

The Legacy of Hope Foundation

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 and 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. 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, TRC 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 and Sixties Scoop exhibitions in the world.

We look forward to loaning you one of our exhibitions and to supporting Reconcilation in Canada together.

What is a Residential School?

Indigenous children, (First Nations, Inuit, Métis) 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 School 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 Métis 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 early 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 Métis 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, Residential Schools for Indigenous children have all been closed and work has begun to try and repair the damages caused to more than seven 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 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 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 - 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 Launched in 2018

Forgotten: The Métis Residential School Experience

- Version 1.1: Exhibit Launched in 2015
- Version 2.1: Exhibit; Travel 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 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 Launched in 2018

Youth on Reconciliation - Imagine A Canada

• Version 1.1: Exhibit; 10 Banners - Launched in 2018

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

• Version 1.1: Exhibit; Travel - 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



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 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 Métis 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'LTotal shipping weight: 280 LBS

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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

WARNING









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 light weight 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

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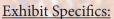




EXHIBIT:

Forgotten: The Métis Residential School Experience

This exhibition explores Métis 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.



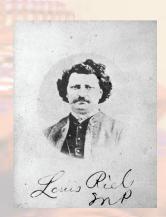
Version 1.1: Exhibit

Required Floor Space: 20'W x 20'LTotal shipping weight: 450 LBS

Version 2.1: Exhibit / Travel

Required Floor Space: 20'W x 20'LTotal shipping weight: 150 LBS





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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



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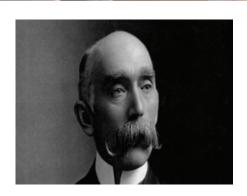




EXHIBIT: Peter Henderson Bryce: A Man of Conscience

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

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Truth-Telling from the Sixties Scoop

HONOURING OUR JOURNEYS

BI-GIWEN

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, this innovative and challenging exhibition features the first-person oral testimonies of 12 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







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

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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.leagacyofhope.ca

Exhibit Specifics:

Version 1.1: Exhibit

- Required Floor Space: Min. 25 - 25 Feet

- Total shipping weight: 900 LBS







NEW EXHIBIT: Escaping Residential Schools

This important and necessary exhibition will build on our existing 18 exhibitions and will continue to raise awareness by educating people about the Residential School System, the experiences of First Nations, Inuit and Métis children who sought to escape the system and who ran for their lives. The exhibition will give first person testimony by giving a voice to those who escaped Residential Schools and will honour those who died there, or while trying to escape by using personal accounts from family members.

In order to work toward Reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and Canadians, we must first acknowledge the dark history, honour the lives that have been harmed and lost, and take responsibility for the way forward. Together we can learn from the past mistakes, vow to take inspired and positive action that will contribute to creating a life of dignity, respect and equality for all in the future.

The exhibition is expected to be launched in Ottawa, Ontario in March 2020 and will be the only exhibition available in Canada that provides a complete and current examination of this issue, its origins in the Residential School System and the ongoing impacts today.

For more information on this exhibit, please check out the project description on our website: www.legacyofhope.ca

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NEW EXHIBIT:

Waniskahtan - Honouring The Lives and Legacies of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQ

This exhibition is designed to educate and create greater awareness about the high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls (MMIWG), and 2-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (2SLGBTQ), in order to commemorate them and to prevent future occurrences. In addition, the exhibit will be added to the existing roster of 18 exhibitions that are loaned out across Canada every year, thereby ensuring continued education, and sustainability long after the project timeline is over.

The exhibition is expected to be launched in Ottawa, Ontario in the July of 2020 and will be the only exhibition available in Canada that provides a complete and current examination of this issue, and its links to the Residential School System and the ongoing impacts today, including addressing sexualized and racialized violence.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation acknowledges the financial support of Women and Gender Equality Canada.

For more information on this exhibit, please check out the project description on our website: www.legacyofhope.ca

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Contact Legacy of Hope Foundation

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legacyofhope.ca

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

Many of our projects were generously funded by the Government of Canada.

