100 YEARS OF LOSS
The Residential School System in Canada

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Old Sun Indian Residential School, Gleichen, AB. 1945. General Synod Archives, Anglican Church of Canada, P75-103 S7-184.
About the Legacy of Hope Foundation

The Legacy of Hope Foundation is a national, charitable Aboriginal organization whose purpose is to educate and create awareness and understanding about the legacy of residential schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, and to continue to support the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors.

THE LEGACY OF HOPE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS HEALING for Residential School Survivors through various activities, including exhibitions. Traveling exhibitions can serve an important role in educating about complex histories and creating a space for people to share and heal. The Foundation has developed three exhibitions about the residential school experience:

Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools
“We were so far away...”: The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools
100 Years of Loss: The Residential School System in Canada

A virtual exhibition can be viewed at www.wherearethecchildren.ca

The LHF offers several resources to support our exhibitions and other projects. These materials, including publications and DVDs, can be ordered online at www.legacyofhope.ca

The LHF is funded entirely through project-based funding and as such is not able to guarantee the continued availability of materials. Please order or book promptly and consider making a donation or sponsoring our products or events. We are a registered charity and issue charitable receipts for all donations regardless of amount.

Legacy of Hope Foundation
75 Albert St., Suite 801
Ottawa, ON K1P 5E7
T: 613-237-4806

Charitable registration: 863471520RR0001

Donate online at www.legacyofhope.ca
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Introduction

How many years will it take to recover from 100 years of loss?

FOR OVER A CENTURY, beginning in the mid-1800s and continuing into the late 1990s, Aboriginal children in Canada 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. 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 Indian Residential Schools (IRS) 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.
Why is this issue important to all Canadians? Why should it matter to those who didn’t attend residential school?

**IT MATTERS** because it continues to affect First Nations, Inuit, and Métis families – people from vibrant cultures who are vital contributors to Canadian society.

**IT MATTERS** because it happened here, in a country we call our own – a land considered to be a world leader in democracy and human rights.

**IT MATTERS** because the Residential School System is one of the major causes of poverty, homelessness, substance abuse, and violence among Aboriginal people – devastating conditions that are felt and experienced by our neighbours, friends, and community members.

**IT MATTERS** because Aboriginal communities suffer levels of poverty, illness, and illiteracy comparable to those in developing nations - conditions that are being perpetuating through inaction.

**IT MATTERS** because we share this land. We may not be responsible for what happened in the past, but we all benefit from what First Nations, Inuit, and Métis have had to relinquish. We are responsible for our actions today.
One hundred years is an arbitrary number with respect to the history and legacy of the Indian Residential School System in Canada. More accurately, over 100 years of cultural and spiritual loss have been experienced by successive generations of Aboriginal peoples as a consequence of residential schools. Without action, these losses will continue to affect generations to come in addition to the estimated 80,000 Survivors alive today.

Education has an important part to play in the healing movement and, by promoting awareness and fostering public engagement, we can create an environment supportive of positive change for all Canadians. From the historic federal apology made to Survivors of the Indian Residential School (IRS) System, to the appointment of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, to the 8th Fire Series recently aired on CBC television, never before has public interest on this issue been greater. We hope you share our belief that as Canadians come to understand the connection between the legacy of the IRS System, expressed in contemporary social, cultural, health, and economic inequities between Canada’s Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Peoples, we will as a Nation commit to the healing and reconciliation movement.
FOR MORE THAN A DECADE the Legacy of Hope Foundation has worked with Survivors, Aboriginal communities, researchers, curators, and educators to develop resources to increase public awareness and knowledge of the history and legacy of the Indian Residential School System and is pleased to announce the launch of its unique new education program: 100 Years of Loss - The Residential School System in Canada.

A collaborative effort, this education program was developed by a multidisciplinary team representing both education and museum practice, and is based on a museum education model. The program is comprised of two main components: the Edu-kit and the mobile exhibition. These practical tools can be readily implemented by educators in schools, universities, and cultural centres. Throughout the research, planning, design, and development phases of 100 Years of Loss, the LHF worked closely with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis curriculum developers, researchers, and curators, and drew upon a wealth of Survivor testimony. This method assured that the program was developed in a culturally respectful manner and that the materials accurately reflect the experiences of Survivors. IRS Survivors were represented in the review process and the texts of both the Edu-kit and exhibition were subject to a rigorous review and verification process by the Research Division of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT LHF’S EXHIBITIONS:
“…excellent exhibit, really moving, my parents/ grandparents etc. and myself were in residential school - everyone has a story to tell!”
– Visitor to LHF’s Where are the Children? exhibition
**Edu-kit**

