Revolution*  
*& Contemporary Québec*

## **PART 8**

# ***Self-determination and rights of Indigenous nations & Feminism***

***Self-determination and rights of  
Indigenous nations***

# Indigenous nations

In the 1960s, Indigenous people began to mobilize politically and make demands to the government:

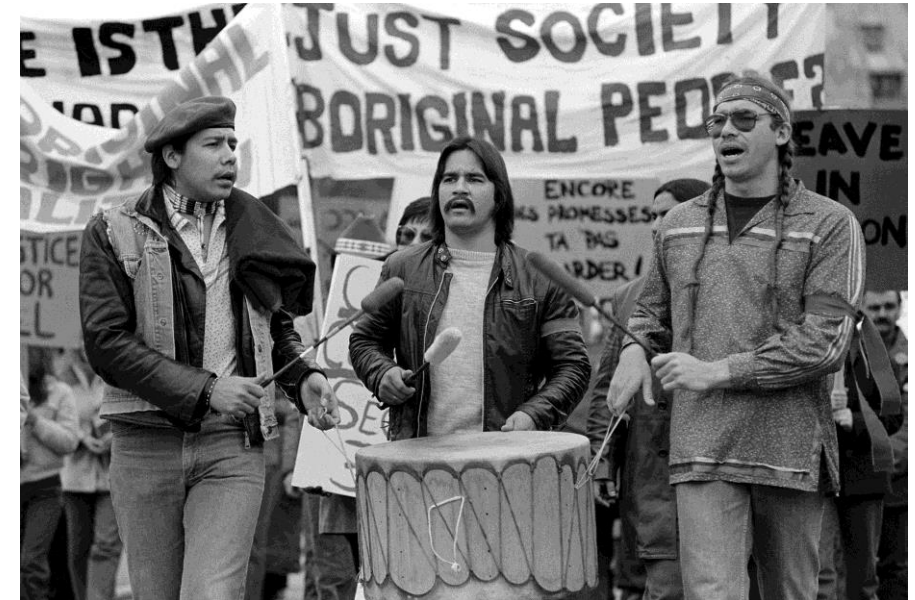
- Land claims
  - They wanted to expand their territories beyond their allotted reserves
  - They wanted recognition of their ancestral land rights (fishing, hunting, etc.)
  - They wanted control the natural resources in their lands.



# Indigenous nations

In the 1960s, Indigenous people began to mobilize politically and make demands to the government:

- Political demands
  - They wanted greater political autonomy to control their reserves, communities, resources, policies, programs, etc.
  - They demanded that all treaties and agreements made with the government be respected (the Canadian government promised to do so in 1973).

