



## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

### Exhibition Backgrounder

#### ***Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of Residential Schools*** ***Showing at Borealis Gallery May 16 to September 2***

#### **The Exhibition [wherearethechildren.ca/en/](http://wherearethechildren.ca/en/)**

Developed in 2001, the goals of *Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools* are to acknowledge the experiences, impacts and consequences of Canada's Residential School System on Indigenous peoples; to create a public and historical record of this period in Canadian history that can be easily accessed by Canadians; and to promote public awareness, understanding and education of the history and legacy of Residential Schools. Through documentation, acknowledgement and education the goal of the exhibition is also to assist in promoting understanding and reconciliation in Canada surrounding the issue of Residential Schools.

The exhibition consists of 118 framed archival photographs, text panels, maps and historical government papers selected from nine public and church archives, depicting the history and legacy of Canada's Residential School System.

#### **Borealis Gallery [assembly.ab.ca/visitorcentre/borealis.html](http://assembly.ab.ca/visitorcentre/borealis.html)**

*Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools* will show at the Borealis Gallery from May 16 to September 2. The Borealis Gallery is located in the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre on the main floor of the Edmonton Federal Building. Through the Legislative Assembly Visitor Centre the Legislative Assembly aims to educate Albertans on our parliamentary system, democracy and important historical, social and cultural issues.

#### **Curator Jeff Thomas [jeff-thomas.ca](http://jeff-thomas.ca)**

Jeff Thomas is a member of the Six Nations Reserve and currently resides in Ottawa, where he works as a photo-based artist and independent curator. Thomas explores relationships between the Indigenous past and present through historical photographs and paintings depicting Indigenous people. His curatorial projects have taken place at the National Archives of Canada, the Canadian Museum of Civilization, the Archives of Ontario and George Eastman House in Rochester, New York.

#### **Legacy of Hope Foundation [legacyofhope.ca](http://legacyofhope.ca)**

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is a national Indigenous charitable organization whose purpose is to educate, raise awareness and understanding of the legacy of Residential Schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and to support the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors. Fulfilling this mandate contributes towards reconciliation among generations of Indigenous peoples and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Canada.

The LHF fulfills this mandate by working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples as well as with communities and organizations across Canada and by undertaking communications, research and policy activities that support the development and implementation of educational programming. All of these activities are informed by the experiences and stories of Residential School Survivors, their families and communities.

## **Partners**

### **Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) [ahf.ca/](http://ahf.ca/)**

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation was an Indigenous-managed national Ottawa-based not-for-profit private corporation established in 1998 with funding by the government of Canada as part of Gathering Strength, Canada's Aboriginal action plan. The Aboriginal Healing Foundation was given a mandate to encourage and support, through research and funding contributions, healing initiatives that were community-based, Indigenous-directed and addressed the legacy of physical and sexual abuse suffered in Canada's Residential School System, including intergenerational impacts. The AHF ceased operations in September 2014.

### **Library and Archives Canada [bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx](http://bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx)**

Library and Archives Canada preserves and makes accessible the documentary heritage of Canada. It also serves as the continuing memory of the government of Canada and its institutions. This heritage includes publications, archival records, sound and audiovisual materials, photographs, artworks and electronic documents.

## **Residential Schools Facts and Stats**

- An estimated 150,000 students attended Residential Schools in Canada.  
[thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools](http://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools)
- According to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada over 6,000 students died in Residential Schools. See the final report at [trc.ca/](http://trc.ca/)
- Residential Schools operated in Canada between 1831 and 1996.
- In the 1930s there were 80 schools. [thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools](http://thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/residential-schools)
- The federal government acknowledged the tragedy of its Residential Schools System policy in its 2008 apology. [aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100015657/1100100015675](http://aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100015657/1100100015675)
- In its 2015 final report the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada described the federal government policies that established the Residential School System in Canada as cultural genocide. [nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Principles\\_English\\_Web.pdf](http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Principles_English_Web.pdf)

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