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 Nation, Métis, and Inuit students were sent. This map shows the location of residential schools identified by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

À partir des années 1870 jusqu’aux années 1990, le Canada, en partenariat avec les organisations ecclésiastiques principales, a élaboré un système scolaire résidentiel auxquels plus de 150 000 élèves de Premières Nations, Métis et Inuits ont été envoyés. Cette carte démontre l’emplacement des écoles résidentielles identifiées par la Convention de règlement relative aux pensionnats indiens.
Residential Schools of Canada
Pensionnats du Canada

From the 1870s to the 1990s, Canada, often in partnership with the organizations of the main churches, developed a residential school system to which over 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students were sent. This map shows the location of residential schools identified by the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.
In 1991 The Government of Canada created the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP). This commission was created in response to the recent events of the Oka Crisis and the Meech Lake Accord. The five volume 4000-page report, was completed in 1996. As a follow up to the RCAP report, the Government of Canada released, Gathering Strength; An Aboriginal Action Plan in 1997. The last Residential School only closed in the North in 1997.

As part of the Gathering Strength Action Plan, in 1998, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) was formed. This foundation became pivotal in addressing the impacts of Residential Schools and in creating strategies for healing Residential School Survivors.

In 2000, the Legacy of Hope Foundation was created (as the national charitable arm of the AHF) with a mission to educate Canadians about the Residential School System and its lasting impacts on generations of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples. Fulfilling this mandate contributes towards reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is the sole national producer and presenter of comprehensive exhibitions and commemorative projects on the Residential School experience. Educating and creating opportunities for healing specific to the Residential School experience is vital to the success of the Reconciliation process.

LHF gathered over 600 testimonials from Residential School Survivors prior to Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement, and was tasked with preserving the Oral Testimonies of Survivors in a project called Our Stories…Our Strength. LHF remains the custodian of these truths and uses these first person accounts to educate Canadians about this sad chapter in our history.

In 2006, the Government of Canada approved, then in 2007, implemented the Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). This agreement had five components; Common Experience Payments for all eligible former students; and an Independent Assessment Process to process claims of sexual/serious abuse. The third component was to create the Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program and to make a $125-million-dollar endowment to
the AHF. In addition, components four and five, were to ensure that commemorative activities took place in relation to the Residential School experience and lastly, the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) mandate began June 2, 2008 and ended December 18, 2015 when it released its 94 Calls to Action which has become the document leading Reconciliation dialogues and initiatives across the country. In that same year, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was given a directive to establish a National Center for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR), which is located at the University of Manitoba.

LHF exhibitions were presented at every national event held by the (TRC). The University of Manitoba, which houses the National Center for Truth and Reconciliation, presented LHF exhibitions on three occasions during 2012.

The first LHF exhibition, Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of The Residential Schools, was launched at Library and Archives Canada by then Governor General, Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson in June of 2002.

In June 2008, Where are the Children? was shown on Parliament Hill at the time of the Federal Government’s official Apology to Residential School Survivors given by then Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

LHF has continued to promote, facilitate and produce the only nationally circulating exhibition collection. LHF does not charge for the use of its exhibitions and host venues pay shipping costs only. This includes remote and northern communities.

LHF has the most comprehensive collection of Residential Schools exhibitions in the world.

We look forward to loaning you one of our exhibitions and to supporting Reconciliation in Canada together.
What is a Residential School?

Indigenous children, (First Nations, Inuit, Metis) as young as four or five years old, were taken from their homes and placed in institutions called Residential Schools. These schools were run by religious orders in collaboration with the Federal Government of Canada.

The Residential School System, as defined by the Federal Government, was limited to 139 schools that operated across Canada between 1831 and 1996.

This definition is controversial and excludes provincially administered schools as well as hostels and Day Schools. Residential schools existed in almost all provinces and territories, and in the North also took the form of hostels and tent camps.

The earliest recognized and longest running Indian Residential Schools was the Mohawk Institute, in Brantford, Ontario which operated from 1831 to 1962.

Grollier Hall, a residential school for Indian and Inuit children in Inuvik, North West Territories, opened in 1959 and was run by the Oblates until 1985. It closed in 1997.

The last federally run school, Gordon's School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, closed in 1996, and was subsequently demolished, marking the end of the Residential School era.

