



Truth and
Reconciliation
Commission of Canada

Commission de
vérité et
réconciliation
du Canada

June 15, 2012

Manitoba Education
Aboriginal Education Directorate
510 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg MB R2W 2M7

Attention: Helen Robinson-Settee

Dear Madam:

Re: Letter of Support

As Chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC), I commend all of the contributors to Manitoba's new curriculum initiative on Canada's residential school system. Your initiative and participation, whether as curriculum developers, staff, teachers, or students, is of historic importance.

We know that at least 150,000 First Nations, Inuit, and Métis children passed through the federally-funded residential school system between 1883 and 1996. These Aboriginal children were uprooted from their families, their homes, and their societies. Their stories remain among the least-known of Canada's collective history.

Our commission is committed to sharing not only the history of the schools, but also their impact on successive generations of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians. By unveiling the truth of what happened in the schools, we will be better able to understand their legacy while we strive to achieve national reconciliation through the restoration of respectful relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.

This curriculum package has been prepared for Grade 9 and 11 Social Studies teachers in Manitoba. I urge you to watch and listen closely to the powerful personal accounts shared by former students and intergenerational survivors. My hope is that every Canadian will learn about the residential school system and how it continues to affect us today. Your participation in Manitoba's curriculum initiative brings us one step closer.

Miigwech! Merci! Thank you!

Yours truly,

The Honourable Mr. Justice Murray Sinclair, Chair
Truth and Reconciliation Commission

trc.ca | cvr.ca

1500-360 rue Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3C 3Z3
Tel./Tél. : 204 984-5885 Fax/Télééc. : 204 984-5915