

CANADA: THE TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION



WHAT IS THE TRC?

The Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is a *Truth, Reconciliation, Memorialization and Relation Building* commission established by the Federal Government of Canada. It aimed to reconcile the atrocities committed against the Indigenous population of Canada by both the Federal Government and the Church.

The TRC was initially created in 2008 following the establishment of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. The final report of the TRC was completed in 2015.

WHY WAS IT CREATED?

The TRC largely focuses on the Indigenous Residential School System, which was in operation from 1831-1996, with official government funding beginning in the 1880s.

The Federal Government, in collaboration with the Church, created a system of schools solely for Indigenous children to aid in the Canadian assimilation process. The school system functioned alongside various assimilative, oppressive policies and legislations such as The Indian Act of 1876.

In these schools, Indigenous children were subjected to various forms of severe abuse, as well as cultural loss, alienation from family, and other forms of human rights violations leading to generations of lasting trauma.

MANDATES OF THE TRC

The main goals of the TRC were:

- Acknowledging historical memory and truth of Indigenous cultural assimilation and genocide
- Addressing ongoing concerns in Indigenous communities resulting from intergenerational trauma stemming back to such atrocities
- Ensuring that the Federal government accept responsibility and pursue reconciliation with Indigenous communities
- Establishing individual and collective reparations

OUTCOMES & LEGACIES

- Official Canadian recognition of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Rejection of the Doctrine of Discovery
- Indigenous legal rights adopted into Canadian law
- The creation of the National Centre of Truth & Reconciliation (NCTR)
- Professional Development & Training
- Education on Human Rights, Diversity & Equity as well as Indigenous Studies
- Museums & Archives dedicated to Indigenous history
- Missing Children & Burial Information



STATISTICS

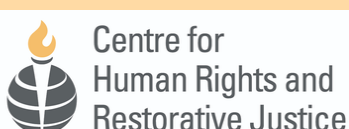
Number of Commissioners: **3**

Number of Women Commissioners: **1**

Total Number of Participants: **150 000**

Number of Cases Heard: **6570**

Total Years of Residential School Operation: **approx. 160**



THE CANADIAN TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION (TRC)
An Important Dates Timeline

- 1831**
The very first church-run Canadian Indigenous Residential School is opened.
- 1880s**
The Federal Government becomes officially involved in the Residential Schools, which included providing funding. This was done in order to support state-sanctioned assimilation policies and legislation.
- 1996**
The last federally-funded Indigenous Residential Schools close in Canada. Conversations surrounding the need to address the legacies of trauma begin to arise.
- 2008**
The Canadian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) is founded is established under the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.
- 2015**
The final report of the TRC is completed, after hearing the testimonies of approximately 6,570 Indigenous survivors.