

Towards a Multicultural Land Tenure Model for Cross-Cultural Tenure Systems

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ABSTRACT

The need to understand and resolve land tenure problems before developing any systematic land use or resource use policies was pointed out by Denman & Prodana in 1972. This need still persists today, particularly for countries that have various land tenure systems operating simultaneously in their jurisdictions - such as aboriginal and European-based land tenure systems.

Most attempts at describing, analyzing and comparing aboriginal tenure systems with colonially introduced tenure systems have tended to be done from the perspective of the colonially-introduced Euro-centric tenure systems. One consequence of this has been that aboriginal tenure systems continue to be misunderstood, underrated or ignored by most land administrations across the world. This paper will discuss the development of a multicultural land tenure model that is aimed at obtaining an understanding of cross-cultural land tenure systems and their problems, from a perspective that is neither Euro-centric or Aboriginally-biased. The model is evaluated by applying it to mainland Nova Scotia, in eastern Canada.

You can easily judge the character of a man by how he treats those who can do nothing for him.
(James D. Miles)

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