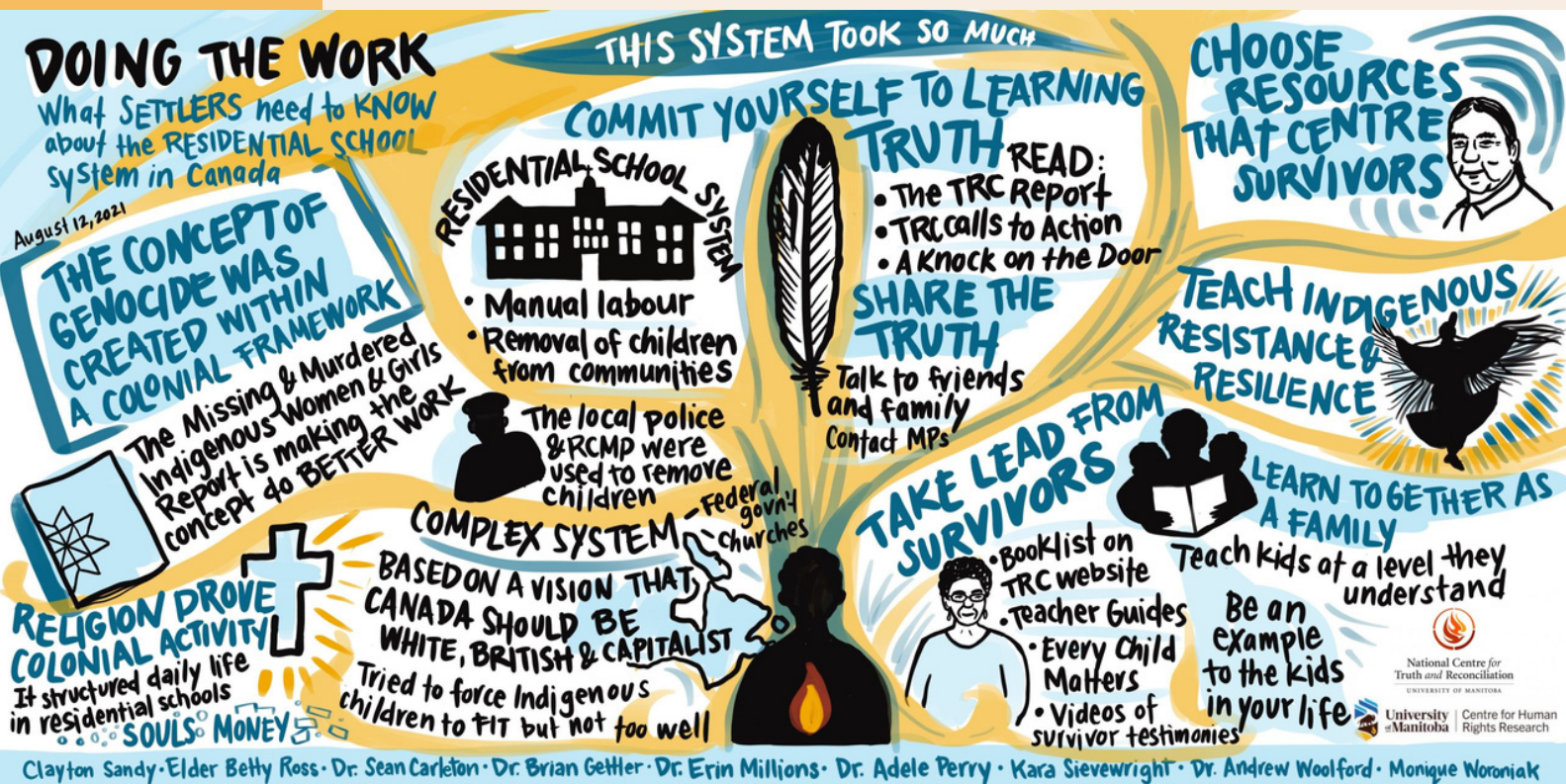


September 2023

DOING THE WORK

RESOURCE GUIDE FOR NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



Kara Sievwright, 2021. Graphic recording of "Doing the Work"
Learn more at chrr.info

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SEPTEMBER 2023

Centre for Human
Rights Research



University
of Manitoba

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE GUIDE

PURPOSE

On August 12, 2021 the Centre for Human Rights Research, in collaboration with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation hosted [a virtual Q&A](#) for non-Indigenous people, or settlers, to learn more about the residential school system in Canada.