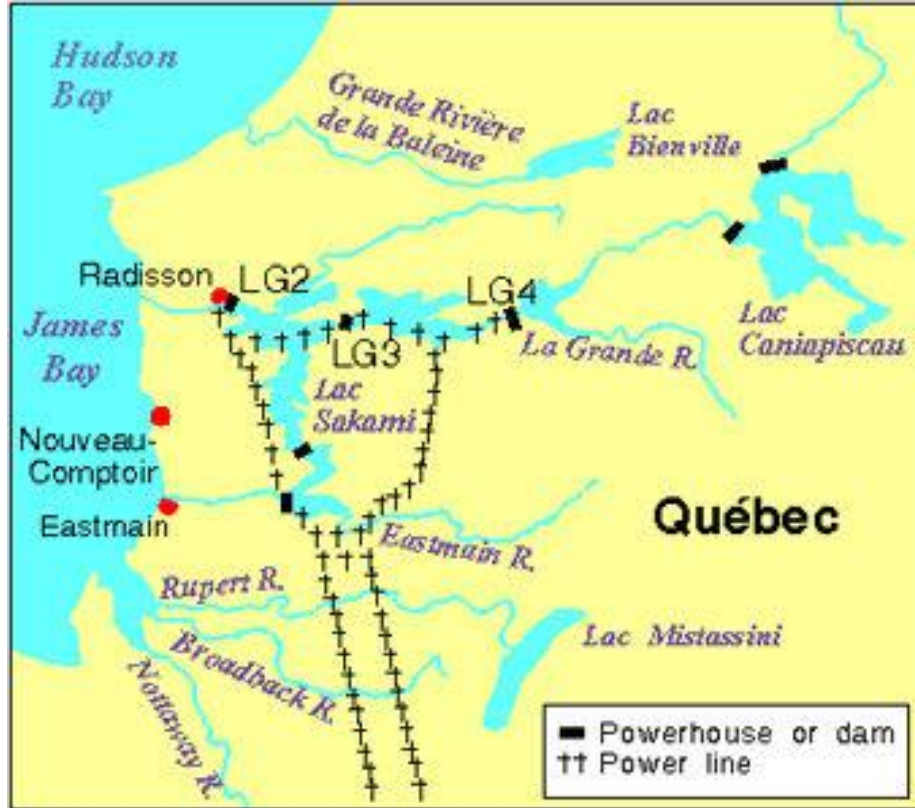


# Recognition of ancestral rights



## A few key events:

- In 1960, the **right to vote in federal elections** was granted **to all Indigenous people**
- Throughout the 1960s, provincial governments began to grant **voting rights** to Indigenous people as well. **Québec was the last Canadian province to make this change in 1969.**



The large hydroelectric projects planned in **James Bay** transformed the territories of the Indigenous peoples established there, **threatening certain aspects of their way of life** like hunting and fishing. Also **these Indigenous peoples (Cree, Inuit, Naskapi) were not consulted by the Québec government on these projects**. They got the Superior Court of Québec to order the work to stop, but the judgement was overturned by the Court of Appeal of Québec. **The Québec government finally agreed to negotiate with the Indigenous peoples so that they would drop their legal proceedings.**

# Recognition of ancestral rights

## A few key events:

- In 1975, the **James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement** was signed between the Government of Québec, the Government of Canada, the **Cree nation**, the **Inuit nation** and Hydro-Québec
  - In exchange for the opportunity for the government to exploit mining, hydroelectric and forest resources in the region, the Cree and Inuit's rights were defined and they received monetary compensation among other things.





# Oka Crisis (1990)

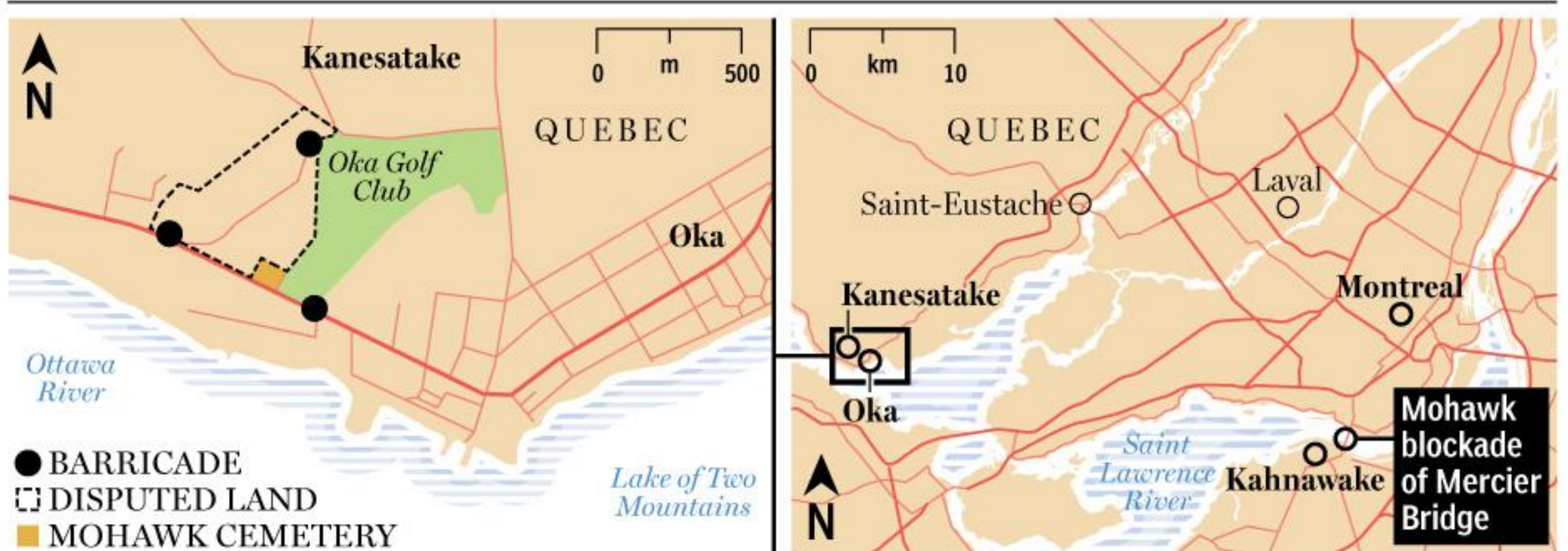


# Oka Crisis (1990)

- **The Oka Crisis is an example of Indigenous peoples' determination to have their rights recognized**
- It was a **territorial conflict** between the Kanesatake Mohawks and the governments of Québec and Canada
- The town of Oka had announced the expansion of a local golf course. Since the 18th century, the Kanesatake Mohawk nation had asserted their ownership of this land (sacred, site of ancestral cemeteries)
- At first peaceful, the conflict turned violent. The Canadian army was called in by Québec Premier Robert Bourassa
- The golf course expansion project was eventually abandoned by the town of Oka.

