



TRC Calls to Action and Indigenous Recognition

June 14, 2021



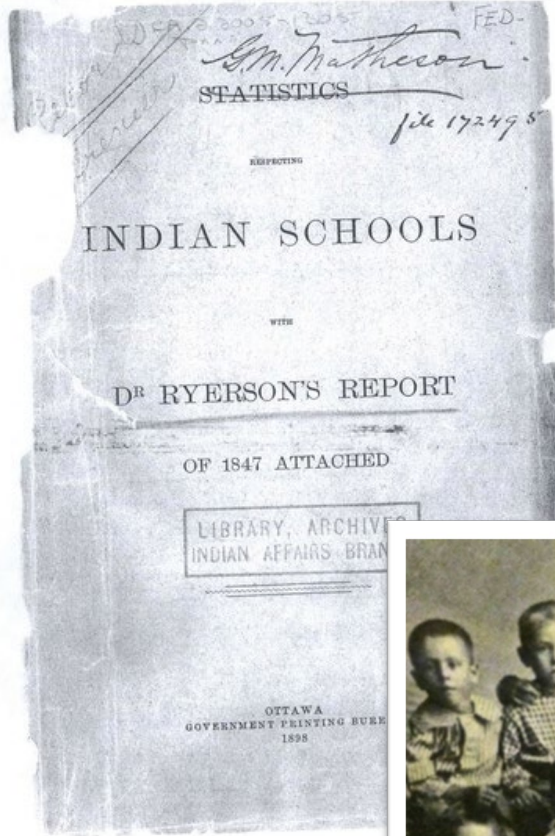
SAINT JOHN

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1. The Residential School System

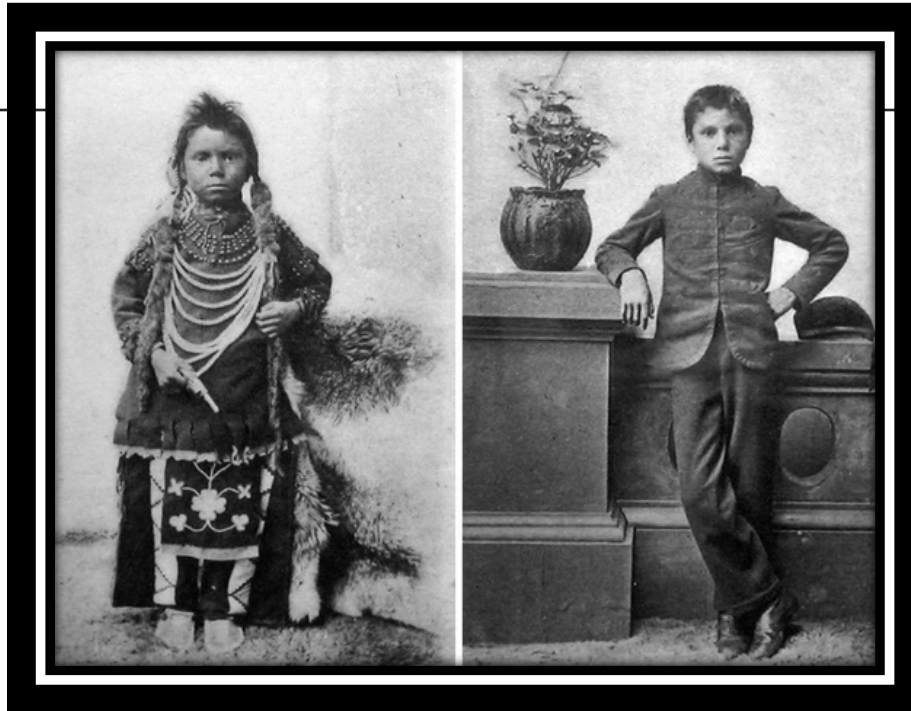
Before there can be reconciliation, there must be truth...



