

## **Indian Residential School Resources**

### **Background/Survivor Stories**

- **Indian Residential School Survivors Society**

<https://www.irsss.ca/>

The Indian Residential School Survivors Society is a provincial organization that has been providing service to Indian Residential School survivors for over 20 years.

This website can be used as a resource to support further learning and understanding on Orange Shirt day, the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, day scholars, services available for survivors/communities, and more.

- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation**

<https://nctr.ca/education/teaching-resources/residential-school-history/>

The National Centre of Truth and Reconciliation aims to continue the work started by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. It acts as steward for the material collected through the TRC, and shares these truths in order to support education. On this website you can find information on the Residential School history in Canada, including a timeline.

Resources on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and a download link to read the 94 Calls to Action: <https://nctr.ca/about/history-of-the-trc/truth-and-reconciliation-commission-of-canada/>

- **Legacy of Hope Foundation**

<https://legacyofhope.ca/>

The Legacy of Hope Foundation is a national, Indigenous-led, charitable organization that works to promote healing and reconciliation in Canada.

The Foundation gives access to virtual exhibitions, podcasts, videos of Survivors stories, and more in order to support education and awareness.

- **Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre**

<https://collections.irshdc.ubc.ca/>

This website can be used as a resource to learn from survivor stories, archival records and images of residential schools, featured collections of schools and survivors, a timeline of residential schools in Canada, and pages of additional resources.

Educational resources on the Indian residential school settlement agreement, the child welfare system and the sixties scoop, Indian day schools, and Indian Hospitals in Canada.

<https://irshdc.ubc.ca/learn/indian-residential-schools/>

- **The Caring Society**

<https://fncaringsociety.com/welcome>

“The Caring Society works to ensure the safety and well-being of First Nations youth and their families through education initiatives, public policy campaigns and providing quality resources to support communities.”

Provides an ‘Indigenous Knowledge Portal’, educational resources, and resources for supporting Indigenous students.

## Lesson Plans

- **Secret Life of Canada lesson plan - The Indian Act**

<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/secretlifeofcanada/teaching-guide-the-indian-act-1.5290134>

This Secret Life of Canada podcast episode is a free of charge lesson plan that is created and tested by Teachers across Canada. Bring podcasts into the classroom through access to a lesson plan, slides, handouts, homework and videos.

Learners: Age 15-17 (Grades 10-12)

“In 1876, the young country of Canada passed a set of laws intended to govern First Nations people in Canada. Decades later, those laws still exist and are largely unchanged. So, how and why did The Indian Act come to be? And why is it still on the books? This episode of The Secret Life of Canada explores the federal law that overhauled settler-Indigenous Relations.”

- **National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation- Reconciliation through Education**

<https://nctr.ca/education/>

<https://nctr.ca/education/teaching-resources/education-resources/>

The Centre provides access to materials and resources that can aid Canadians of any age to learn about and participate in Reconciliation.

Including 300 English language resources and 100 French language resources on residential schools and other closely related topics.

- **Orange Shirt Day**

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/teacher-resources.html>

Provides teachers resources, guides and lesson plans for all ages/grades, French and English.

Phyllis’ Story: the original orange shirt

<https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>

- **Project of Heart**

<https://projectofheart.ca/bc/>

Project of Heart's goal is to educate all Canadians about the history and legacy of residential schools. A BC specific 6 step program takes learners through the process of learning, commemoration, and initiating a call to action. Included are links to free resources including lesson plans, and resources that can be purchased. Project of Heart is applicable for all ages/grades- although some resources are more appropriate for an older age group.

- **Legacy of Hope Foundation**

<https://legacyofhope.ca/english/education/>

The Foundation provides access to a unique and comprehensive collection of educational resources including; curriculum resources/packages, workshop guides, bilingual programs, activity guides, testimonies, publications, and more.

- **Strong Nations- Educator's info and Lesson Plans**

<https://www.strongnations.com/information/>

<https://www.strongnations.com/educators/reading-connections/>

Strong Nation is a Nanaimo-based bookstore and publishing house that is Indigenous owned and operated. It is a great resource for educational books both fiction and non-fiction. There is an Educators Navigation section on their website that includes lesson plans.

## Further Reading

- **Books- To read to/or recommend to students**

[Dear Canada- These are my words: The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens](#)

By: Ruby Slipperjack

Grade: 5-7

[My Name is Seepeetza](#)

By: Shirley Sterling

Grade: 5-9

[No Time to Say Goodbye: Children's Stories of Kuper Island Residential School](#)

By: Sylvia Olsen, Rita Morris and Ann Sam

Grade: 4-12

[A Stranger at Home: A True Story](#)

By: Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

Grade: 4-8

[Welcome Family and Friends to our Bighouse](#)

By: Nella Nelson  
Grade: 3-7

[Secret of the Dance](#)

By: Andrea Spalding and Alfred Scow  
Illustrated by: Darlene Gait  
Grade: 1-6

- **Book- Background reading for teachers**

[Righting Canada's Wrongs: Residential Schools: The Devastating Impact on Canada's Indigenous Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Findings and Calls for Action](#)

By: Melanie Florence  
Grade: 8-12

- **Resource/ Activity Books**

[Righting Canada's Wrongs: Resource Guide](#)

By: Lindsay Gibson, Ilan Danjoux, and Roland Case

[Indian Residential Schools and Reconciliation: Teachers Resource Guide](#)

By: The First Nations Education Steering Committee, and The First Nations Schools Association  
Grades: 5, 10, and 11/12

[Residential Schools in Canada: Education Guide and worksheet](#)

By: Historica Canada and Heritage Minutes