# Oka Crisis (1990)

## THE OKA STANDOFF



JONATHON RIVAIT / NATIONAL POST

# Creation of Nunavut (1999)



- Nunavut became the 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian territory in 1999
- Its name means “our land” in Inuktitut, the Inuit language
- **The creation of Nunavut was a source of hope for the Inuit population, who had been demanding autonomy for years**
- **It was the first case of a large country redrawing its borders in response to Indigenous land claims**
- **The Inuit in Nunavut now have some degree of self-governance**, and can take decisions to preserve their culture and develop their economy as they see fit.



***Feminism***

# Legal gains

Under pressure from feminist groups in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s, the state began a reform of the legal status of women.

## Some key events:

- **1964: Recognition of the legal capacity of married women (Bill 16)**
  - Before this law came into effect, married women were considered minors under the law and were required to obey their husbands
  - With Bill 16, married women could finally seek employment, open a bank account, sign a lease, buy a home, obtain a loan, etc., all this without their husband's signature.



***Claire Kirkland-Casgrain** was the first woman to be elected to the National Assembly of Québec.*

# Legal gains



## Some key events:

- **1968: Legalization of divorce by the federal government**
  - The law recognized physical and mental cruelty as grounds for divorce
  - Divorce numbers rose dramatically.
- **1971: Creation of the federal Minister of the Status of Women**
- **1973: Creation of the Council on the Status of Women**
- **1977: Adoption of the *Canadian Human Rights Act (CHRA)***
  - Discrimination on the basis of gender is prohibited
  - Equal pay for equal work is guaranteed. In spite of this law, Canadian women are still paid less than man for equal work, with a gap of 12%.

# Sexual and reproductive rights

## Contraception:

- In Québec, the birth control pill was sold legally only as a means of regulating menstrual cycles
- However, it quickly became the most common method of contraception despite the law and condemnation by the Catholic Church.



[VIDEO](#)



# Sexual and reproductive rights

## Abortion:

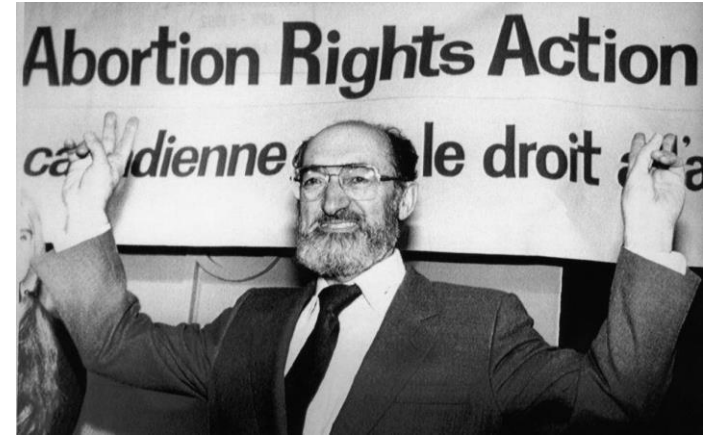
- In 1969
  - **Hospitals could perform abortions legally, on the condition that it was authorized by a therapeutic committee and that the woman's physical or mental health was in danger**
  - **In any other situation, abortion was a criminal act that was punishable by life imprisonment**
  - **Illegal abortions were common and practiced in dangerous conditions that sometimes led to the woman's sterility or death.**



# Sexual and reproductive rights

## Abortion:

- In the 1970s and 1980s, there was a massive campaign for free choice and the right to abortion
- In 1969, Dr. Henry Morgentaler defied the law by opening an abortion clinic in Montréal. His case was taken all the way to the Supreme Court
- **In 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada found Dr. Morgentaler innocent and deemed unconstitutional the section of the Criminal Code declaring abortion a criminal offense**
- In 2008, Dr. Morgentaler received the Order of Canada.



