Tsuu T’ina
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• Athapaskan (Dene) speakers
• [Website](#)
• Small reserve allocated to them under Treaty 7
• Traditional lands are much larger
The Tsuu T’ina

• Once known as the Sarcee in Calgary
• Traditionally:
  • hunters & gatherers, depended on the buffalo
  • Seasonal migrants
  • Sometimes allied with Blackfoot Confederacy
• Sign Treaty 7 in 1877, giving up much of their land
• Why?
Tsuu T’ina and Landscape Change

• Buffalo herds had collapsed due to overhunting by Europeans etc.,
• European settlers moving in to ranch
Tsuu T’ina

• Still sees itself as a nation, a people
• Led by Chief Big Bull, negotiate a reserve of 7,000 acres SW of Calgary in 1882
• Tsuu T’ina value the trading opportunities
Federal Government

• Orderly treaty surrender process allows government to obtain aboriginal land, resources
• Anticipates aboriginals will disappear/assimilate eventually
• Hopes to offset costs of supporting aborigians by sale of reserves, land assets
Calgary

• Business interests envy the real estate, mineral wealth of the Tsuu T’ina
• Ranchers want to raise cattle on Tsuu T’ina land
• Homesteaders want to settle Tsuu T’ina land
• White perception that the reserve is wasted on the Indians
Calgary

- Once tried to keep the Indians out of town
  - Pass laws
- But wants them to show up in full regalia for the Stampede
Pressure on Reserve

• Federal officials try to persuade Tsuu T’ina to surrender/sell part of reserve
  • Tsuu T’ina unwilling
• Calgary, local business interests pester the Tsuu T’ina and federal officials
• Eventually the Tsuu T’ina agree to a limited surrender, Feb 1913
  • Their economic situation had deteriorated
The Surrender

- Tsuu T’ina get a $50,000 advance on the anticipated sale of 1650 acres
- Rest of the money is never paid
- Calgary tries to get land for a park
- The Canadian Military gets the land
  - Gives 334 acres to Calgary, city builds a reservoir
- Tsuu T’ina now seeking redress
Fig. 1. Map of Tsuu T'ina Nation and approximate occupied area of Calgary, 1913.
Tsuu T’ina

- Calgary is booming esp. after 1961
- Urban sprawl reaching out to the Tsuu T’ina reserve (and triangle)
- New pressures
• Sandford Big Plume, recent Chief
Grey Eagle Resort & Casino

- Opened 2014