Purpose: For students to learn about land claim settlements and resource mega projects in Canada. Students will investigate these issues, learning the impact they have on Aboriginal People in Canada.

Estimated time: Two 60-minute class periods

Resources required:
- Computer and internet
- Resources for research (e.g.: books, encyclopedias, etc.)

Activity:
1. Ask students if they have ever been in a dispute over property or possessions. Discuss the feelings generated in these situations.

2. Explain to students that since the time of European settlement, there has been much conflict and debate around Canadian land. Before settlers arrived, First Nations and Inuit People had free range of the land. When European settlers arrived, First Nations and Inuit People had to share the land. Explain to students that in this activity they are going to learn about Aboriginal land claims. From there, they are going to look into various resource mega projects and the impact these have had on Aboriginal People.

3. Ask students to perform independent research around land claims within Canada. Tell students they must select two land claim settlements to analyze, one in which the Aboriginal clients won and another in which they were denied.

4. To assist with their research, direct students to the website created by the Supreme Court of Canada, Lexum and the Research Chief of Legal Information of the Law Faculty at the University of Montreal (scc.lexum.org/en/index.html). Explain that this website holds a collection of decisions rendered by the Supreme Court of Canada. Tell students to perform a keyword search for: Land Claims. In addition, encourage students to research current media sources for breaking news on this topic.

5. Once students have found two examples, ask them to write an analysis of the court decision explaining the following:
   - The reasons why the case was proposed.
   - The location of the land claim (identify this location on a map).
   - Terms involved in the land claim
   - The end result of the case.
   - The advantages and disadvantages of the decision for both parties involved.
   - The impact of the decision on Aboriginal People.

6. When students have completed their analysis, bring the class together and discuss student findings. Together, analyze the location pattern of recent land claims in Canada.

7. Now that students have a firm understanding of land claims, they are going to investigate major resource megaprojects and determine the advantages and disadvantages of these projects as well as their impact on Aboriginal People.

8. Examples of resource megaprojects include:
   - James Bay Hydro complex
   - Athabasca oil sands
   - Hibernia offshore oilfields
   - Diamond mines in the Northwest Territories
   - Mackenzie Valley oil/gas pipeline
   - Highway expansions
   - The Olympic Games

9. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a resource megaproject.

10. Ask groups to research their assigned mega project, collecting evidence, pictures and opinions along the way. Also ask students to research the following information:
   - The purpose of the project.
   - The location of the project.
   - The advantages and disadvantages of the project
   - Differing viewpoints of the project.
   - The people the project impacts.
   - The environmental impact of the project.
   - The future of the area.
   - Affect on the Aboriginal People.

11. Once they have compiled their research, ask groups to present it to the class in a five-minute presentation.

12. When presentations are complete encourage an active class discussion around land claims and resource mega projects in Canada. Encourage students to debate these issues and consider all sides of situations.