



Facts About Residential Schools

Residential schools were government-sponsored schools run by churches whose purpose was to educate and convert Indigenous youth and to assimilate them into Canadian society.

How many students attended residential schools?

An estimated 150,000 children attended residential schools since the first school opened in Brantford, Ontario in 1831.

How many residential schools were there in Canada?

In total, over 130 residential schools operated in Canada between 1831 and 1996. In 1931, there were 80 residential schools operating in Canada. This was the most at any one time.

When did the last residential school in Canada close?

The Gordon Residential School in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, closed in 1996. It was the last federally-funded residential school in Canada.

How many children died at residential schools?

An estimated 6,000 children died at residential schools (records are incomplete). The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation lists the names of 16 children who died while at the Shubenacadie Residential School, which operated in Nova Scotia from 1929 to 1967. Recently, the remains of over 300 Aboriginal Children, which were undocumented deaths, have recently been found at numerous sites, including the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia.

These facts should remind us to never forget that Every Child Matters.

Sackville
NEW BRUNSWICK