Residential Schools: A Reading List

The following reading list represents only a selection of the growing number of books and articles that have been written about the history and legacy of residential schools in Canada.

History


School Histories


Memoirs


The Legacy and Reconciliation


Literature


International Experiences


For Younger Readers


Olsen, Sylvia, Rita Morris, and Ann Sam. No Time to Say Goodbye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School, Sono Nis Press, 2001

To download copies of the TRC Indian Residential School, Aboriginal Languages and Theme Posters including the TRC IRS Canada Map, please go to the link below:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/rn12giudmmpvp0/fxrIknnOJJ/trc/trc_poster

Electronic copies of the Commission’s historical publication, They Came for the Children and the Interim Report can be found at:

**Other sites:**

Project of Heart
http://www.projectofheart.ca/

Legacy of Hope Foundation website:
http://www.legacyofhope.ca/

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples:
http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1307458586498/1307458751962

**Films:**

This documentary, directed by Anishinaabe filmmaker Lisa Jackson, profiles young people whose parents and grandparents attended government-initiated, church-run, Indian Residential Schools. These inter-generational survivors include a rapper, a mother, a boxer, a social work student and others. They share their stories of struggle, resistance and resilience and through their words, it becomes clear that the land, spiritual practice and family have been sources of strength and transformation.

We Were Children: https://www.nfb.ca/film/we_were_children/trailer/we_were_children_trailer
Warning: this film contains disturbing content and is recommended for audiences 16 years of age and older. Parental discretion, and/or watching this film within a group setting, is strongly advised. In this feature film, the profound impact of the Canadian government’s residential school system is conveyed through the eyes of two children who were forced to face hardships beyond their years. As young children, Lyna and Glen were taken from their homes and placed in church-run boarding schools, where they suffered years of physical, sexual and emotional abuse, the effects of which persist in their adult lives. We Were Children gives voice to a national tragedy and demonstrates the incredible resilience of the human spirit.

Jingle Dress: www.jingledress.ca
Jingle Dress documents the healing journey of Jules Koostachin (Cree, Attawapiskat). In honour of resolving the harm done to her family because her mother was held against her will in the Canadian Native Residential School System, Jules invites a first generation Canadian of European descent to be her witness while she pursues the dream of dancing at a pow wow for the first time in a Jingle Dress.

Hi-Ho Mistahey!: https://www.nfb.ca/film/hi-ho_mistahey_en
Fourteen-year-old Shannen Koostachin launched a campaign to build a suitable school for the children of the Cree community of Attawapiskat in 2008. Two years later, she was killed in a car accident. Shannen’s campaign became a national movement, bringing people from all walks of life together to make Shannen’s Dream—the dream of fairness in education for First Nations children, in schools that are safe and welcoming—a reality. Director/Producer Alanis Obomsawin brings together the voices of those who have taken Shannen’s Dream across Canada and all the way to the United Nations in Geneva, in a larger-than-life adventure.