

The Fallen Feather

Indian Industrial Residential Schools
Canadian Confederation

Sept 2007 94 min

Directed by Randy Bezeau
Hosted by Jannica Hoskins

Vision Productions

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Between 1879 and 1986, upwards of 100,000 children in Canada were forcibly removed and placed into Indian Industrial Residential Schools. Their unique culture was stripped away to be replaced with a foreign European identity. Their family ties were cut, parents were forbidden to visit their children, and the children were prevented from returning home.

First Nations children were the only children in Canadian History to be singled out by race and forced to live in institutions; generation after generation.

ND Rosiers - President, Law Commission of Canada, 15 Aug 2001

The Indian Agents and RCMP removed the children from their families and placed them within these schools as wards of the state.

Why were these walls built? Why were so many children corralled behind these bricks so far from home? Tens of thousands died of tuberculosis and other ailments brought on by the grossly inadequate living standards. Families destroyed, generations lost. All to further the official policy of achieving a "final solution" to what had been perceived as an "Indian problem"

Department of Indian Affairs Superintendent. D.C. Scott to B.C. Indian Agent-General Major D. McKay 1910

Pick up a paper today and the chances are there will be some reference to the First Nations condition. Tens of thousands of cases of sexual and physical abuses. The Government has assumed partial responsibility for this historical wrong and has agreed to pay out Billions in damages. They agree that the assimilation of First Nations children within these Industrial Schools was a terrible mistake.

A mistake? The assimilation of First Nations wasn't a mistake; it was a plan.

The abuses that occurred within these Residential Schools were only symptoms of a greater problem. To focus on the obvious crime of physical and psychological abuse is to divert attention from the real story.

Land, This Land.

The Fallen Feather Provides an in-depth critical analysis of the driving forces behind the creation of Canadian Indian Industrial Residential Schools.

Using historical source documents, survivors personal testimonies and detailed analysis from community leaders, the film explores in detail, the Federal Governments primary motivation in the creation of these Schools.

While examining the influences of Indian wars, Sir John A MacDonald's National Policy, Land Claims issues, the film details how all of these events and visions contributed to the development of these Schools.

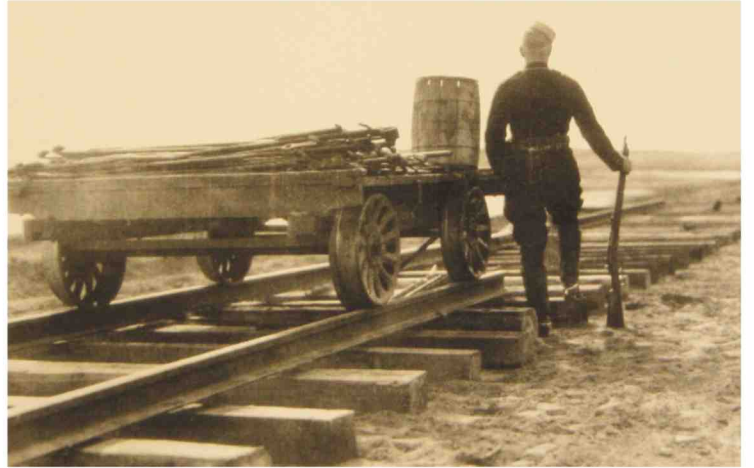
The film argues that the lasting effects that First Nations in Canada suffer today, can be traced back directly to their experiences within these schools. Finally, we as Canadians are all challenge to re-examine our shared history.



The Fallen Feather

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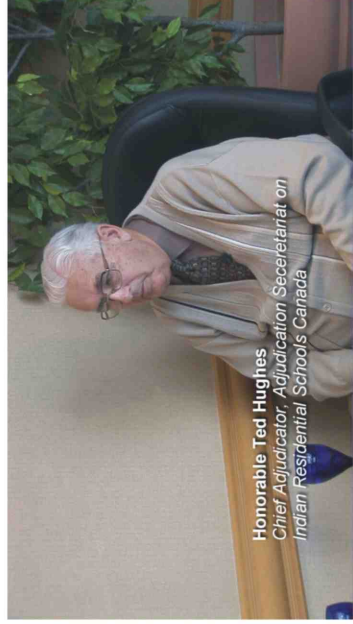
Follow Jannica Hoskins through her journey to find her lost heritage and explore the root causes behind the creation of Indian Industrial Residential Schools in Canada.



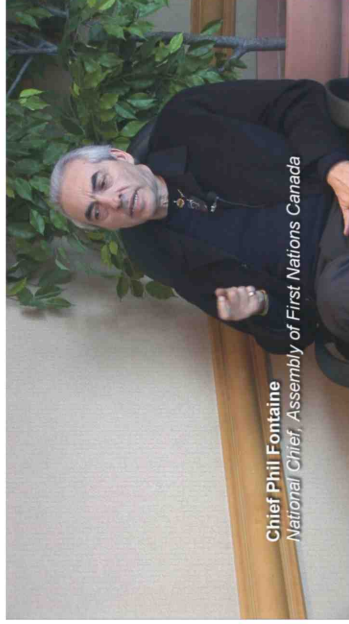
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Chiefs and Elders share their unique insights into the cultural and political significants of the effects of Canadian Indian Industrial Residential Schools.

