

Book review and an apology.

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Dances with Dependency
Indigenous Success through Self-Reliance
by Calvin Darrell Helin
<http://www.spiritorca.com/home.shtml>

If this is out of line or I'm not qualified to comment, then please delete this.

I've not always been the most sympathetic towards the native community because I saw them as dependants on the system, always looking for what the government could do for them.

I knew that they suffered great misfortune, and still do, and I dismissed this as a toxic fixation on the past, and ignored the effect on the people and the community. I didn't realize how damaging and divisive this was to the native community.

This book made me see that the indigenous peoples had a strong, organized, and religious community, before we arrived. I mocked that before but I now correct that. It also made clear that the evil and paternal nature of trying to absorb natives into Canadian culture is wrong. To put it in the proper perspective, Canadians are part of native culture.

The gist of the book is that that natives have huge economic potential, a rising population and need for a solid industry that keeps the money that they get from the feds in their community, more than any casino or rental condominium ever could. Native communities stand to succeed a great deal by recognizing this potential, educating and using their people. By recognizing the problems and moving to their own solutions, natives can break the cycle of dependency and take control of their future in a positive, dominant way.