
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

DID YOU KNOW?

The Indian residential school system was based on the clearly stated goals of assimilating Indians, deemed to be the most effective way to “civilize” the Indians.

“...[I]f anything is to be done with the Indian, we must catch him very young. The children must be kept constantly within the circle of civilized conditions.”

Nicholas Flood Davin, “Report on Industrial Schools for Indians and Half-Breeds,” 1879.

150,000

Estimated amount of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, between the ages of 4 and 16 ages old

139

Amount of Indian residential schools identified within the Indian Residential School (IRS) Settlement Agreement*

*It is to be noted that there were a number of other schools that were funded by the provincial government and/or a religious order. These schools are not included in the IRS Settlement

Indian residential schools operated in all Canadian provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland

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DID YOU KNOW?

Many of the government-funded residential schools were run by churches of various denominations, with the majority administered by Roman Catholics. Between 1867 and 1939, the number of schools operating at one time peaked at 80 in 1931. Of those schools:

44 were operated by Roman Catholics

21 were operated by the Church of England/Anglican Church of Canada

13 were operated by the United Church of Canada

2 were operated by Presbyterians

1 in 25

Odds of dying for children in Indian residential schools

1 in 26

Odds of dying for Canadians serving in World War 2

Total number of schools over time:

139

Share of the schools operated by the Roman Catholic Church:

up to 60%

Years the residential schools program operated: **1883-1996**

Note: Some residential schools closed in 1997 but were no longer federally run

Indian residential schools operated in all Canadian provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

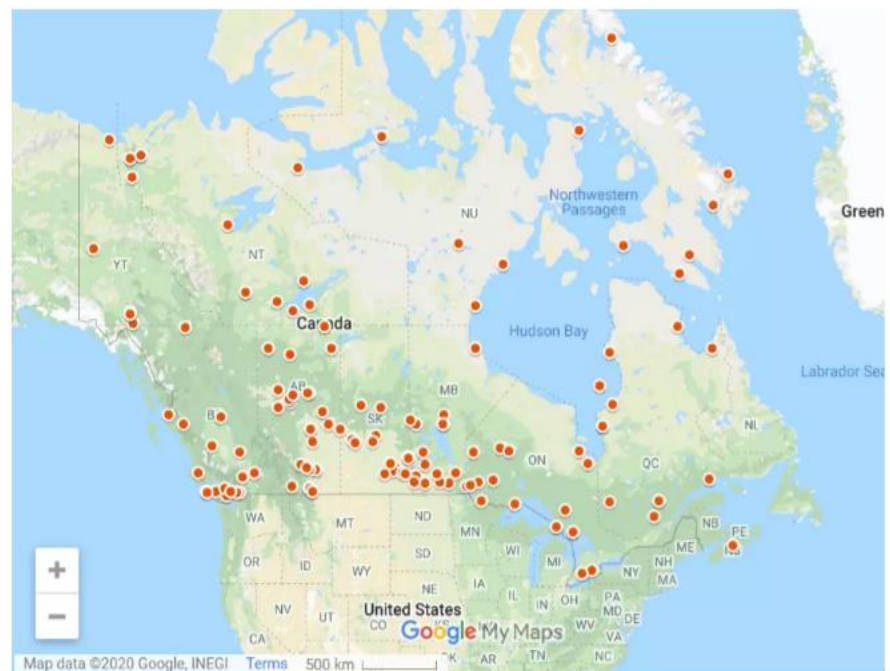
Source: Anishniabek.ca and Truth & Reconciliation Report

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS WHERE WERE THEY LOCATED?

From the 1870s to the 1990s Canada, often in partnership with leading church organizations, operated a residential school system to which over 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students were sent.

While the federal residential school system began around 1883, the origins of the residential school system can be traced to as early as the 1830s – long before Confederation in 1867 – when the Anglican Church established a residential school in Brantford, Ont. Prior to this point, churches had built schools specifically for Indigenous children since the mid-1600s. Through this early period, these mission schools were primarily located in Eastern Canada, but as missions and colonial efforts moved west of the Great Lakes, so did the schools.

The map on The Canadian Encyclopedia was created using data provided by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, and therefore only includes schools listed in the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.



Residential Schools in Canada Interactive Map

History, politics, arts, science & more: the Canadian Encyclopedia is your reference on Canada. Articles, timelines & resources for teachers, students & public.

