



‘Namwayut

WE ARE ALL ONE

**A New Way Forward for Aboriginal
Peoples and all Canadians**

BC Centre of Employment Excellence
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GILAKASLA

Introduction:
change the base of conversations.

What is your name (traditional if you have one)?

*What is your cultural identity, where do your
ancestors come from?*

History and Impacts of Indian Residential School and Inter-generational Trauma



150,000 Aboriginal Children





Generation after Generation For Over 130 Years

1840's – First Indian Residential Schools (IRS)

1861 – First IRS in BC (St. Mary's in Mission)

1907 – Reported that 42% of the children in Residential Schools died before the age of 16

1996 – Last IRS closes in Saskatchewan

Mandate

“Kill the Indian in the child”



Thomas Moore before and after his entrance into the Regina Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan in 1874.

Library and Archives Canada / NL-022474

- **130** residential schools operated in Canada
- Over **1/3** of Aboriginal children in Canada attended
- By 1947: death rate was **48%**

Cultural genocide is the systematic destruction of traditions, values, language, and other elements which make one group of people distinct from other groups.

Assimilation

1867 – Indian Act of Canada

- Defined the ‘Status’ of Indians as non-persons;
Savages...uncivilized and close to nature
- Unfit to govern own affairs; wards of the state
- Government mandated to manage and assign lands and resources

1884 – Founding Prime Minister, Sir John A McDonald

“We must ... by slow degree educate generation after generation, until the nature of the animal almost is changed by the nature of the surroundings.”



Eradicate the Indian Problem

- 1907 – Dr. Peter Bryce, Medical Inspector, DIA

“System wide 50% of the children who passed through these schools did not live to benefit from the education which they had received within.”

- 1920 – Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent DIA

“I want to get rid of the Indian problem until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question and no Indian department.”

Isolated

Cut off from the “heathen” influences of their parents, families and communities

Confined within the walls and gates of the schools for:

- 10 to 12 month of the year
- For up to 15 years
- Withholding presents and letters from family

Corporal Punishment and Sexual Assault

Children endured...	
Burning or scalding	Intentional contamination with diseased blankets
Beatings until unconscious and/or inflicting permanent injury	Public strip and genitalia searches
Electrical shock	Sexual assaults
Force-feeding of their own vomit when sick	Forced abortions of staff impregnated girls
Public beatings of naked children	Being locked in closets & cages
Exposure to freezing outside temperatures	
Starvation (as punishment)	

The Cumulative Impact

...is a legacy of unresolved trauma passed from generation to generation that has had a profound effect on the relationships between Aboriginal peoples and all Canadians.

Excerpt from the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada website

Legacy Issues / Current Realities



More than **three times** the number of Aboriginal children are placed in care **today** than in the height of Residential Schools in Canada

Photo: National Collaborating Centre for Aboriginal Health

Story of Reconciliation

Shelley Joseph

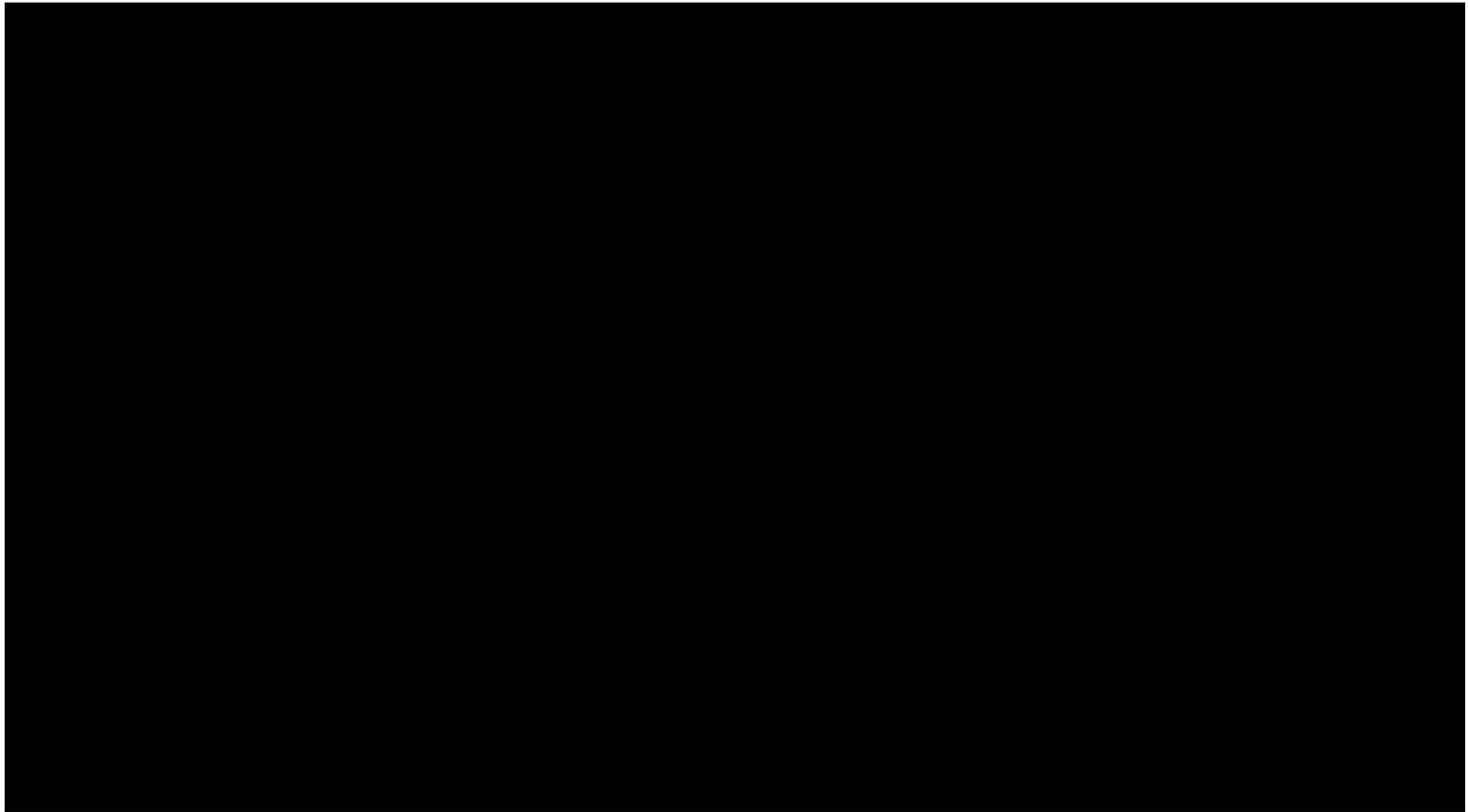
The Time is Now to Move Forward

- **2/3^{rds} of Canadians** believe that Canadians with no experience in Indian Residential School System have a role to play in reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Environics Research for Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada and Truth and Reconciliation Commission



EVEN OUR ELDERS SAY SO



HOW DO WE DO THAT?

- BEGIN THE CONVERSATION
- BE COURAGOUS
- STAY THE COURSE

What is Reconciliation?

What does reconciliation mean to me?

Why is reconciliation meaningful to me?

Planning for a Future of Reconciliation

What action towards reconciliation can I take in my own personal life?

What action towards reconciliation can I take as a Canadian?

CLOSING

- Q & A
- For more information and resources;

www.reconciliationcanada.ca