

Today

What is the relationship between First Nations and other Canadians like today? Find contemporary documents that illustrate recent expressions of opinion about First Nations issues, particularly the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and the Reconciliation movement.

One document is provided as a starting point. (Excerpts from the current Indian Act)
It is up to you to collect other documents that comment on the diverse attitudes and perspectives Canadians have about the relationship.

Much of your research will probably be on the internet. Look for websites that comment on issues of the day. You may also find videos that express opinions.

Also include recent newspapers, magazines and books.

Concluding Activity

Essential question:

How has the relationship between First Nations and other Canadian changed over the last 150 years?

1. After examining documents from different time periods in British Columbia's history, what conclusions can you make about changes to this relationship?
2. How have attitudes towards Indian Residential Schools changed over time?

Use evidence from the documents that you have studied to support your conclusions.

INDIAN ACT, 1985

CURRENT TO 2014-03-16

(Excerpts)

Indian Act

R.S.C., 1985, c. I-5

An Act respecting Indians

APPLICATION OF ACT

4. (3) Sections 114 to 122 and, unless the Minister otherwise orders, sections 42 to 52 do not apply to or in respect of any Indian who does not ordinarily reside on a reserve or on lands belonging to Her Majesty in right of Canada or a province.

R.S., 1985, c. I-5, s. 4; R.S., 1985, c. 32 (1st Supp.), s. 2.

SCHOOLS

115. The Minister may

- (a) provide for and make regulations with respect to standards for buildings, equipment, teaching, education, inspection and discipline in connection with schools;
- (b) provide for the transportation of children to and from school;
- (c) enter into agreements with religious organizations for the support and maintenance of children who are being educated in schools operated by those organizations; and
- (d) apply the whole or any part of moneys that would otherwise be payable to or on behalf of a child who is attending a residential school to the maintenance of that child at that school.

R.S., c. I-6, s. 115.

116. (1) Subject to section 117, every Indian child who has attained the age of seven years shall attend school.

(2) The Minister may

- (a) require an Indian who has attained the age of six years to attend school;
- (b) require an Indian who becomes sixteen years of age during the school term to continue to attend school until the end of that term; and
- (c) require an Indian who becomes sixteen years of age to attend school for such further period as the Minister considers advisable, but no Indian shall be required to attend school after he becomes eighteen years of age.

118. Every Indian child who is required to attend school shall attend such school as the Minister may designate, but no child whose parent is a Protestant shall be assigned to a school conducted under Roman Catholic auspices and no child whose parent is a Roman Catholic shall be assigned to a school conducted under Protestant auspices, except by written direction of the parent.

119. (1) The Minister may appoint persons, to be called truant officers, to enforce the attendance of Indian children at school, and for that purpose a truant officer has the powers of a peace officer.

(2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1), a truant officer may, subject to subsection (2.1),

- (a) enter any place where he believes, on reasonable grounds, that there are Indian children who are between the ages of seven and sixteen years, or who are required by the Minister to attend school;
- (b) investigate any case of truancy; and
- (c) serve written notice on the parent, guardian or other person having the care or legal custody of a child to cause the child to attend school regularly thereafter.

(3) Where a notice has been served in accordance with paragraph (2)(c) with respect to a child who is required by this Act to attend school and the child does not within three days after the service of notice attend school and continue to attend school regularly thereafter, the person on whom the notice was served is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten days or to both.

(5) A child who is habitually late for school shall be deemed to be absent from school.

(6) A truant officer may take into custody a child whom he believes on reasonable grounds to be absent from school contrary to this Act and may convey the child to school, using as much force as the circumstances require.