



FROM APOLOGY TO  
RECONCILIATION

Appendix 2: Glossary of Terms



## APPENDIX 2: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

### Note

*A list of relevant terms appears at the beginning of each cluster.*

**Seven Generations:** Among most First Nations, consideration of the effects of any decision upon future generations up to the seventh generation is key when planning for a sustainable future.

*Note:* Recent studies in Quebec and Iceland found that 35 years is the average length of male generations, while that of female generations is 30 years.

Source: Devine, Donn. "How Long is a Generation?" [www.ancestry.com.au/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib\\_Generation](http://www.ancestry.com.au/learn/learningcenters/default.aspx?section=lib_Generation)

**Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF):** Formed in 1998 as a part of *Gathering Strength – Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*, the mission of the AHF was to encourage and support community-based Aboriginal initiatives to bring about reconciliation and promote healing among survivors and communities affected by the legacies of residential schools in Canada. The AHF's mandate ceased in 2012.

The **Aboriginal Justice Inquiry (AJI)** was created by the Manitoba government in 1998 after two high-profile incidents involving Aboriginal victims: the 1987 trial for the murder of Helen Betty Osborne, which occurred in The Pas, Manitoba in 1971; and the shooting death of J.J. Harper by a Winnipeg policeman in 1988. Its purpose was to examine the administration of justice and Aboriginal people in Manitoba. The Inquiry issued its report in 1991. In 1999, the Aboriginal Justice Implementation Commission was created to develop an action plan based on recommendations in the inquiry's report.

**Acknowledgement:**

1. The act of admitting or owning to something.
2. Recognition of another's existence, validity, authority, or right.
3. An answer or response in return for something done.
4. An expression of thanks or a token of appreciation.
5. A formal declaration made to authoritative witnesses to ensure legal validity.

Source: *American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language*, 4th ed., Houghton Mifflin (2009)

**Activism:** The doctrine or practice of vigorous action or involvement as a means of achieving political or other goals, sometimes by demonstrations, protests, etc.

Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/activism>

**Alternative Dispute Resolution:** The Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement provides for an alternative dispute resolution process. This is a voluntary process for claimants to resolve validated physical and sexual abuse claims outside of the litigation process. The Alternative Dispute Resolution process involves an application process and private hearings before an independent adjudicator. The adjudicator, as an independent decision maker, is responsible for setting compensation awards within an established compensation framework. The claimant has the option to accept the award, appeal the decision, or pursue litigation.

Source: Treasury Board Canada. "Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada." [www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/dpr-rmr/2007-2008/inst/ira/ira02-eng.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/dpr-rmr/2007-2008/inst/ira/ira02-eng.asp)

The **Anglican Church** was one of four Christian churches to administer residential schools in Canada. Other churches included the Roman Catholic, Methodist, and Presbyterian churches. The last two united in 1925 to form the United Church, which continued to administer residential schools until 1969.

**Apartheid:** An Afrikaans word meaning "separation," apartheid was the racial, social policy introduced by the National Party government of South Africa in 1948. Apartheid was a social philosophy that enforced racial, social, and economic segregation on the people of South Africa.

Source: <http://africanhistory.about.com/od/apartheid/Apartheid.htm>

**Assimilation:** "the process whereby one cultural group is absorbed into the culture of another, usually the majority culture."

Source: Manitoba Education Citizenship and Youth. *Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula* (2003)

**Assimilation Policies:** Assimilation is defined by *The Free Dictionary* ([www.thefreedictionary.com/assimilation](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/assimilation)) as "The process whereby a minority group gradually adopts the customs and attitudes of the prevailing culture." In "The Origins of Canadian Indian Policy," *Journal of Canadian Studies*, November 1973 (8.4: 51-60), L.F.S. Upton notes that Canada pursued a policy of assimilation of First Nations, a continuation of pre-confederation British policy. In "Protection, Civilization, Assimilation: An Outline History of Canada's Indian Policy," *Western Canadian Journal of Anthropology*, 1976 (6.2: 29-53), John L. Tobias notes that the *Gradual Civilization Act* of 1857, was "designed to encourage civilization of the Indian, remove all legal distinctions between the Indians and other Canadians, and integrate them fully into Canadian society." The *Indian Act* (1876 and later revisions) included a number of assimilative measures:

imposition of western, municipal-style band governments, enforced attendance by First Nations children in residential schools, the banning of traditional spiritual practices such as the Sun Dance, loss of status for women who married non-First Nations men and for First Nations individuals who obtained a university degree. Although many of these measures were repealed in 1951, the policy remained. In 1969, the government's White Paper on Indian Affairs called for the absolution of the government's responsibility for First Nations by abolishing the reserve system and repealing the *Indian Act*. The White Paper met with a wave of opposition from First Nations and was subsequently withdrawn. Assimilation did not end with the repeal of the White Paper. The sixties scoop (the adoption of thousands of Aboriginal children to parents who were most often non-Aboriginal) continued into the 1980s. First Nations women who had lost status under the terms of the *Indian Act* fought to regain lost status in the courts. In 1985, Bill C-31 restored status for women who had lost it, as well as to those who had been disenfranchised. Many First Nations leaders argue that the policy of assimilation has not disappeared but continues today with practices including the removal by child welfare authorities of Aboriginal children from their homes and communities and the underfunding of First Nations education.

