



## Pimachiowin Aki World Heritage Project Research Summary **Ethno-History 1840 and the Present**

This paper will review the ethno-history of Aboriginal communities in the Pimachiowin Aki area between ca. 1840 and the present. The research will summarize trends affecting the Ojibwe framed around the proposition that early 'culture contact' (the fur trade from the mid 1600s through to about 1821) represented a time of change associated with relative Aboriginal autonomy (non-directed culture change), followed by about 150 years of escalating outside intervention (directed culture change).

Finally, since the 1970s changing legal and political circumstances are leading to the slow emergence of new power relationships between Aboriginal communities and non-Native governments. While culture contact, and colonial administration is generally portrayed as imposing change on Aboriginal people, the story is more complicated.

Traditional harvest, land use, resource sharing protocols, and other aspects of hunter-gatherer life remained the dominant theme throughout the period of study, but involved transformation and adjustment to a host of complex factors. The research will review these transformations while focusing on Aboriginal resilience and adaptability in response to constantly changing circumstances.

[www.pimachiowinaki.org](http://www.pimachiowinaki.org)