

✘ Potential Response Guide: Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada’s Constitution

There is no single set of correct answers to the case study card placement activity in *Civic Action, Then and Now*. Many cards could comfortably fit in more than one category: the discussion and reasoning are more important than the answers.

However, here is one possible set of responses that may be helpful to teachers.

Participating as an Individual

1	Join a national protest Individuals gave up several days to travel by train from Vancouver to Ottawa to protest on Parliament Hill.
2	Donate money Individuals donated money to cover the \$90,000 cost of renting two trains to bring protesters from Vancouver to Ottawa.
3	Bring food At stops along the way, people brought food and gifts for the train passengers to help them on their journey.
4	Provide support The Mayor of Ottawa personally welcomed protesters who arrived by train.
5	Step up as a leader George Manuel, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, came up with the idea of the “Constitution Express” train.

Working Together as a Group

1	<p>Bring leaders together</p> <p>Hundreds of chiefs and elders from all provinces and territories (except Alberta) held the first All Canada Chiefs Assembly so they could work together on constitutional issues.</p>
2	<p>Create a way for people to take part</p> <p>The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs rented two trains to bring groups of protesters from Vancouver to Ottawa.</p>
3	<p>Set up an action committee</p> <p>The Inuit Committee on National Issues was created to present Inuit views on Canada's Constitution.</p>
4	<p>Coordinate activities</p> <p>First Nations groups arranged marches on Parliament Hill and at provincial legislatures.</p>
5	<p>Create a new national organization</p> <p>The National Indian Brotherhood changed the way it was organized and became the Assembly of First Nations.</p>

Building Public Support

1	<p>Educate others</p> <p>First Nations activists organized a campaign to educate the public about Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.</p>
2	<p>Take it to the world</p> <p>First Nations leaders travelled to Britain, Europe and the United Nations to tell an international audience about their cause.</p>
3	<p>Make it visible</p> <p>About 1,000 First Nations protesters attracted attention by travelling from Vancouver to Ottawa aboard a train they called the “Constitution Express.”</p>
4	<p>Talk to the media</p> <p>When the “Constitution Express” train arrived in Ottawa, First Nations activists spoke with journalists who spread the word about Aboriginal rights.</p>
5	<p>Build community awareness</p> <p>The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs organized workshops across the province to educate First Nations communities about rights and treaty issues.</p>

Working Through the Political System

1	<p>Lobby British lawmakers</p> <p>Over 200 First Nations Chiefs travelled to England to meet British parliamentarians and convince them that Aboriginal rights needed to be protected.</p>
2	<p>Make presentations</p> <p>First Nations, Métis and Inuit groups made many formal written and verbal presentations to the Canadian parliamentary committee that was working on the Constitution.</p>
3	<p>Meet with the Governor General</p> <p>On behalf of the National Indian Brotherhood, National Chief Noel Starblanket met with the Governor General of Canada.</p>
4	<p>Petition the Queen</p> <p>First Nations Chiefs took a petition to Queen Elizabeth (as head of state) to ask her and the British government to delay patriating the Constitution.</p>
5	<p>Discuss with Canadian decision makers</p> <p>First Nations, Métis and Inuit leaders met with politicians and government officials at all levels to express their concerns about the wording of the Constitution.</p>
6	<p>Work with elected representatives</p> <p>Aboriginal activists asked Peter Ittinuar, the only Inuk member of Parliament, to arrange meetings with key decision makers on Parliament Hill.</p>