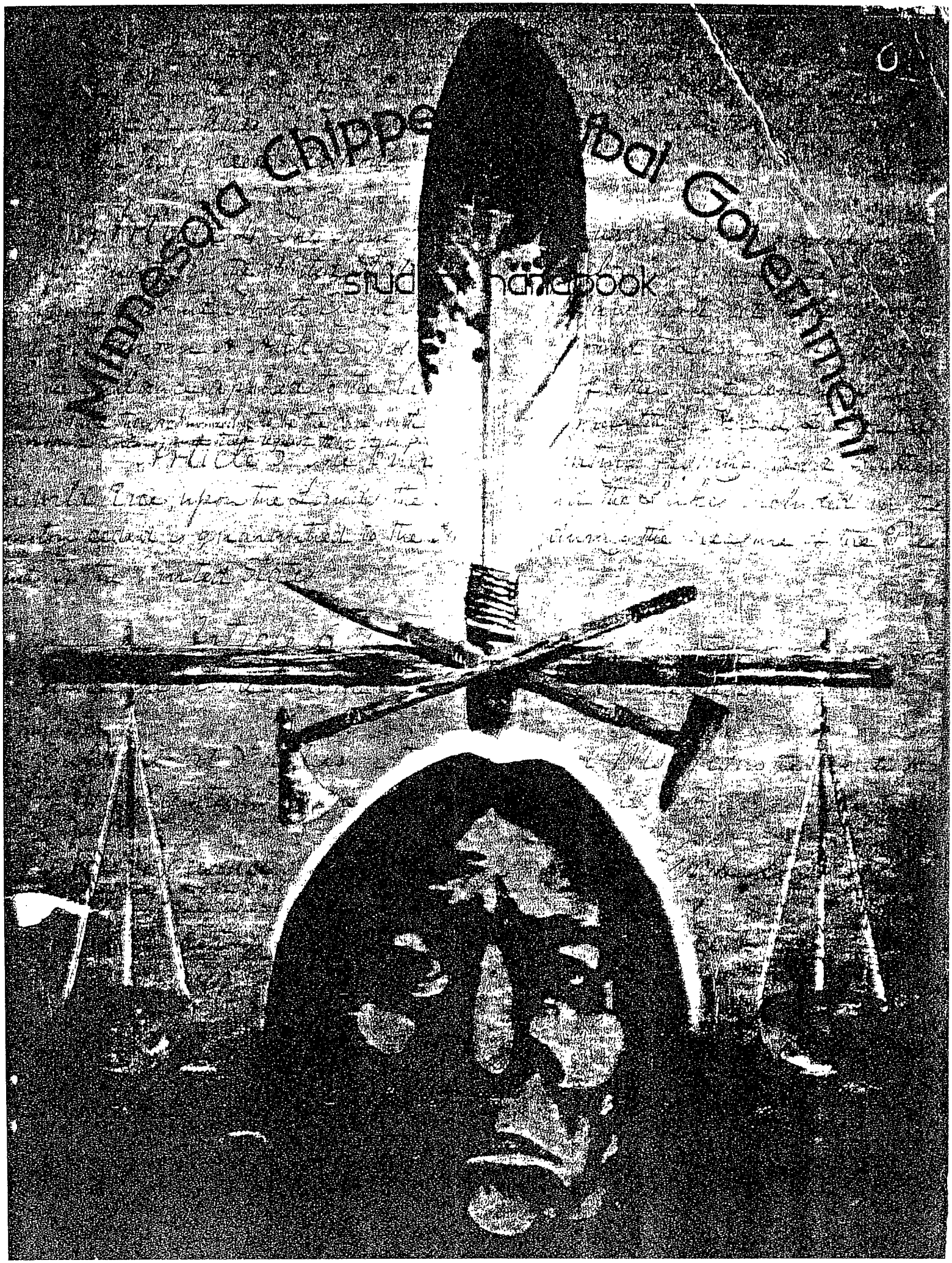
Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Government

student handbook



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FOREWORD

"Although the Indian is well known in Minnesota through folklore and place names, and although most people when asked express some curiosity, some interest, and real sympathy for the group, there exists considerable misinformation and misunderstanding about the Indian in Minnesota. Many intelligent and well-informed persons still picture the Indian in a teepee, while others believe he is the recipient of an allowance paid by the federal government. Few realize that the Indian is a citizen both of this nation and of the state and that as such he is entitled to share in all the benefits and privileges of that citizenship."

The above statement was part of a report by the Governor's Interracial Commission of Minnesota entitled **The Indian in Minnesota** dated 1952. Unfortunately, this statement is as true in 1978 as it was over a quarter of a century ago. The relationship between Minnesota's largest minority group and the general public today remains about the same.

This course is a sincere attempt to clarify some of the misinformation and misunderstanding about the legal status, inherent and negotiated rights, past and present legislation, and programs and services of The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. This course is also a review of the historical circumstances of white settlement in Minnesota showing the condition of Indian affairs here has been and still is a complicated subject of much concern due to federal trust relationships.

It is hoped this course, through the education process, will dispel many of the myths of the federal and legal status of Indian people, and provide a more harmonious relationship between Indian and non-Indian students in the public school system and the adults of the general public.

This unit on Minnesota Chippewa Tribal Government begins with the form of government known to the Chippewa before contact with European people and shortly thereafter. Ensuing activity from that contact until the present time brought the need for certain agreements. These agreements came about in the way of treaties, legislative acts, congressional policy and administrative directives. The current tribal structure was formed from those legal policies and is more actively working towards equitable interpretation for today's and tomorrow's Chippewa people.

William Schaaf
Charles Robertson
Curriculum Developers
The Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

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