**THE COMPREHENSIVE 100 YEARS OF LOSS EDU-KIT**, targeted to senior grades (9-12) with content appropriate for students in grades 7 and 8, consists of six carefully developed lesson plans that include resources for teachers and students, answer keys/discussion guides, and supplementary resources and activities for extended learning. The lesson plans build historical literacy and responsible citizenship in promoting an understanding of the history and legacy of the Residential School System. By increasing cultural sensitivity and respect among young Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, the curriculum challenges stereotypes and encourages inquiry, dialogue, and action, thereby supporting the process of reconciliation.

Delivered in a single, compact unit, the Edu-kit is a comprehensive pan-Canadian curriculum package comprised of a Teacher's Guide, a wall-mountable timeline, a DVD, and additional resources such as a printed copy of the *Statement of Apology* and a copy of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. The Teacher's Guide provides a complete set of classroom resources, including teacher and student reference documents, lesson plans, student activity sheets, and extension activities for students who want to learn more. The DVD combines videos used in the lesson plans, including footage of Survivor interviews, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Apology on behalf of Canadians for the Indian Residential School System, and a historical overview of the IRS System in Canada. The website, [www.missinghistory.ca](http://www.missinghistory.ca), is also part of the 100 Years of Loss education program and offers students the opportunity to have their say and share their opinions and artwork online.
Highly accessible to teachers with little or no prior knowledge of the Residential School System, the Teacher's Guide is designed to assist teachers to quickly acquire the requisite knowledge to deliver the content with ease and confidence. The following ideas and themes are explored:

**LESSON PLAN 1**

An Introduction to Canada's Residential School System through the Lens of the Federal Apology

**LESSON PLAN 2**

Creating the Residential School System

**LESSON PLAN 3**

Identity

**LESSON PLAN 4**

Life at Residential School

**LESSON PLAN 5**

Impacts: The Legacy of the Residential School System

**LESSON PLAN 6**

Making Healing and Reconciliation Happen

100 Years of Loss is designed to support Social Studies, History, Law, and Native Studies curricula among other subjects. This subject matter is important to all Canadians - Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike - and deserves prominence among core subjects. A Curriculum Correlation guide is also available to assist educators in using the Edu-kit to achieve jurisdictionally-mandated outcomes.

With our partners, the LHF offers in-service workshops – contact us to see when sessions are available.

**WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT LHF'S EXHIBITIONS:**

"The 100 Years of Loss was an exceptional project experience for not only my students but for myself as well. I have always taught about IRS but have felt inadequate in my ability to effectively present the issues and cultural context of IRS. The resources, information and teachers' guide in the 100 Years of Loss project were outstanding, allowing me to feel confident in my delivery and allowed my students to effectively comprehend the treatment of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada thus allowing them, and myself, to become a part of the healing process."

– Will Robertson
Ross Sheppard High School
Mobile Exhibition

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ABOUT LHF’S EXHIBITIONS:
“I can’t get over the generosity of all the Survivors: telling us their story - our story - in spite of the great pain they experience in doing so. It makes me want to make a difference. It moves me to action.”

– Visitor to LHF’s “We were so far away…” exhibition

THE 100 YEARS OF LOSS MOBILE EXHIBITION explores the history of the Residential School System and traces it legacy to the present. Like LHF’s companion exhibitions, Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools, and “We were so far away…”: The Inuit Experience of Residential Schools, 100 Years of Loss uses archival and contemporary photographs, works of art, primary documents, and recent research to reveal the histories of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children who were forcibly removed from their families and institutionalized in residential schools.

The distinct feature of 100 Years of Loss is the depth of the historical perspective and the breadth of the information presented. The story begins in the early days of European expansion into North America, and continues up to and including the decades of advocacy and healing efforts by Aboriginal peoples, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, the 2008 federal apology to Survivors and their families, and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2009. One of the greatest strengths of this exhibition is its focus on the legacy of the IRS System, and in particular, its enduring impacts on Survivors and their descendants, on communities, and on Canada as a nation. The exhibition clearly shows the direct links between the Residential School System and the contemporary social crises afflicting Aboriginal communities across the country.
The 100 Years of Loss exhibition consists of eight large columns (four in English and four in French) and a large timeline wall. Depending on the needs of the borrower and/or space restrictions, single language or bilingual installation is possible as each column has either English or French content only. The content on each column is punctuated with short “Did You Know” facts and stories that are intended to provide additional information and provoke further thought and discussion.

