 **Zoom in Case Study:**

***National Aboriginal Day***

**Summer Solstice**

* The summer solstice – the longest day for the Northern Hemisphere – usually falls on June 21;
* Some Aboriginal groups in Canada have always celebrated the solstice;
* The idea of a nationally recognized day for Aboriginal peoples in Canada was first proposed in 1982 by the National Indian Brotherhood (now the Assembly of First Nations);
* In 1996, Governor-General Romeo LeBlanc made it official.

**The Proclamation**

* Whereas the Aboriginal peoples of Canada have made and continue to make valuable contributions to Canadian society and it is considered appropriate that there be, in each year, a day to mark and celebrate these contributions and to recognize the different cultures of the Aboriginal peoples of Canada… Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council… hereby directs that a proclamation do issue declaring June 21 of each year as “National Aboriginal Day.”

**Aboriginal Recognition**

* “Everything that is going on today is in recognition of the contributions made by Aboriginal people. It’s a day to come together and celebrate. A day to educate non-Aboriginal people about the different cultures and diversity.”
  + Lisa Nidosky, Métis, Regina

**Conclusion**

* National Aboriginal Day is an invitation for all Canadians to learn about Aboriginal heritage by attending their celebrations;
* The day reflects Canada’s commitment to multiculturalism – recognizing the value of all cultures.