Our panelists included settler historians, educators, and information professionals who have worked for many years in this field.

This guide contains some of the resources they recommended most. This resource guide is only a starting point and not intended to be exhaustive—it will continue to be updated.

PANELISTS

ELDER **BETTY ROSS**

Pimicikamak First Nation

DR. **ADELE PERRY**

CHRR, University of Manitoba

KNOWLEDGE KEEPER **CLAYTON SANDY**

Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation

KARA SIEVEWRIGHT

Maker of Nets

DR. **SEAN CARLETON**

History, University of Manitoba

DR. **ANDREW WOOLFORD**

Sociology, University of Manitoba

DR. **BRIAN GETTLER**

Historical Studies, University of Toronto

MONIQUE WORONIAK

Winnipeg Public Library

DR. **ERIN MILLIONS**

History, University of Winnipeg



Kamloops Residential School student and staff group photo. Unknown date. [NCTR Archives](#).

JUST STARTING TO LEARN ABOUT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS?

HERE ARE SUGGESTIONS OF WHERE TO START



READ THE FINAL REPORT OF CANADA'S TRC

TIP: Your public library should have copies of most, if not all, of the TRC reports. Keep in mind the TRC published many reports, including volumes on:

- [Métis experiences with Residential Schools](#), and
- the [Inuit and Northern experience](#)



READ THE TRC'S CALLS TO ACTION

The TRC identified 94 Calls to Action that governments, educational and religious institutions, civil society groups and all Canadians can take to redress the legacy of residential schools.



LEARN FROM SURVIVORS

Read about the experiences of residential school survivors in their own words: ***The Survivors Speak: A Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada***



LEARN THE TIMELINE

View the **residential school timeline** created by The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR).



LEARN THE HISTORY

Read **a brief history** of residential schools



LEARN ABOUT NEARBY SCHOOLS

Learn more about the **schools that operated in the province where you live**. Here you will also see the basic facts about each school that was part of the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement.

The site **Paths to Reconciliation** also has a map of residential schools not recognized under the agreement.



THE SURVIVOR'S FLAG.

To learn more of its composition and its significance to residential school survivors, visit **the NCTR site**.

LOOKING TO LEARN MORE?

CHECK THESE RESOURCES!



LIBRARY RESOURCES

The **Residential Schools Info Guide** from the Winnipeg Public Library is a one-stop guide for many different types of information about residential schools, including resources for different ages.

Find information to start learning and also to begin more in-depth research: reading/watching lists; maps; reports; archival records; information about missing children and unmarked burials; documents and videos that share stories of survivors in their own words.



ABORIGINAL HEALTH FOUNDATION REPORTS

The NCTR site also shares the reports produced by the Aboriginal Health Foundation. These reports provide information about different aspects of residential school experience, their legacies and thoughts on ways forward. Some, like the two below, are collections of chapters/articles, that can be read as stand-alone works:

- ***From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools***
- ***Response, Responsibility and Renewal: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation***



GROUNDWORK FOR CHANGE

Check out **Groundwork for Change**, a website that aims to "gather information to help non-Indigenous/settler peoples grow relationships with Indigenous peoples that are rooted in solidarity and justice. The site is meant to support people who are asking questions and looking to learn more in ways that are respectful of, and useful to, Indigenous Peoples."