**Circle of Life:** The Medicine Wheel comes from prairie cultures but is now common to all Aboriginal communities. The Medicine Wheel is a symbol that represents the circle of life. It is a very deep and complex symbol. A full understanding of all the teachings related to the Medicine Wheel would take a lifetime. A core concept of the Medicine Wheel is balance, harmony, and interconnectedness. A Medicine Wheel can represent

- the four stages of life: infant, youth, adult, and elder
- the four races of humans: black, yellow, white, and red
- the four seasons, the four cardinal directions, etc.

Source: Vancouver Coastal Health. "Aboriginal Health Resources."  
<http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/terms.htm>

**Colonization:** Control and exploitation of a territory through settlement.

**Common Experience Payment (CEP):** By the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, prior to September 2011, survivors of residential schools could apply for the Common Experience Payment, given to those who attended a recognized residential school. Eligible survivors were awarded \$10,000 for their first year in residence and \$3000 for each subsequent year.

Source: Indian Residential School Survivor's Society. [www.irsss.ca/common-experience-payment-cep/](http://www.irsss.ca/common-experience-payment-cep/)

**Compensation:** Something given (or received) as an equivalent; a satisfactory return for a loss or injury or for a service.

Source: Gage Publishing Ltd. *Gage Canadian Dictionary* (1983)

**Cultural Genocide** is a term used to describe the deliberate destruction of the cultural heritage of a nation for political or military reasons.

Source: [www.wordiq.com/definition/Cultural\\_genocide](http://www.wordiq.com/definition/Cultural_genocide)

**Day School:** Many of the estimated 75,000 students of Indian day schools (schools in which the students did not reside during the school year) suffered the same types of abuse as the survivors of residential schools, who were recognized as eligible for compensation under the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA). Day school students, however, have not been recognized under the IRSSA.

**Discrimination:** Unfair treatment of a person, racial group, minority, etc.; action based on prejudice.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/discrimination](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/discrimination)

**Exclusion:** A deliberate act of omission.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/exclusion](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/exclusion)

**Guiding Principles for Resolution:** The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will build upon the “Statement of Reconciliation” dated January 7, 1998, and the principles developed by the Working Group on Truth and Reconciliation and of the Exploratory Dialogues (1998-1999). These principles are as follows: accessible; victim-centred; confidentiality (if required by the former student); do no harm; health and safety of participants; representative; public/transparent; accountable; open and honourable process; comprehensive; inclusive, educational, holistic, just and fair; respectful; voluntary; flexible; and forward looking in terms of rebuilding and renewing Aboriginal relationships and the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

Source: Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. “Our Mandate.” [www.trc-cvr.ca/](http://www.trc-cvr.ca/)

**Human Rights:** The principle that all individuals should have an opportunity equal with other individuals to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have and to have their needs accommodated, consistent with their duties and obligations as members of society, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability, or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted or in respect of which a record suspension has been ordered.

Source: Department of Justice. *The Canadian Human Rights Act*.  
<http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/h-6/page-1.html#h-2>

**Immigration** occurs when people who are not native to a country move there to settle.

**Independent Assessment Process:** By the terms of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement, survivors or others who experienced sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or abuse that resulted in serious psychological damage may apply for compensatory payments beyond the Common Experience Payment, which is provided for any survivor who attended residential school.

Source: Indian Residential Schools Adjudication Secretariat. "Guide to the Independent Assessment Process Application." [www.iap-pei.ca/information/forms/iap-guide-v3.1-20120605-eng.php](http://www.iap-pei.ca/information/forms/iap-guide-v3.1-20120605-eng.php)

**Indigenous (peoples):** Original peoples of a country.

**Industrial school:** A category of residential schools generally located far away from First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities, intended for fourteen to eighteen year-olds, but which were also attended by younger children. Girls were trained in domestic duties, sewing, laundry, cleaning, and cooking; boys learned agriculture, carpentry, shoemaking, and blacksmithing.

Source: Legacy of Hope Foundation. *Where are the Children? Blackboard*, Chapter 4: "School Life and Survivor Stories." [www.wherearethekids.ca/en/blackboard/page-9.html](http://www.wherearethekids.ca/en/blackboard/page-9.html)

**Integration:** The bringing of people of different racial or ethnic groups into unrestricted and equal association, as in society or an organization; desegregation.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/integration](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/integration)

**Interconnectedness:** The quality or condition of being interconnected; interrelatedness.

Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/Interconnectedness>

**Intergenerational impact:** The effects of abuse passed on to the children of residential school survivors and subsequent generations.

**Marginalize:** To relegate to the fringes, out of the mainstream; make seem unimportant.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/marginalized](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/marginalized)

**Minority:** A group differing, especially in race, religion, or ethnic background, from the majority of a population; a member of such a group.