1. The Residential School System

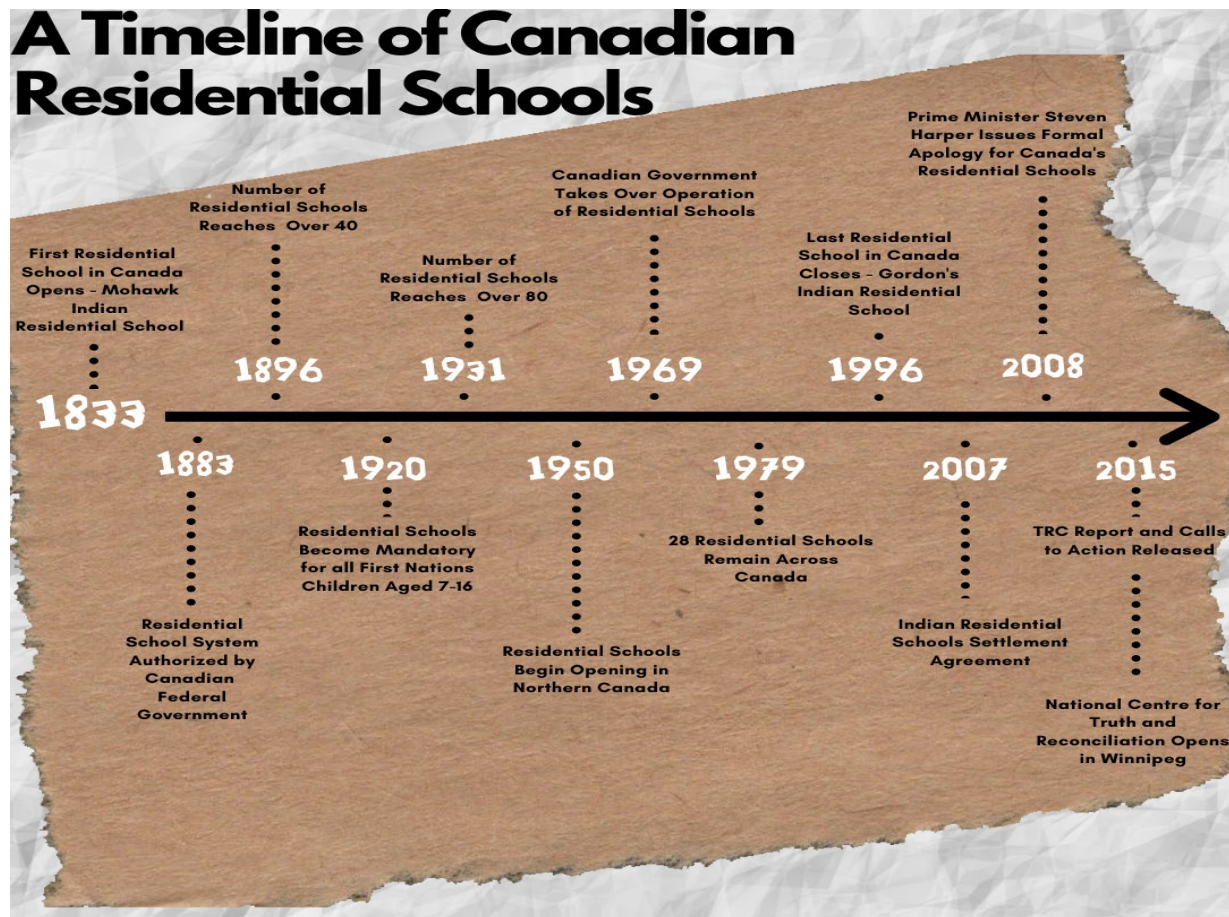
“When the school is on the reserve, the child lives with its parents, who are savages, and though he may learn to read and write, his habits and training mode of thought are Indian. He is simply a savage who can read and write. It has been strongly impressed upon myself, as head of the Department, that Indian children should be withdrawn as much as possible from the parental influence, and the only way to do that would be to put them in central training industrial schools where they will acquire the habits and modes of thought of white men.”

- Sir John A. Macdonald
1879



Thomas Moore Keesick,
circa. 1891

1. The Residential School System



1. The Residential School System

The continuing legacy of residential schools:

“The legacy of the residential school system continues to impact Indigenous people, families, and communities. On its doorstep we can lay the responsibility for the high poverty rates, the large number of Indigenous children in foster care, the disproportionate number of incarcerated Indigenous people, and the hundreds of missing and murdered Indigenous women.”

