



## Canada: Papaschase First Nation opens gas station in Alberta

**The site was a Petro Canada's corporate asset but the company sold it in an act of reconciliation.**

For the first time, a First Nation is operating a gas station in Edmonton, Alberta. Papaschase First Nation took over this month the long-standing Petro Canada location on Calgary Trail between 23 Avenue and 34 Avenue, reports Global News.

"This land was illegally taken in 1888 by the federal government... Three people only agreed to the surrender. Meanwhile, there's more that could have voted and they never were consulted," explained Chief Calvin Bruneau.

The site's history will be on display inside the store. In addition to the in-store information pannels, the Edmonton's city council will distribute brochures to disseminate Papaschase's history.

Art, including jewelry and dream catchers, and food like bannock will be sold in the location. All 20 employees are Indigenous.

"We want to have our own people there. We want people used to that idea of seeing our people behind the till and at the pumps," Bruneau said. "It's also helping our people too, with employment."

The council hopes this station will be the beginning of more ventures for the First Nation, as it looks to expand in the future.