Source: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/minority>

**Mission School:** Mission schools, run by various churches and intended to Christianize Indigenous students, existed in Canada from the 18th century. The residential school system, funded by the federal government and run by various churches, began in the 1870s. By the 1970s, most residential schools had been closed.

**Negotiations:** Bargaining (give and take) process between two or more parties (each with its own aims, needs, and viewpoints) seeking to discover a common ground and reach an agreement to settle a matter of mutual concern or resolve a conflict.

Source: [www.businessdictionary.com/definition/negotiation.html#ixzz21ZTOV8z6](http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/negotiation.html#ixzz21ZTOV8z6)

**Prejudice:** The act or state of holding unreasonable preconceived judgments or convictions.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/prejudice](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/prejudice)

**Presbyterian Church:** One of four Christian churches to administer residential schools in Canada, along with the Methodist, Anglican, and Roman Catholic churches. The Methodist and Presbyterian churches united in 1925 to form the United Church, which continued to administer residential schools until 1969.

**Racism:** Discrimination based on the belief of the superiority of one's own race.

**Reparation:** Something done or paid to compensate or make amends.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/reparation](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/reparation)

**Residential Schools:** "Schools funded by the federal government and run primarily by churches, partially for the purpose of assimilating Aboriginal children into mainstream society."

Source: *Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula*. Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, 2003. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab\\_persp.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab_persp.pdf)

**Residential Schools Resolution Canada:** Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada is the lead department for the administration of programmatic elements within the IRSSA. It shares program delivery responsibilities with Health Canada and Service Canada.

Source: Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat. "Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada." [www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rpp/2008-2009/inst/ira/ira02-eng.asp](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/rpp/2008-2009/inst/ira/ira02-eng.asp)

**Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement (IRSSA)** is a comprehensive settlement package negotiated between the Government of Canada, the churches, lawyers representing survivors, and the Assembly of First Nations. This package includes a cash payment for all former students of Indian residential schools, healing funds, a truth and reconciliation commission, and commemoration funding. The IRSSA is a program of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation.

Source: Aboriginal Healing Foundation. "FAQs." [www.ahf.ca/faqs](http://www.ahf.ca/faqs)

**Resurgence:** The act of rising again; resurrection.

Source: [www.websters-online-dictionary.org/definitions/Resurgence](http://www.websters-online-dictionary.org/definitions/Resurgence)

**Roman Catholic Church:** One of four Christian churches to administer residential schools in Canada, along with the Methodist, Anglican, and Presbyterian churches (in 1925 the Methodist and Presbyterian churches united to form the United Church, which continued to run residential schools until 1969). The majority of residential schools were administered by the Roman Catholic Church.

**Royal Commission on Aboriginal People (RCAP):** Created in 1991 to examine the conditions facing Aboriginal peoples in Canada and their relationship with Canada, the RCAP issued a landmark report in 1996 that made many recommendations designed to improve social conditions for Aboriginal peoples and to restore the relationship between Aboriginal peoples and Canada. Most of the commission's recommendations have not been acted upon as of 2012.

**Segregation:** The policy or practice of separating people of different races, classes, or ethnic groups, as in schools, housing, and public or commercial facilities, especially as a form of discrimination.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/segregation](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/segregation)

**Self-Determination:** The ability of a people to determine their own political, economic, and cultural futures, independent of external interference.

The **Statement of Apology to Aboriginal Peoples** was delivered in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Harper on behalf of the Government of Canada on June 11, 2008, in response to Canada's role in the Indian residential school system.

**Statement of Reconciliation:** Issued by the federal government as part of *Gathering Strength: Canada's Aboriginal Action Plan*. The statement acknowledged and apologized for Canada's role in past injustices concerning Aboriginal people including residential schools. *Gathering Strength* announced a \$359 million fund to begin the process of reconciliation and the creation of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to manage the fund.

**Tolerance:** The capacity for or the practice of recognizing and respecting the beliefs or practices of others.

Source: [www.thefreedictionary.com/tolerance](http://www.thefreedictionary.com/tolerance)

**Treaty:** “An agreement made between specific groups of Aboriginal peoples and the federal government that clarifies Aboriginal rights to land and resources. Treaties were written as a means to have the government recognize their responsibilities towards Aboriginal peoples in the areas of social, educational, and economic concerns.”

Source: *Integrating Aboriginal Perspectives into Curricula*. Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, 2003. [http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab\\_persp.pdf](http://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/docs/policy/abpersp/ab_persp.pdf)

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada** was established in 2008 as part of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. Its mandate is to help heal Aboriginal people and communities affected by the residential school experience, and to bring about a reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. It was given a five-year mandate and a \$60 million budget to research records and interview survivors, their families and community members, those who worked in the schools, government, and anyone affected by the residential school experience.

**United Church:** The United Church was formed in 1925 as a result of the union of the Presbyterian and Methodist churches. From 1925 to 1969, the United Church administered some residential schools in Canada.