[thecanadianencyclopedia.ca](https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca)

Source: Google Maps and Natural Resources Canada

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

94 CALLS TO ACTION

Upon closing, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission issued 94 Calls to Action in order to "redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation." The proposed actions call on levels of government to work together to repair the harm caused by residential schools and begin the process of reconciliation.

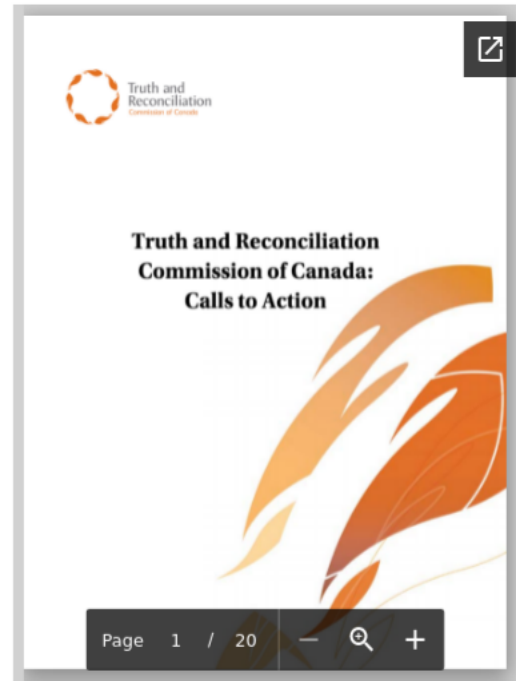
The calls to action are divided into the following categories:

Legacy

- Child welfare
- Education
- Language and culture
- Health
- Justice

Reconciliation

- Canadian governments and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People
- Royal Proclamation and Covenant of Reconciliation
- Settlement agreement parties and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Equity for Indigenous people in the legal system
- National Council for Reconciliation
- Professional development and training for public servants
- Church apologies and reconciliation
- Education for reconciliation
- Youth programs
- Museums and archives
- Missing children and burial information
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Commemoration
- Media and reconciliation
- Sports and reconciliation
- Business and reconciliation
- Newcomers to Canada



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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LISTEN

With the discovery of human remains at numerous residential schools, it is important to not label the emotions and reactions of the Indigenous community. Listen to and respect Indigenous communities as they work through their grief about residential schools and other colonial legacies.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Take the time to learn about residential schools, racism and prejudice against Indigenous peoples, and the discrimination they still face today. **DO NOT** ask Indigenous individuals to educate you on what is happening. This can be exceedingly traumatic. Please do your own research!

Read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report, "The Survivors Speak" which shares first-hand accounts from residential school survivors.

Watch "We Were Children", a 2021 Canadian documentary film about the experiences of First Nations children in the residential school system. You can rent this for \$2.95 from nfb.ca

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ADVOCACY - GOVERNMENT

REMEMBER: Each level of government and political party has benefited from colonization.

ACCOUNTABILITY FROM GOVERNMENTS

Hold the federal, provincial, and municipal governments accountable. Ask them directly about how they will take action on the 94 Calls to Action (TRC). This is for all political parties including the Liberal Party, the Conservative Party, the New Democratic Party, the Bloc Québécois, and the Green Party of Canada.

Hold accountable those who are currently in power. Email, call or ask to have meetings with them. Do your research about the promises they have made in political venues, in articles or in interviews.

Follow up with the opposition parties to see what they are doing and track what they have promised to do if they become the majority party.

PETITIONS

If you are writing petitions to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario or to the House of Commons, make sure they meet the requirements before asking people to sign it.

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ADVOCACY

ACCOUNTABILITY FROM CHURCHES

Churches directly involved with the residential schools:

- Roman Catholic Church
- Church of England/Anglican Church of Canada
- United Church of Canada
- The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Read the churches websites to see how they are taking part in reconciliation. The Anglican, United and Presbyterian churches have all made formal apologies; however, the Pope has yet to make a formal apology. Demand that the Roman Catholic churches fully release their documentation and records from residential schools.

USE OF LANGUAGE

Do not use "Our Indigenous people" or "Canada's Indigenous people".

ADVOCATE

- Advocate for more funding for traditional healing methods such as sharing circles, connections to Elders etc.
- Speak up for Indigenous communities at your school, in your workplace, in healthcare facilities etc.
- Advocate for cultural training and awareness within healthcare, education, and social services

Source: @Danishinaabe