



faculty of NATIVE STUDIES

Bio of...

Frank Tough, Ph.D.

DR. FRANK TOUGH, Associate-Dean (Research), Professor of Native Studies (University of Alberta) and historical geographer is an adjunct with the Department of Rural Economy and recently sojourned as an academic visitor to Department of Economic History (London School of Economics). Tough published *As Their Natural Resources Fail: Native People and the Economic History of Northern Manitoba, 1870-1930* (UBCPress) which received two book awards. Frank Tough has specialized in the post-1870 historical geographies of Aboriginal peoples and has acquired an expertise in a variety of federal government records, several provincial archives, as well as, the more common archival sources (Indian Affairs, missionaries and the Hudson's Bay Company).



Research and publishing relate to several themes (Native economic history, natural resource management, and Treaty and Aboriginal rights) and more specifically, he has published articles/chapters on the transfer of Rupertsland, the economic policies of Indian Affairs after 1870, Indian economic behavior, the demise of Native fisheries, Indian treaties, the *Natural Resources Transfer Agreement* and Métis scrip which disputes the conventional thinking of lawyers and historians. Along with academic research, Tough has served as an expert witness in several court cases concerning Aboriginal and treaty rights. In particular, expertise has been required on the economic history of the Métis. He has also engaged in archival research for the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat, the federal Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Treaty Commissioner Office of Saskatchewan. Current efforts focus on maintaining a research lab which digitizes historical documents, making archival records accessible online through database technology, and training undergraduate students in applied research.



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Tough is qualified to support graduate student interests in several areas: (1) economic history; (2) resource management; (3) research methods; and (4) archival research relating to Aboriginal and Treaty rights. When not spending time in the archives, Tough would prefer to play beach volleyball on a tropical beach.