# Women in the labour market

## In the 1950s:

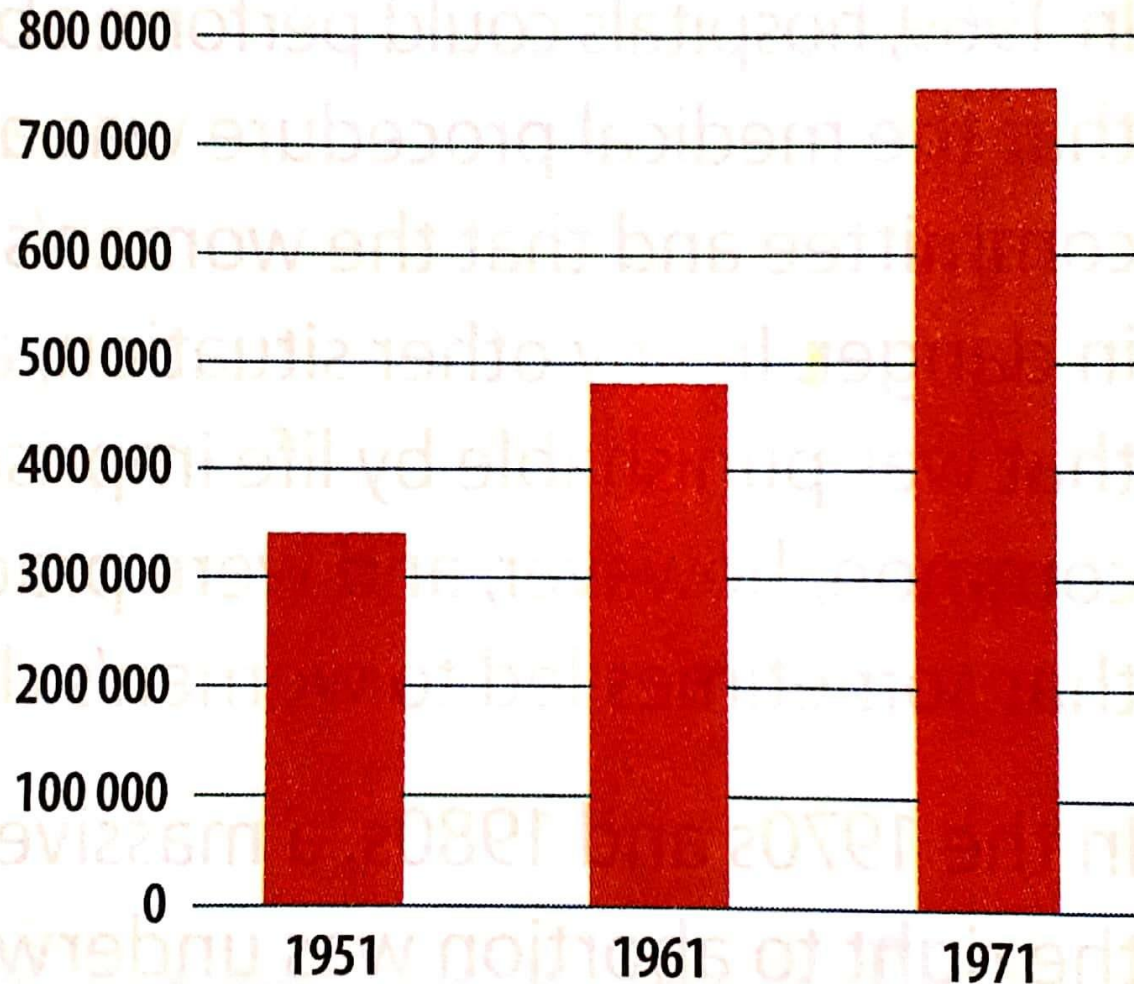
- more and more women were **pursuing education** and **graduating from universities**, allowing them to **enter the work force permanently**
- women worked mostly in **education, health care, social services and administration**
- this development was **condemned by the clergy**, insisting that a woman's place is in the home.

## As of the end of the 1960s:

- more efforts were done to promote **women's full participation in the country's economic, social and democratic life**
- feminists pushed for women's **access to professions traditionally dominated by men** (police force, auto mechanics, cabinetmaking, forestry, etc.).

**3.78**

## WOMEN IN THE LABOUR MARKET



The number of women in the labour market **rose considerably**.

However, there was still a **large wage gap**. Women earned only half the salary of men on the whole and were significantly underrepresented in management positions.

**Sexism and sexual harassment** remained common.

# Decriminalization of homosexuality

## In 1969:

- **The Trudeau (father) government adopted Bill C-150 which decriminalized homosexuality**
- Before, homosexual relations were considered a violation of the *Criminal Code* and were punishable by a prison sentence
- Groups advocating same-sex rights organized to gain social recognition and demand legal protection against discrimination.

