**Chapter Outline**

to accompany

*Indigenous Peoples within Canada: A Concise History*, Fifth Edition

Dickason, Newbigging, and Miller

**Chapter 4: On the Eastern Edge of the Mainland**

This chapter explores the relationships that would develop between the French, English, and various Indigenous nations as the two European nations moved into the mainland of North America. The chapter begins with the well-known first encounter between Jacques Cartier and the Stadakohnan chief Donnakoh-Noh. Cartier’s voyages and travels up the St Lawrence to Hochelaga are traced, along with an outline of his eventual kidnapping of Donnakoh-Noh and his two sons. The chapter then turns attention to Samuel de Champlain and his trading relationship with the Innu. As a result of this alliance, the Innu were able to control the early fur trade, and Tadoussac became the centre of the Gulf of St Lawrence trade. The relationships that existed were not without problems, and the friction had ramifications for both the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas and the French. Frictions ranged from confrontations involving death to more minor misunderstandings that were viewed as insults because either protocol was not followed, or expectations were unclear and confusing. Further, when relationships did not work out, Indigenous Peoples adapted to the situations and would play European nations off against each other.

Once the French moved further inland, formed a new trading partnership with the Wendat, and established Montreal, the importance of the Innu and Tadoussac diminished. As the French expanded their control in North America, they looked at New France and Acadia not simply as trading outposts but as colonies. That viewpoint was reinforced by France’s belief that they owned these areas by right of discovery and that the Indigenous populations were at best French subjects. This, of course, allowed the French to discount any semblance of Indigenous sovereignty. This was demonstrated when, under the Treaty of Utrecht, the French ceded Acadia to the English without mentioning Indigenous Peoples, who had been French allies and were occupying the territory.

The chapter concludes by analyzing the relationship that developed between the French and Wabanaki and the latter’s refusal to be used as pawns between European groups. In the end, the Wabanaki associated with the French as a strategy for making the best out of a bad predicament. Further, regardless of the European power asserting a claim, it was always evident that Indigenous Peoples recognized their own sovereign status over their lands.