

National Resources & Strategies to Support the Search of and Recovery of Missing and Disappeared Children

Presentation at the Special Interlocutor's National Gathering on Unmarked Burials: Northern Voices

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Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

Response to Residential Schools Legacy

1990-1996

Awareness

1990 Phil Fontaine on CBC

1996 RCAP Chap 10

First lawsuits vs Canada and Churches

RCMP BC Task Force on IRS abuse

First criminal trials

First gatherings for survivors

1996-2003

Litigation & Support

Exploratory Dialogues

Gathering Strength: Statement of Reconciliation and Aboriginal Healing Foundation

From 100s to 1000s of lawsuits

Negotiations with churches

Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada

2003-2005

ADR & Class Actions

National Resolution Framework

Federal ADR Process and ADR Pilot projects

IRS Mental health program

First class action lawsuits

Claims process overwhelmed – AFN & CBA action

2006-2015

IRSSA & TRC

Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement

- *Common Experience Payment*
- *Independent Assessment Process*
- *Commemoration*
- *Education*
- *PM Apology*
- *Records disclosure*

Truth & Reconciliation Commission

2021 - Present

Unmarked Burials & Missing Children

May 27, 2021 Tk'emlups and the 215 missing children

August 2021 \$320M federal announcement + Budget 2022

First National Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Independent Special Interlocutor and National Advisory Committee appointed

Horizontal Initiative to Address Legacy of Residential Schools

ISC's IRS Environmental Scan on sites and buildings

Indigenous Services Canada and Legacy of Residential Schools: Mental Wellness / Former Sites and Buildings

- The Government of Canada invested nearly \$700 million in [mental wellness supports related to Indian Residential Schools](#) and other colonial traumas between April 2021 – March 2024.
 - Majority of this funding is flowed directly to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis communities and organizations to support Indigenous-led mental wellness initiatives.
 - The **Trauma-Informed Health and Cultural Support Program** funds access to community-based, culturally safe mental wellness support for Survivors, community members, and all Indigenous people impacted by the ongoing legacy of Indian Residential Schools and other colonial trauma.
 - Health and cultural support workers are hired by community organizations to provide services.
 - The program also funds mental health counselling for Survivors and Intergenerational Survivors of Indian Residential Schools and Federal Indian Day Schools, and others.
- In August 2021, the Government of Canada announced \$100.1 million to help support First Nation communities to begin to [address school buildings and associated sites on reserve](#) that were once used for residential schools, delivered through Indigenous Services Canada.
- In 2023 Indigenous Services Canada did **an environmental scan on the status of former residential school sites and buildings**, and launched a **Residential Schools Mapping Network** to share research initiatives.

2023 Residential Schools Environmental Scan - Findings

140 Residential Schools in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement occupied 174 sites

On Reserve 76 sites

- 30 buildings in use on 17 sites
- 2 former schools designated national historic sites

- ISC engaged 52 First Nations who had residential schools on their reserves
 - Communities at different stages of readiness
 - buildings often used as community purposes

Off-Reserve and North 98 sites

- 24 buildings present and in use on 18 sites
- Many sites now owned by multiple private owners
- 2 former schools designated national historic sites

- 25 wholly privately owned
- 8 on federal Crown land
- 4 owned by Indigenous entities
- 17 on provincial or territorial Crown land
- 37 have mixed types of ownership/multiple jurisdictions, including modern treaties
- 9 partially or fully church owned

ISC has created an Indian Residential Schools Mapping Application <https://geo.sac-isc.gc.ca/ACPI-IRSMA/>

ISC Interactive Residential School Map

