Traditional Micmac people dealt with disputes through mobility: one or both parties simply left. In the twentieth century, settlement and increasingly valuable housing removed this option. The people responded with a novel, ingenious and complex system of nested territories to provide for the safety of the people by defusing disputes. To support this system, they invented a new legal system, one which was neither traditional nor borrowed. This unique legal system intentionally promotes disunity, and thereby empirically disproves the contention of centuries of legal scholarship which argue that the ultimate goal of all law is to maintain group unity.