In 1844, the Bagot Commission produced one of the earliest official documents to recommend education as a means of assimilating the “Indian” population. The Davin Report of 1879, recommended the establishment of a Residential School system as the means by which to “aggressively civilize” Indigenous children.

Through an amendment in 1920 to the Indian Act (1876), attendance at Residential Schools was made mandatory for First Nations and later Inuit and Metis children seven to fifteen years of age. Failure to send their children to these schools often resulted in punishment included imprisonment for parents. Many of the children were taken from their homes, often forcibly removed by police and the Indian Agents of the Federal Government, and separated from their families by long distances.

Broad occurrences of disease, hunger and overcrowding were noted as earlier as 1897. Government findings in 1907 stated that in one school, 69% of all children were dead by the age of 16. It is estimated that between 4000-6000 students died from preventable causes during the 165 years of the Residential School experience, however, there could be more.
First Nations, Inuit and Metis children were often separated from their parents and extended families for long periods of time, living in an institution rather than a family environment. These children grew into adults who were disconnected from family, had little sense of their national identity and who had experienced physical, mental, emotional, sexual abuse while in school. This impeded the transfer of parenting skills, language transmission, and cultural learning resulting in significant cultural loss and dysfunction.

Adaptation of abusive behaviours learned while attending Residential School has contributed to intergenerational trauma. The system of forced assimilation has consequences that persist today.

In the way that a soldier continues to experience the impacts of war after returning home from combat, Residential School Survivors continue to experience the effects of trauma long after the inciting incidents have passed. The need for healing did not stop with the Survivors of the schools as they later became parents who were not given the skills to parent. Their children then experienced the effects of trauma too, which are real and pervasive, and must also be addressed.

Escalating social problems in Indigenous communities, and conflict between Indigenous groups and the Federal Government in the 1990s brought greater attention and focus to the destructive impacts of the Residential School experience. Indigenous leaders helped to begin dialogue between Survivors, the Federal Government, the churches and the Canadian public.

Healing is a long term process that occurs in stages, starting with creating the environment necessary for healing to take place. The success and healing of each Survivor begins to heal whole communities.
Today, Indian Residential Schools have all been closed and work has begun to try and repair the damages caused to more than 7 generations of Indigenous Peoples.

Some churches and the Government of Canada have offered apologies for the damage they knowingly inflicted on innocent children in their care.

Though it will be many years before the healing is complete, it is important that all Canadians know that this is an era that reflects a deeply rooted cultural intolerance and a prevalence of social injustice that is not acceptable in contemporary society.

In order for Canada to continue to stand in a place of honour and fulfill its commitment to help end the atrocities being experienced by peoples across the world; to maintain our strength as a country dedicated to diversity, equality and inclusion; we must as a country acknowledge that cultural genocide has taken place in this, our great country.

This dark era in our collective history must be brought into the light to learn from and heal from in order to build the future of our country based on our collective values.

Reconciliation is a process that continues in many parts of the world. It is difficult, necessary, and much growth comes from doing it well. All Canadians benefit from this healing process being successful.

To All Our Relations...Thank you for your support.
Legacy of Hope Foundation
Exhibitions

Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of Residential Schools
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; Gallery - Launched in 2001
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched in 2018

We Were So Far Away: The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; 22 Banners - Launched in 2009
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; 3 Banners - Launched in 2012
- Version 3.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched in 2018

100 Years of Loss: The Residential Schools System in Canada
- Version 1.1: Exhibit - Launched in 2012
- Version 1.2: Exhibit - Launched in 2015

Killing the Indian in the Child: Generations Lost
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched in 2018

A National Crime: The Residential School System in Canada
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; Graphic Wall Panels - Launched in 2016
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; 5 Banners - New! Launched in 2018

Forgotten: The Metis Residential School Experience
- Version 1.1: Exhibit - Launched in 2015
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched in 2018

Peter Henderson Bryce: A Man of Conscience
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; 5 Banners - Launched in 2017
- Version 1.2: Exhibit; 5 Banners - New! Launched in 2018

Bi-Giwen: Coming Home - Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop
- Version 1.1: Exhibit - Launched in 2017
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched in 2018

Youth on Reconciliation – Imagine A Canada
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; 10 Banners - New! Launched in 2018

Remembering, Honouring, and The Way Forward: 10 Years After the Indian Residential School Apology
- Version 1.1: Exhibit; Travel - New! Launched June 11, 2018
EXHIBIT:
Where Are The Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools

This exhibition spans over 125 years and contains photographs and documents from the 1880s to present day. Photographs, text panels and artifacts move the witness through the process of leaving home and arriving at school to school activities and being part of a classroom.

