

## Resources to learn about the residential school system and its impacts

As we grieve for the 215 Indigenous children found buried at the former Kamloops Residential School, our thoughts are with all Indigenous peoples who have been impacted by Canada's residential schools.

Many people are looking for resources to learn about Canada's residential schools and the lasting impacts on Indigenous communities. There are countless resources online. Here are a powerful few to support your learning journey.

*Content warning: The following resources may be traumatizing for people with experiences of residential school, child abuse and/or sexual abuse. We invite you to prepare yourself emotionally before proceeding and reach out for support as needed.*

- Videos:
  - [Residential Schools in Canada: a timeline](#), a five-minute overview by Historica Canada
  - A six-minute [video adaptation of the children's book Shi-shi-etko](#) about an Interior Salish child preparing to go to residential school
  - [Canadian Shame: A History of Residential Schools](#), a 15-minute TEDx Talk by Ginger Gosnell-Myers
- Books:
  - [My Name is Seepetza](#) by Nlaka'pamux author Shirley Sterling, based on her childhood experiences at the Kamloops Indian Residential School
  - [Behind Closed Doors: Stories from the Kamloops Indian Residential School](#) featuring written testimonials from 32 individuals who attended Kamloops Indian Residential School
  - [The Orange Shirt Story](#) by Phyllis Webstad, who is Northern Secwepemc from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation, tells her residential school experience which inspired Orange Shirt Day on September 30
- Podcasts:
  - [Telling Our Twisted Histories: SCHOOL](#), hosted by Kaniehti:io Horn, is an episode sharing residential school survivors' stories from across the country

- [Residential Schools](#), a three-part podcast series by Historica Canada, hosted by Shaneen Robinson-Desjarlais
- [Still Here Still Healing](#), hosted by Jade Roberts, telling the stories of survivors and bringing awareness to lasting and ongoing impacts
- Learning resources:
  - [The Gladys We Never Knew](#) (PDF), a BCTF learning resource following the life and death of Kamloops Indian Residential School student Gladys Chapman
  - [Where are the Children buried?](#) (PDF), a report by Dr. Scott Hamilton, Dept. of Anthropology, Lakehead University, Thunder Bay
  - [Indigenous Canada](#), a 12-lesson Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) offered by the University of Alberta

### **Additional resources for learning**

Vancouver Public Library has curated a [comprehensive list of resources](#) about residential schools that covers:

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Useful websites
- Recommended books
- Recommended DVDs
- Digital library resources
- [Book list for kids up to age 12](#)

### **Truth and Reconciliation (TRC) reports**

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada gathered thousands of testimonies from residential school survivors between 2008 to 2015. The [TRC reports](#) include:

- [Honouring the Truth, Reconciliation for the Future](#), a Summary of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- 94 [Calls to Action](#) to redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of reconciliation in Canada

### **Support**

If you are affected and need emotional support, please reach out to the National Indian Residential School Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419 (available 24/7) or the [Indian Residential School Survivors Society](#).