SUGGESTED MEDIA

Listen to the stories of survivors. There are lots of ways to do this, such as memoirs, but also podcasts, films, and documentaries. Some of our panelists' favourites are below:

FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES



BONES OF CROWS (2022)

Cree code talker Aline Spears survives her traumatic past in Canada's residential school system to continue her family's generational fight against systemic starvation, racism and sexual abuse. [*Bones of Crows*](#)



INDIAN HORSE (2017)

Saul Indian Horse, an Ojibway boy from Ontario, survives the residential school system and becomes a talented ice hockey player, only for his past traumas to resurface in his adulthood. [*Indian Horse*](#)



RHYMES FOR YOUNG GHOULS (2013)

In 1976, a Mi'qmaq teenager plots revenge against the sadistic Indian agent who imprisoned her in a residential school. [*Rhymes for Young Ghouls*](#)



WE WERE CHILDREN (2012)

"The profound impact of the Canadian government's residential school system is conveyed through the eyes of two children, Lyna and Glen, who were taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools. There, they suffered years of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, the effects of which persist in their adult lives." [National Film Board of Canada](#)



SECOND STORIES – IT HAD TO BE DONE (2008)

"This short documentary explores the legacy of residential schools through the eyes of two extraordinary women who not only lived it, but who, as adults, made the surprising decision to return to the school that had affected their lives so profoundly." [National Film Board of Canada](#)



MUFFINS FOR GRANNY (2007)

Filmmaker Nadia McLaren seeks to understand her loving but troubled grandmother, a residential school survivor, by interviewing seven First Nations elders about their experiences in residential schools. [Mongrel Media](#)

PODCASTS



MEDIA INDIGENA
HOST AND PRODUCER
RICK HARP



UNRESERVED
HOSTED BY
ROSANNA DEERCHILD



HISTOIRES D'ENQUÊTE
«CHEMIN DE CROIX»
HOSTED BY
ANNE PANASUK

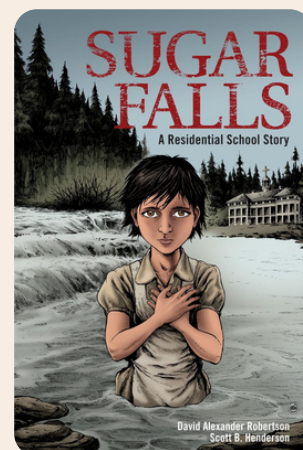
SUGGESTED READING

START HERE

48 books by Indigenous writers to read to understand residential schools

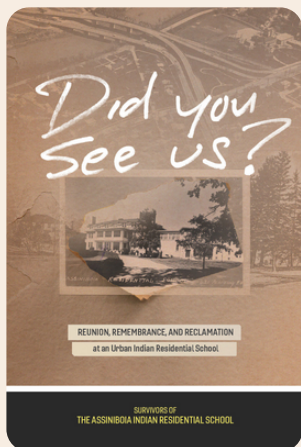
Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story

WRITTEN BY DAVID A. ROBERTSON & ILLUSTRATED BY SCOTT B. HENDERSON
SHARING THE STORY OF ELDER BETTY ROSS.



Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools, A Memoir

THEODORE NIIZHOTAY FONTAINE



Did You See Us?: Reunion, Remembrance, and Reclamation at an Urban Indian Residential School

SURVIVORS OF THE ASSINIBOIA INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL AND
ANDREW WOOLFORD.

A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

PHIL FONTAINE, AIMÉE CRAFT, AND THE TRUTH AND
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION OF CANADA

The Colonial Problem: An Indigenous Perspective on Crime and Injustice in Canada

LISA MONCHALIN

KA PI ICITA8ATC: ce qu'ils ont fait: parcours de dix-sept élèves du pensionnat autochtone de Saint-Marc-de-Figuery

BRUNO SIOUI, MARGUERITE MOWATT-GAUDREAU & JULIE MOWATT

«Le projet des pensionnats autochtones du Québec»

MARIE-PIERRE BOUSQUET IN HISTOIRE CANADA, 13 NOVEMBRE 2018



RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL DENIALISM

WHAT IT IS

Residential school denialism involves more than explicitly denying the residential system's existence. Denialists use several bad faith arguments that reject or misrepresent Indigenous people's experiences in residential schools. Ultimately, these strategies seek to preserve settler-colonial relations and undermines truth and reconciliation efforts.