Each column presents key themes in the history of the Residential School System.

**COLUMN ONE** introduces the exhibition and discusses the impact of the North West Rebellion and the effect that the founding of Canada had on Aboriginal culture and identity.

**COLUMN TWO** presents profiles of central figures in the establishment of the Residential School System.

**COLUMN THREE** exposes the abuses experienced by students in the residential schools and is accompanied by a warning that the content may be disturbing.

**COLUMN FOUR** features detailed information about the legacy of the schools as it relates to social crises for individuals and communities and its connection to reconciliation and healing movements.

The timeline wall positions five themes along a common timeline – European Expansion and the Formation of Canada; Acts of Government; the Indian Act; the Residential School System; and Breaking the Silence. The timeline, together with the columns, provides an extensive summary of the Residential School System, its legacy and impacts on Aboriginal people and their communities, and the critical role the System played in the founding of Canada as a nation.
Host 100 Years of Loss

THE EXHIBITION IS IDEALLY SUITED for organizations wishing to host a week-long reconciliation or Aboriginal awareness event. Hosting the exhibition also presents an excellent opportunity to get involved and partner with local community groups – for example, during local National Aboriginal Awareness Week activities.

The LHF can support your event in a number of ways including:

• Coordination of shipping and handling
• Installation instructions and phone support
• Digital graphic templates for use with promotions and programming, as well as assistance with promotions and outreach
• Assistance in securing local facilitators
• Assistance in planning and developing onsite programming and coordinated activities such as film screening(s), workshops, and student-led activities
• Developing curatorial discussions, tours, and other creative public engagement activities to encourage community dialogue
• Financial support for shipping costs may be available, if required
• Provision of supplementary educational resources (DVDs, publications, etc.) at no cost
• Provision of students workshop templates and assistance in developing custom workshops
• Provision of teacher in-service workshops and/or attendance by LHF or partner representative, if available

INSTALLATION
The 100 Years of Loss exhibition is designed for installation in non-traditional exhibition venues (such as gymnasiums, community centres, etc.) and does not require expert installers. A minimum assembly and display space of 6m, 70cm x 4m, 26cm (22’ x 14’) is required, and the ceiling height minimum is 2m, 41 cm (7’11’). Complete, detailed assembly instructions are provided.
Ordering Information

Both the Edu-kit and Mobile Exhibition are available to schools free of charge, subject to availability, however there may be costs associated with shipping, storage, and installation. The LHF is a registered charity and can accept donations online or by mail. Please consider making a donation to help support the education program. Every $250 donation covers the costs of producing and distributing an Edu-kit. Educators can request an Edu-kit using our online form at www.legacyofhope.ca or www.missinghistory.ca, or by contacting us directly.

Bring the 100 Years of Loss Edu-kit to Your Region
The LHF and its partners are engaged in efforts to assist provincial/territorial Ministries of Education in integrating these materials into curriculum across the country. Part of that effort involves adapting the content to reflect regional experiences of residential school. To learn how you can support these efforts, or to sponsor the production of additional kits for your region, contact the Legacy of Hope Foundation.

Order the Exhibition
Contact us to initiate bringing the exhibition to your school or organization.

Education Officer
Legacy of Hope Foundation
75 Albert St, Suite 801
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5E7

T: 877-553-7177 or 613-237-4806
www.legacyofhope.ca
info@legacyofhope.ca

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100 Years of Loss Edu-kit

TEACHER’S GUIDE

TIMELINE DISPLAY INSTRUCTIONS

DVD
Statement of Apology to former students of Indian Residential Schools
Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools
Our Stories...Our Strength

TIMELINE BANNERS
Healing is a gradual process—the legacy of residential schools is still very much alive in our cities and communities and affects Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians alike. We hope you share our belief that as people learn the historical context that forms the roots for contemporary social issues faced by many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, they can foster an environment that allows reconciliation to take place.

On behalf of the Legacy of Hope Foundation, I would like to invite you to join us on the healing journey. Together, we are beginning to heal from 100 years of loss and build a future of hope and recovery.

RICHARD KISTABISH, President, Legacy of Hope Foundation

www.legacyofhope.ca
www.missinghistory.ca