**The Numbered Treaties Notes**

* In settling the question of land in the West and the indigenous inhabitants, the federal government had three options:
  + 1. Raise an army and kill those that would not recognize the Canadian governments authority.
  + 2. Treat the indigenous population as ‘poor white folks’ and have them take care of themselves.
  + 3. Create treaties which was a practice used already in the United States and Canada for hundreds of years.

Looking Back

* In 1763 King George III signed a Royal Proclamation that recognized indigenous sovereignty over the land West of the British colonies.
* Treaty of Niagara, 1764 – 24 First Nations accept the Proclamation. Others reject it and carry on their war against the British led by Pontiac.
* Unnamed Treaties, 1775-1850 – secured land in Upper Canada
* Douglas Treaties, 1850 – Colony of Vancouver Island negotiates 14 treaties on the southern part of Vancouver Island.

Opening up the West

* The Canadian government was interested in signing treaties with the First Nations people of the West. For a number of reasons:
  + Were currently paying a fee to cross territory
  + Construction of the railroad
  + Ability to move military into the West (Red River Resistance)
  + **Open up the land to immigrants (farming)**

First Nations and Treaties

* The First Nations had a long history of treaty making with Europeans.
* They saw that they were in a strong negotiating position as the Canadian government wasn’t hiding the fact that they wanted to open up the West.
  + This eventually changed as new waves of disease began to hit. Drought also became common in the 1870s and 80s.
* FN people trusted the Canadian government more than the Americans because of their connection to the British crown and because FN were fleeing to Canada from the south in the wake of the American military moving West.

The Numbered Treaties

* 11 treaties were signed between the First Nations and the Canadian government between 1871 and 1921.
* Treaties 1-7 focused on assimilating indigenous peoples.
* Some of the primary provisions of the treaties:
  + Continued access to hunting lands
  + Annuity payments
  + Reserves
  + Farm equipment
  + Education
  + Medicine (treaty 6)

Questions

* If the government purposely kept the FN from the treaty document so that they were ignorant of the specific details, does this constitute fraud on the part of the Canadian government?
* Is it a contradiction to say that Indigenous negotiator knew what they were doing, but then claim they were deceived when it came to a land surrender?
* What about the advisors and interpreters that were with the FNs; doesn’t this mean that they would have had to have been in on the ploy, or also would have had to have been deceived?