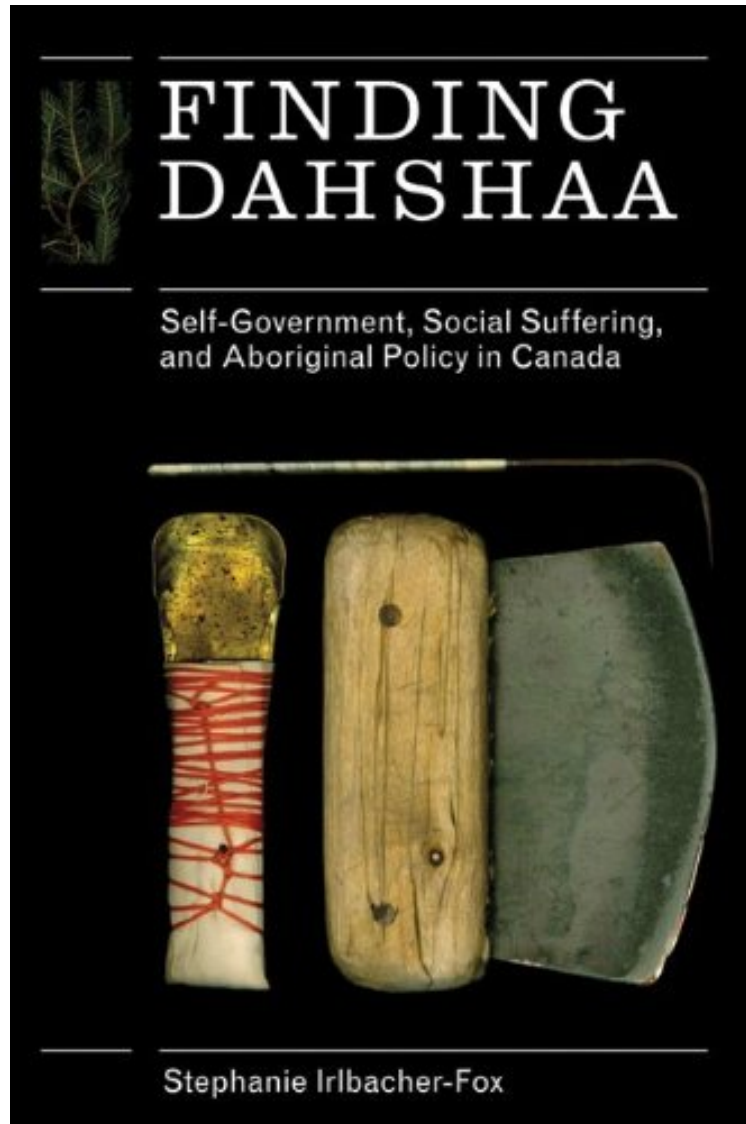


[Download] Finding Dahshaa: Self-Government, Social Suffering, and Aboriginal Policy in Canada

# Finding Dahshaa: Self-Government, Social Suffering, and Aboriginal Policy in Canada

*Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox*

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#4858565 in Books 2010-03-09 2010-02-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.80 x .60 x 6.10l, .70 #File Name: 0774816252216 pages | File size: 52.Mb

**Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox : Finding Dahshaa: Self-Government, Social Suffering, and Aboriginal Policy in Canada** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Finding Dahshaa: Self-Government, Social Suffering, and Aboriginal Policy in Canada:

Just as dahshaa--a rare type of dried, rotted spruce wood--is essential to the Dene moosehide-tanning process, self-determination and the alleviation of social suffering are necessary to Indigenous survival in the Northwest Territories. Finding Dahshaa shows where self-government negotiations between Canada and the Dehcho, Dln, and Inuvialuit and Gwichin peoples have gone wrong and offers an alternative model for negotiations through descriptions of tanning practices that embody the principles and values of self-determination. An informed and passionate account, with a foreword by Dene National Chief Bill Erasmus, Finding Dahshaa is the first ethnographic study of self-government negotiations in Canada.

This book is an important contribution to the study of the relationship between the Dene and Canada. Dr. Irlbacher-Fox is non-Indigenous, and she has spent most of her life living and working in Denendeh among the Dene, Metis, and Inuvialuit peoples. She has listened to us using both her mind and her heart, which shows in the passion and conviction she conveys in her research and writing. I welcome her contribution to bringing to light aspects of both the strength and the struggles of the Dene. From the Foreword by Bill Erasmus, Dene National Chief "Finding Dahshaa" draws on Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox's extensive hands-on negotiating experience, and formidable research and academic skills, to offer badly needed analysis of past and current issues impeding progress on aboriginal self-government in the Mackenzie Valley. I recommend this book. Mary Simon, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox understands what it is to work through political negotiations in the attempt to achieve justice for Indigenous peoples. Her rootedness in the North and her years of dedicated experience working with Indigenous organizations have prepared her to take on the challenge of conveying essential truths about the struggle for justice in Denendeh. The insights and knowledge conveyed in this powerful work of criticism, analysis and self-reflection are truly valuable. In her work we see manifest a love for the land, for the water, for the fish, for the caribou and for the Dene people. Stephanie Irlbacher-Fox is a unique creature, a white lady from Yellowknife who can tan hides good, and an outstanding scholar who, in producing "Finding Dahshaa," has provided us with one of the most deeply thought, thoroughly experienced, and honest reflections on Indigenous politics written to date. Taiaiake Alfred, author of Wasese: Indigenous Pathways of Action and Freedom In my opinion "Finding Dahshaa" is the best study of why self-government negotiations in the North are not working well and how they can be made to work for the wellbeing of Aboriginal and nonAboriginal partners. I highly recommend this profound, gamechanging study to all concerned with the future of cooperation between Aboriginal and nonAboriginal peoples. James Tully, Distinguished Professor, University of Victoria From the Inside Flap Just as dahshaa--a rare type of dried, rotted spruce wood--is essential to the Dene moosehide-tanning process, self-determination and the alleviation of social suffering are necessary to Indigenous survival in the Northwest Territories. Finding Dahshaa shows where self-government negotiations between Canada and the Dehcho, Dln, and Inuvialuit and Gwichin peoples have gone wrong and offers an alternative model for negotiations through descriptions of tanning practices that embody the principles and values of self-determination.