A section on the children who never returned home as well as on contemporary role models provides a wide range of perspectives.

Version 1.1 of this exhibition is displayed as a “hung exhibit” as you would see in any art gallery. Version 2.1 is a travel version, with content condensed and displayed in a curved wall structure with photographs gallery on a monitor.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit / Gallery
- Requires 300 running feet of gallery space
- Total shipping weight: 1688 LBS

Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel (Single Unit)
- Required Floor Space: 16’W x 4’D x 8’H
- Total shipping weight: 150 LBS
- Two Units may be displayed together

WARNING
This Exhibition contains subject matter that may be disturbing to some visitors and may trigger Survivors. Please call 1-866-925-4419 or your local crisis line for counselling and support.
EXHIBIT:
*We Were So Far Away: The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools*

The Residential School experiences of Inuit Peoples are unique and integrally linked to rapid social and political change in the North, beginning in the mid-20th century. This exhibition, which tells the story through first-person narratives and archival images.

This exhibition tells the stories of eight Inuit Residential School Survivors presented in their own words and illustrated with personal and historical photographs, including their memories of childhood and their experiences of school, the struggles they have already overcome and the challenges they still face today.

This exhibition has played an important role in generating dialogue within Inuit communities and among non-Indigenous Canadians. Survivors have said that many Inuit communities still find it difficult to talk about this issue and many visitors to the exhibition for the first time understood that there were differences between the First Nations, Inuit and Metis experience of these schools.

The last Residential School– Grollier Hall, a Residential School for Indian and Inuit children in Inuvik, North West Territories, opened in 1959 and was run by the Oblates until 1985. It closed in 1997 and the impacts have been devastating on generations. The school was situated beside Stringer Hall, a similar facility operated by the Anglican church. Each facility had a capacity for 250 children. As of 1970 the government of the NWT assumed control of Stringer Hall. It was demolished in 2001.

**Exhibit Specifics:**

**Version 1.1:** Exhibit, 22 Banners
- Total shipping weight: 250 LBS

**Version 2.1:** Exhibit, 3 Banners
- Total shipping weight: 75 LBS

**Version 3.1:** Exhibit / Travel
- Required Floor Space: 25’W x 35’L
- Total shipping weight: 280 LBS

**WARNING**

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EXHIBIT:

100 Years of Loss: The Residential School System in Canada

For several centuries, Indigenous children were taken from their homes and communities and placed in institutions called Residential Schools. These schools were run by religious orders in collaboration with the Federal Government and were attended by children as young as four or five years of age. (100 years was an arbitrary number that was used for marketing purposes only)

Separated from their families and prohibited from speaking their native languages and practicing their culture, the vast majority of the over 150,000 children that attended these schools experienced neglect and suffering. The impacts of sexual, mental, and physical abuse, shame, and deprivation endured at Residential Schools continue to affect generations of Survivors, their families, and communities today. Remarkably, in the face of this tremendous adversity, many Survivors and their descendants have retained their language and their culture and continue to work toward healing and Reconciliation. This is likely due to their traditional and cultural beliefs, teachings and way of life prior to attending Residential Schools.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- Required Floor Space: 30’W x 20’L x 8’H
- Total shipping weight: 950 LBS

Version 1.2: Exhibit
- Required Floor Space: 30’W x 20’L x 8’H
- Total shipping weight: 950 LBS

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EXHIBIT:
Killing the Indian in the Child: Generations Lost

This exhibition is the condensed version of the 100 Years of Loss exhibit and is designed to be lightweight and easy to assemble making it a great exhibit for educators, communities, and organizations. The same unique features such as the timeline on wavy wall and the unique pillars make this exhibit popular.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel
- Required Floor Space: 30’W x 15’L x 8’H
- Total shipping weight: 250 LBS

WARNING
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EXHIBIT:
Forgotten: The Metis Residential School Experience

This exhibition explores Metis identity, cultural reclamation and healing after their unique experience with an education system that sometimes saw them as ‘too white’, or ‘too Indian’, often moved them to different schools away from their communities to keep school numbers and therefore payments to schools up. The ‘in between’ people have their own stories to tell about the Residential School experience.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- Required Floor Space: 20’W x 20’L
- Total shipping weight: 450 LBS

Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel
- Required Floor Space: 20’W x 20’L
- Total shipping weight: 150 LBS

WARNING
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EXHIBIT:
A National Crime: The Residential School Experience in Canada

This exhibition explores the creation of the Residential School System, the experiences of the students, its impacts and traumas, and Indigenous-led political action, healing, and efforts towards Reconciliation.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- 10 Hanging Graphic Panels
- Required Wall Space: Approx. 30 - 40 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 200 LBS

Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel
- 5 Double-Sided Pull-Up Banners
- Required Floor Space: 15 - 20 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 130 LBS

WARNING
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EXHIBIT:

Peter Henderson Bryce: A Man of Conscience

As medical health officer for the Department of Indian Affairs, Bryce had found that large numbers of First Nations children were dying each year due to conditions in Residential Schools and lack of tuberculosis treatment from 1904 to 1921.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission estimates that at least more than 6,000 children died in the schools from preventable disease, abuse, and neglect. There may be more but it would be impossible to try to estimate how many at this point.

"Whistleblowers" from all walks of life called on Canada to help the children. The Federal Government and many Canadians chose not to listen, or to do the bare minimum, with tragic results. Many would have been saved had the Government listened to Dr. Bryce or if the public had become significantly outraged had they pressed the Government to change the system and to stop the abuses. Unfortunately, the last school only closed in the North in 1997.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- 5 Double-Sided Pull-Up Banners
- Required Floor Space: Approx. 15 - 20 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 115 LBS

Version 1.1: Exhibit / Travel
- 5 Double-Sided Pull-Up Banners
- Required Floor Space: 15 - 20 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 130 LBS

WARNING
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EXHIBIT:

Bi-Giwen: Coming Home - Truth Telling from the Sixties Scoop

The first of its kind, this exhibition explores the experiences of Survivors of the Sixties Scoop, which began in the 1960s, where Indigenous children were taken from their families, often forcibly and fostered and/or adopted out to non-Indigenous homes often far away from their communities and some across the globe.

Developed with input from the National Indigenous Survivors of Child Welfare Network plus 12 Survivors featured in the Exhibit, this innovative and challenging exhibition features the first-person oral testimonies of twelve Indigenous Survivors of the Sixties Scoop, and reflects upon their pain, loss but also their enduring strength, courage and resilience.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- Required Floor Space: Min. 30 x 30 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 3,225 LBS

Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel
- Required Floor Space: Min. 20 - 20 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 1,200 LBS

WARNING
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EXHIBIT:
Youth on Reconciliation - Imagine A Canada
This exhibit explores the concept of Reconciliation through artistic expression and what that means to youth in Canada. The banners feature artworks and poems by winners of the first Imagine a Canada competition, announced in March of 2016. Imagine a Canada is an annual national art and essay competition sponsored by the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation in collaboration with Rideau Hall. It asks young people to share their thoughts on what the future of Canada can look like through the lens of hope, respect and Reconciliation.

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- 10 Double-Sided Pull-Up Banners
- Required Floor Space: Approx. 35 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 190 LBS

WARNING
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Remembering, Honouring and the Way Forward:

EXHIBIT:
Remembering, Honouring, and the Way Forward: 10 Years After the Residential School Apology

This 10th Year Commemorative Exhibit was created to acknowledge the dark chapter in Canada’s history, to remember the Survivors who made it out of the Schools, and to honour those who did not, so that we can learn, change, take action and build respectful relationships between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples moving forward. These relationships must be based on integrity, understanding, empathy, and appreciation for the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and for the many invaluable contributions that formed the foundation of this country we now share. This Exhibit provides all Canadians with a unique opportunity to reflect on what they have learned, what actions they can take and what Reconciliation means for them and what they want for the journey forward.

We invite you to share your message of peace, hope, and Reconciliation, visit the Legacy of Hope Foundation website today at www.legacyofhope.ca

Exhibit Specifics:
Version 1.1: Exhibit
- Required Floor Space: Min. 25 - 25 Feet
- Total shipping weight: 900 LBS

WARNING
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The Legacy of Hope Foundation has already educated and inspired thousands of people across Canada and with your generous support we will reach thousands more.

Charitable Number: 863471520RR0001