



History Program
University of Northern British Columbia



History Master's Theses completed at UNBC



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2006

**“Canadian Indians and the Second World War:
The Pivotal Event of the 20th Century for Canadian Indians
and Canadian Indian Policy?”**

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UNBC Library call number: E92.T66 2006

ABSTRACT

Few Canadian historians have addressed Canadian Native involvement in the Second World War. Historians that have addressed this subject have created narrative histories of Native peoples' involvement in combat and on the home front, with little concern for how Natives' participation in World War II affected Native communities and individuals, or how their participation affected Canadian society as a whole. American historians Kenneth William Townsend and Alison Bernstein have argued that World War II was one of the most significant events of the 20th Century for American Indians and American Indian policy. This thesis argues that the same can be said for Canada. By exploring Canadian Indian involvement in overseas combat, their experiences on the home front, and their experiences following the war's end, this thesis explains that Native involvement in World War II brought about profound changes for native people and Native communities, as well as introducing important changes to Canadian society and Canadian Indian policy. Because Canadian native peoples' involvement in World War II was so pivotal for Canadian Indians and Canadian Indian policy, Canadian historians must explore this facet of Canadian native history in greater detail.