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## Abstracts

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Les autochtones

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## ABSTRACTS

Fernand HARVEY: *L'historiographie du Nord-du-Québec*

What overall view can be drawn from documents on Northern Québec that are of historiographical interest? With the aim of establishing a link between that northern region and Southern Québec, an analysis of the main documents devoted to the pioneering frontiers of Euro-Québécois colonization is first undertaken, and leads to the observation that these documents are generally limited to the fringes of the agricultural area. Further north, works of a historical nature have mainly been produced by anthropologists, geographers and sociologists. The few historians who have taken an interest in Northern Québec have mostly concentrated their research on matters related to the fur trade. The historiography of the North is thus found to be separate from and largely disconnected with that of the south, and is largely dependent on disciplines other than history.

Louis-Edmond HAMELIN: *Thèmes de l'autochtonie canadienne*

The vocabulary used to deal with the aboriginal fact is underdeveloped and does not make sufficient use of non-official concepts. «Aboriginal» refers to «not originating elsewhere», to the expression of a line of descent, to connections with the land and to ethnic diversity. Certain characteristics have gone through transformations, in particular the «ways of living», as well as the original cultures. These developments of traditionalism toward modernism, from one way of being different toward another, from one way of fact. But without a sufficient understanding of this dynamic, it would not be possible to imagine, define and apply models of cohabitation.

Norbert ROBITAILLE et Éric GUIMOND: *La situation démographique des groupes autochtones du Québec*

Estimates of the native population in Québec range from barely 50 000 to nearly 140 000. In spite of this lack of precision, we attempt to describe the age structure of this population and to identify its renewal mechanisms: fertility, mortality and ethnic mobility, which has certainly been quite high recently as indicated by the very strong growth in Native populations over the past decade.

Christian COUVRETTE: *La cité ethnique: l'institutionnalisation de la différence*

The author compares two institutional approaches, each of which corresponds to a time in the history of the relations between the State and the native populations: that of the *Indian Act* of 1876 and that of the *James Bay and northern Québec Agreement* of 1975. It concludes that a continuity exists between these two ways of dealing with the ethnic difference: the paradoxical quest for both a better social environment and the integration of the aboriginal populations concerned. This constant has greatly contributed to the establishment of ethnic boundaries in the case of the natives of eastern James Bay.

Dominique COLLIN: *Modernité et tradition dans le discours identitaire autochtone*

The author explores the identity crisis from which young Indians and Inuit say they suffer, and that they most often attribute to culture shock. A qualitative and quantitative analysis of their discourse on ethnic belonging reveals that this crisis is to a large extent the result of the fact that the obligatory reference to tradition makes it difficult to legitimize a contemporary native identity, of a modern form, that is taking shape.

Jean-Jacques SIMARD: *Les dépenses de l'État chez les Cris et les Inuit du Québec depuis la convention de 1975*

The article brings out the main axes of government intervention toward the Crees and Inuit of Québec from the signing of the James Bay Agreement of 1975 until 1990, on the basis of published figures — sometimes incomplete— on the expenditures of the federal and provincial governments, by agency and by mission (infrastructures, education, health, labour and economic development). The federal administration has withdrawn in favour of the province and the regional jurisdictions: a situation which, among the Crees especially, has fostered an unusual form of integration within Québec society, offset by the rise of a «national» political conscience. The Agreement brought in major improvements in the areas of housing, municipal facilities and transportation, but other areas were affected mainly by demographic pressure so that at the end of the day, the governmental expenditures in the area of Northern Québec covered by the agreement, including compensation payments, are comparable to those of the Northwest Territories.

Bernard LAMOTHE et Louise LEMIRE: *Scolarité, développement et activité économique chez les Inuit du Québec arctique*

In spite of significant gains made over the last few years, the study revealed considerably slower development in matters of education in the Inuit living in Northern Québec, when compared to the prevailing situation in the rest of the province and to Canadian aboriginals as a whole. The economy remains heavily dependent on government transfer payments, as well as on employment in the public and para-public sectors. Finally, a relatively large segment of the Inuit population that lives in the area surrounding the future development site would be interested in working on the Great Whale hydroelectric project.

Mireille JETTÉ et Serge CHEVALIER: *Difficultés de mesure et adaptation transculturelle dans l'Enquête Santé Québec auprès des Inuit du Québec nordique*

The Santé Québec Health Survey among the Inuit of Northern Québec (1992) was developed from surveys essentially intended for Caucasian populations of highly industrialized societies. Every step of the conduct of the survey required transcultural adaptations concerning a large array of theoretical and methodological considerations. The article aims to show how theory was articulated to praxis. We will describe the ever-present back and forth motion to and from the measurement theory and the actual field constraints. We discuss the eventual impacts of the decisions made and the actions taken on the data quality.