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Honorable Ted Hughes
Chief Adjudicator, Adjudication Secretariat on
Indian Residential Schools Canada



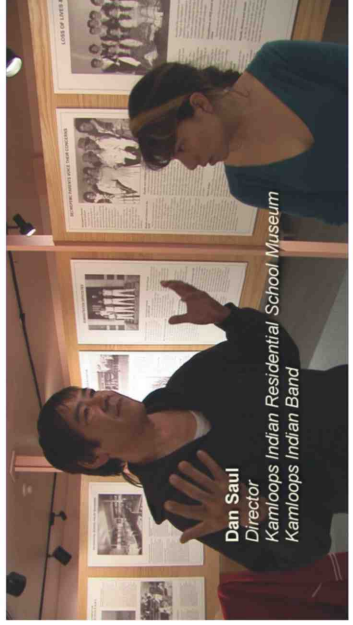
Chief Phil Fontaine
National Chief, Assembly of First Nations Canada



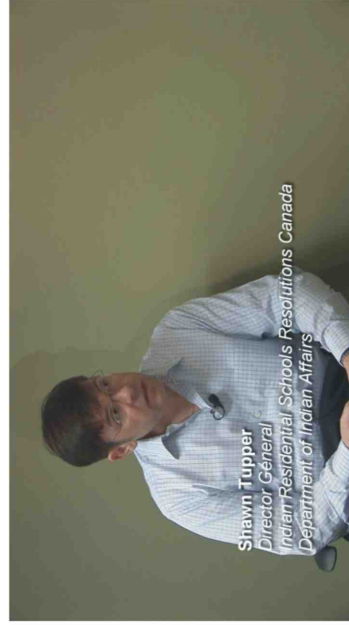
Christopher Devlin LP
Canadian Bar Association



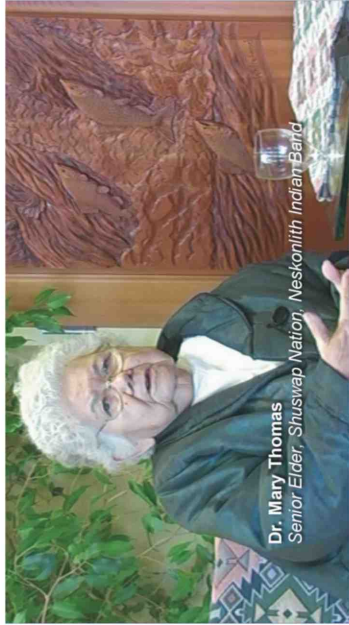
Ernie Phillip
National Fancy Dance Champion
Senior Elder, Little Shuswap Indian Band



Dan Saul
Director
Kamloops Indian Residential School Museum
Kamloops Indian Band



Shawn Tupper
Director General
Indian Residential Schools Resolutions Canada
Department of Indian Affairs



Dr. Mary Thomas
Senior Elder, Shuswap Nation, Neskonlith Indian Band



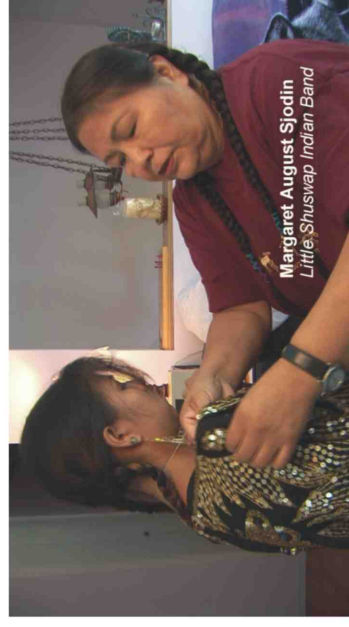
Chief Bob Joseph
Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada



Richard Jules
Taxation & Procurement, Kamloops Indian Band



John Jules
Cultural Advisor, Kamloops Indian Band



Margaret August Sjodin
Little Shuswap Indian Band

The Fallen Feather

93 min feature documentary

Chapter One (23 min)

The Politics of War

- The French Indian War
- The Pontiac War
- The Royal Proclamation of 1763
- Sir John A Macdonald's National Dream
- Indian Threats to Canadian Confederation
- The Davin Report, American Indian Industrial Schools
- Edgar Dewdney, the need to take hostages

Chapter Two (35 min)

School Life

- Forced Removal of Indian children, Dr Mary Thomas
- Religious Indoctrination, Chris Devlin
- Poor education and malnutrition, National Chief Phil Fontaine
- Physical and sexual abuse, Hon. Ted Hughes
- First Person Testimonials,
Ernie Philip, Dr Mary Thomas, Richard Jules

Chapter Three (13 min)

Tuberculosis

- TB Hut, substandard health care, Richard Jules
- Dr. Peter Bryce, "National Crime" 1910,
- Duncan C Scott, "The Final Solution" 1910

Chapter Four (22 min)

Lasting Effects

- Suicides, Dr Mary Thomas
- Prisons, National Chief Phil Fontaine
- Family dysfunction, John Jules
- Need for improved education, Shawn Tupper
- The importance of reclaiming culture, Margaret August Sjodin
- The Fallen Feather ceremony, John Jules
- Need for truth and reconciliation, Chief Bob Joseph
- Final tribute to Dr. Mary Thomas, Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Visit our web page for references, bibliography and purchasing details.
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