

Doing the Work

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 peoples, or settlers, to learn about the residential school system in Canada.

Our panelists included settler historians, educators, and information professionals who have many years of experience in this field. In the pages that follow, you will find some of the resources they recommend most.

Panelists

Elder Betty Ross, Pimicikamak First Nation

Knowledge Keeper Clayton Sandy, Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation

Dr. Sean Carleton, University of Manitoba

Dr. Brian Gettler, University of Toronto

Dr. Erin Millions, University of Winnipeg

Dr. Adele Perry, University of Manitoba

Kara Sievewright, Artist

Dr. Andrew Woolford, University of Manitoba

Monique Woroniak, Winnipeg Public Library



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of Manitoba

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Just Starting to Learn?

- Read the [Final Report](#) of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). Your public library should have copies of most, if not all, of the TRC reports.
 - Explore the different experiences of students at residential schools such as the [Métis experience](#) and the [Inuit and Northern experience](#).
- 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. Read the [Calls to Action](#) and see what you can do in your life.
- Read about the experiences of Survivors in their own words: [The Survivors Speak: A Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada](#)
- View the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation's (NCTR) [Residential School Timeline](#)
- Learn more about [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 Schools Settlement Agreement.
- [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 including reading/watching lists; maps; reports; archival records; information about missing children and unmarked burials.
- Check out [48 books by Indigenous writers](#) to understand residential schools.
- The NCTR website shares the reports produced by the Aboriginal Health Foundation. These reports provide information about different aspects of residential school experiences and thoughts on ways forward:
 - [From Truth to Reconciliation: Transforming the Legacy of Residential Schools](#)
 - [Response, Responsibility and Renewal: Canada's Truth and Reconciliation](#)
- 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."

Want to Know More?

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.

Podcasts

- MEDIA INDIGENA hosted and produced by Rick Harp
- Unreserved hosted by Falen Johnson
- Histoires d'enquête by Anne Panasuk, saison 2, « Chemin de croix » (2018).

Films

- *Beans* (2021)
- *Indian Horse* (2017)
- *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* (2013)
- *We Were Children* (2012)
- *Second Stories – It Had to Be Done* (2008)
- *Muffins for Granny* (2007)

Books, Graphic Novels

- *Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story* by David A. Robertson, sharing the story of Elder Betty Ross.
- *Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools* by Ted Fontaine
- *A Knock on the Door: The Essential History of Residential Schools from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*
- *Did You See Us?: Reunion, Remembrance, and Reclamation at an Urban Indian Residential School* by Survivors of the Assiniboia Indian Residential School and Andrew Woolford.
- *The Colonial Problem: An Indigenous Perspective on Crime and Injustice in Canada* by Lisa Monchalin
- « Le projet des pensionnats autochtones du Québec » by Marie-Pierre Bousquet in Histoire Canada, 13 novembre 2018.
- *Truth before reconciliation: 8 ways to identify and confront Residential School denialism* by Daniel Heath Justice and Sean Carleton
- «KA PI ICITA8ATC: ce qu'ils ont fait : parcours de dix-sept élèves du pensionnat autochtone de Saint-Marc-de-Figuery » by Bruno Sioui, Marguerite Mowatt-Gaudreau and Julie Mowatt.

Want to learn more about the concept of genocide?

The [Genocide Supplement](#) for the [National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls](#) does a very good job of balancing both questions of law with consideration of the colonial and gendered context in which genocide law was created.

Want to know more about the child welfare system?

- Learn about the work of [Cindy Blackstock](#) and the [First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada](#)
- Read through [A National Crime: Being An Appeal for Justice to the Indians of Canada](#) and learn more about the work of [Dr. Peter Henderson Bryce](#)
- Check out the film and educational guide for [\(Dis\)Placed: Indigenous Youth and the Child Welfare System](#)

Want to know about Indian hospitals?

- [Separate Beds](#) by Maureen Lux
- [Witness to Yesterday](#) podcast, Champlain Society with Maureen Lux
- APTN Investigates Episodes:
 - [The Cure was Worse](#)
 - [Writing Home](#)
 - [Carving Home](#)
- Check out the [Manitoba Indigenous Tuberculosis Photo Project](#) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @TBPhotoProject