

## **Ipperwash Report : Summary**

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This comprehensive report issued by Commissioner Linden is made up of four volumes which are meant to answer questions such as:

- *How could a peaceful protest turn violent?*
- *What was the urgency in taking actions?*
- *What is the role of the provincial and federal governments?, and*
- *Was racism a factor?*

Volume one of the report talks about the commissioner's findings. Volume two is the analysis of policy issues. Volume three describes the inquiry process. And most importantly, volume four is the executive summary.

During the inquiry, the commissioner found that the government had a different perspective than the OPP as to how to handle the situation. While the OPP favoured a "go slow" approach, the government wanted the occupation to be dealt with quickly even though there was no reason to justify a risky and fast resolution.

Furthermore, it is also noted that there was cultural insensitivity and racism in the part of the government and some OPP officers towards Aboriginal people, their history and the land claims. And both the occupiers and the OPP had the wrong impression as to each other's intentions; a factor that was very significant.

However, there were not only poor relationships between the government and police with Aboriginal people, the relationship between the police and the government themselves also lacked understanding and suffered from poor communication, which in turn increased tensions and contributed to the situation.

Justice Linden also concluded that there was no "single person, fact, decision or situation" responsible for the death of Mr. George, "on the contrary, it was a combination of these that made a violent result more likely...".

Aside from the inquiry finding, the report also contains recommendation sfor the government to help them deal with situations such as Ipperwash. He recommends that the government make the return of the land to Aboriginal people, along with compensation and an apology, a priority.

Moreover, he indicates that the government must improve its relationship with Aboriginal people in order to deal with land claim issues with respect. In order to do that, he also recommends establishing a Treaty Commission in Ontario to speed up "the peaceful, effective and fair resolution of land claims in Ontario", as well as creating a provincial Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Ipperwash Report, its findings and recommendations or any other information relating to the inquiry, you can check out the official website at : <http://www.ipperwashinquiry.ca> .