- From “21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act” by Bob Joseph

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

- TRC created through a legal settlement between Residential Schools Survivors, the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit representatives and the parties responsible for creation and operation of the schools: the federal government and the church bodies.
- Final Report in 2015 – 94 Calls to Action



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

The TRC Final Report concluded that:

- Between 6,000-15,000 children died or disappeared at or following their attendance at Residential Schools. In total, approximately 150,000 children attended residential schools. Many of the children who died have not yet been found.
- “Cultural Genocide”: the “destruction of those structures and practices that allow the group to continue as a group.” A coherent policy to eliminate Aboriginal people as a distinct peoples and force assimilation.
- The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – 2019 – included 231 Individual Calls to Justice.

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

The recent announcement of the discovery of the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3, at the site of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia, by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation, announced on May 27, 2021, has reminded Canada of the very real need to address the Calls to Action.



2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

“From the outset, this Commission has emphasized that reconciliation is not a one-time event, it is a multi-generational journey that involves all Canadians.”

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

Direct Calls to Action for Municipalities (43, 47, 57, 75, and 77)

43. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.

47. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to repudiate concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous peoples and lands, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and to reform those laws, government policies and litigation strategies that continue to rely on such concepts.

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

Direct Calls to Action for Municipalities (42, 47, 57, 75, and 77) – continued

57. We call upon federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to provide education to public servants on the history of Aboriginal peoples, including the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights, and anti-racism.

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

Direct Calls to Action for Municipalities (42, 47, 57, 75, and 77) – continued

75. We call upon the federal government to work with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, churches, Aboriginal communities, former residential school students, and current landowners to develop and implement strategies and procedures for the ongoing identification, documentation, maintenance, commemoration, and protection of residential school cemeteries or other sites at which residential school children were buried. This is to include the provision of appropriate memorial ceremonies and commemorative markers to honour the deceased children.

2. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Calls to Action

Direct Calls to Action for Municipalities (42, 47, 57, 75, and 77) – continued

77. We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Indirect Calls to Action for municipalities: 3, 17, 23, 40, 55, 64, 87, and 88

3. Land Acknowledgments

A land acknowledgment is a statement made to recognize the long history of Indigenous populations on the land before European contact and colonization and land acknowledgments demonstrate active thought about what happened in the past and creates space for Indigenous reconciliation to happen in the present and future.

3. Land Acknowledgement

Consultations with:

- Deputy Clerk of the New Brunswick Legislature
- Lawyer for the First Nations in New Brunswick
- The Wolastoqey Nation in New Brunswick (representing the 6 Wolastoqey communities in New Brunswick)
- City Solicitors for Moncton and Fredericton
- Manager of First Nations Relations and Special Projects for the City of Fredericton
- Mykayla Spinney of Eastern Circle
- Chief George Ginnish and Chief Rebecca Knockwood of Mi'gmawe'l Tplu'taqnn Inc
- The Honourable Graydon Nicholas

We are indebted to the members of the Indigenous community who granted us their time and knowledge in the effort to establish a land acknowledgment for the City of Saint John, particularly following the discovery of the remains of 215 Indigenous children at a former residential school in Kamloops, BC.

3. City of Saint John Land Acknowledgement

The land on which the City of Saint John/Menaquesk is situated is the traditional territory of the Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet. The Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet along with their Indigenous neighbours, the Mi'Kmaq/Mi'kmaw and Passamaquoddy/Peskotomuhkati signed Peace and Friendship Treaties with the British Crown in the 1700s that protected their rights to lands and resources.

4. Renaming “Indiantown”

- This community is located near the mouth of the Saint John River, 3.2 km Northwest of Saint John, and was named for a trading house built by James White in 1779, currently in Ward 2.
- The name is included in the Canadian Geographical Names Database which is run by the Geographical Names Board of Canada (GNBC).
- Changes to official names are made through application to the New Brunswick Toponymy Manager with the Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage.

Recommendation

1. That the City cease using the word “Indiantown” in its records and actions; and further
2. That the City Manager take the necessary steps to have the name “Indiantown” removed from other sources (including Google maps) as soon as possible; and further
3. That, through the Civic Commemoration Committee, the City make it a priority to consult with stakeholders and community members to have the community currently known as “Indiantown” officially renamed through the New Brunswick Department of Tourism, Culture, and Heritage, and updated in the Geographical Names Board of Canada.



Questions?



SAINT JOHN