COUNTERING DENIALISM

[Truth before reconciliation: 8 ways to identify and confront Residential School denialism](#)

DANIEL HEATH JUSTICE & SEAN CARLETON

[The Dangerous Allure of Residential School Denialism](#)

MICHELLE CYCA

[Residential-school denialism doesn't stand up to reality](#)

RAYMOND FROGNER

FURTHER RESOURCES

[Sacred Responsibility: Searching for the Missing Children and Unmarked Burials](#)

INDEPENDENT SPECIAL INTERLOCUTOR FOR MISSING CHILDREN AND UNMARKED GRAVES AND BURIAL SITES ASSOCIATED WITH INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS.

[Joint Statement on Indian Residential School Denialism](#)

CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (CAA), THE SOCIETY FOR AMERICAN ARCHAEOLOGY (SAA), THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY (CABA-ACAB), AND THE CANADIAN PERMAFROST ASSOCIATION (CPA).



This joint statement affirms the reliability of using ground-penetrating radar in determining potential unmarked burial sites and denounces denialists' calls for "physical proof" (i.e., digging for remains).

FURTHER RESOURCES

Interested in learning about more than residential schools? Here are a few related starting points along other media recommendations.

INDIAN HOSPITALS



Separate Beds: A History of Indian Hospitals in Canada, 1920s-1980s

BOOK // MAUREEN LUX

“Witness to Yesterday”

PODCAST // THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY
FT. MAUREEN LUX

The Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis Photo Project

@TBPhotoproject

APTN Investigates episodes

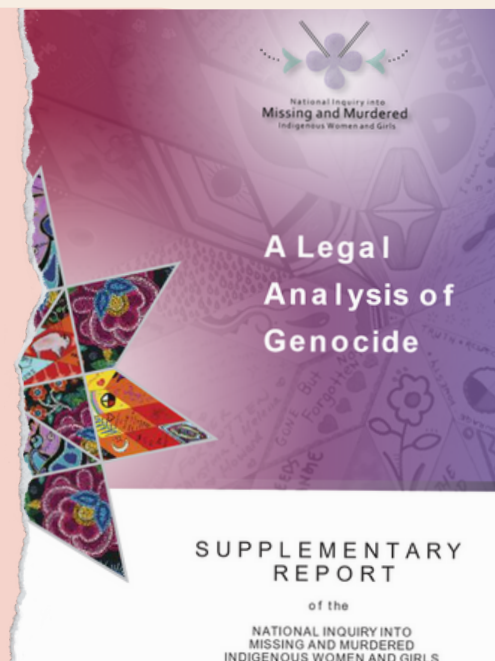
- “The Cure was Worse”
- “Writing Home”
- “Carving Home”

GENOCIDE

The genocide supplement for the National Inquiry into Missing and Indigenous Women and Girls provides insight into the question of genocide with consideration of the colonial and gendered context in which genocide laws were created.

See also:

“Residential school system **recognized as genocide** in Canada’s House of Commons: A harbinger of change”
ARTICLE // TEMITAYO OLAREWAJU



THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM



Learn about the work of [Cindy Blackstock and the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#)

[\(Dis\)Placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System](#)

FILM AND EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

[A National Crime: Being An Appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada](#)

DR. PETER HENDERSON BRYCE

Learn more about [the work of Dr. Bryce](#)

UNDRIP

[Understanding and Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: An Introductory Handbook](#)

BRENDA GUNN

THE SIEGE OF KANEHSATÀ:KE (THE OKA CRISIS)

[This is an Honour Song: Twenty Years Since the Blockades](#)

LEANNE SIMPSON & KIERA LADNER

[Stories of Oka: Land, Film, and Literature](#)

ISABELLE ST-AMAND



BEANS (2021)

"12-yr old Beans is on the edge: torn between innocent childhood and reckless adolescence; forced to grow up fast and become the tough Mohawk warrior she needs to be during the Oka Crisis, the turbulent Indigenous uprising that tore Quebec and Canada apart for 78 tense days." [EMA Films](#)

[Kanatenhs – When the Pine Needles Fall \(2021\)](#)

DOCUMENTARY // DIR: KATSI'TSAKWAS ELLEN GABRIEL

[Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance \(1993\)](#)

DOCUMENTARY // DIR: ALANIS OBOMSAWIN