

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Interim Report Conclusions

The Commission has concluded that:

1. Residential schools constituted an assault on Indigenous children.
2. Residential schools constituted an assault on Indigenous families.
3. Residential schools constituted an assault on Indigenous culture.
4. Residential schools constituted an assault on self-governing and self-sustaining Indigenous nations.
5. The impacts of the residential school system were immediate, and have been ongoing since the earliest years of the schools.
6. Canadians have been denied a full and proper education as to the nature of Indigenous societies, and the history of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

Intergenerational Impacts of Indian Residential Schools

Historic trauma:

The cumulative effects of trauma experienced by a group of people over generations. For Indigenous people of Canada, it comes from the many historical experiences of colonial control that has disrupted Indigenous language, culture and identity.

Intergenerational impact:

The trauma of survivors that is passed on from one generation to the next. It is rooted in the unresolved trauma of people who experienced or witnessed physical, emotional and sexual abuse in an Indian Residential School.

Lateral violence:

Humiliating or violent behaviour towards members of a group by other members of the same group. In Indigenous communities, some people may abuse their own people in ways that they have been abused themselves. They direct their anger at their peers and community members.

Below are a number of negative outcomes experienced in some First Nations communities. In what ways are these connected to the intergenerational impacts of the Indian Residential School System?

loss of language and culture

depression

high suicide and other mortality rates

substance abuse

child abuse

domestic violence

loss of parenting skills

physical and sexual abuse

self-destructive behaviour

inability to express emotion or love

gossip

family feuds

family violence

elder abuse

violence against women

gangs