

Partners in Confederation

Aboriginal Peoples,
Self-Government,
and the
Constitution



Royal Commission
on Aboriginal Peoples

© Minister of Supply and Services Canada 1993

Available in Canada through
your local bookseller
or by mail from
Canada Communication Group – Publishing
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S9

Canadian Cataloguing in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

*Partners in Confederation : aboriginal peoples,
self-government and the Constitution*

Cat. no. Z1-1991/1-41-2E
ISBN 0-660-15187-1

1. Native peoples – Canada – Legal status,
laws, etc. 2. Native peoples – Canada –
Politics and government. I. Canada. Royal
Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. II. Title:
Aboriginal peoples, self-government, and the
Constitution.

E92.P37 1993 342.71'0872 C93-099632-1

Issued also in French under the title:
Partenaires au sein de la Confédération.



Canada	Groupe
Communication	Communication
Group	Canada
Publishing	Édition

Contents

Preface	v
Introduction	1
The Original Status of Aboriginal Peoples	5
Early Relations Between Indigenous Americans and Europeans	10
The <i>Royal Proclamation of 1763</i>	15
The Doctrine of Aboriginal Rights	19
The Process of Constitution Building	22
A Constitutional Watershed: The <i>Constitution Act, 1982</i>	29
Self-Government as a Constitutional Right	31
The Character of Aboriginal Governmental Rights	36
Implementing Self-Government	41
Group Initiatives	43
Treaties and Agreements	45
Federal Action	48
Conclusion	49
Notes	50