

150 YEARS OF COLONIALISM

150 YEARS OF VIOLENCE

150 YEARS OF ERASURE

1887

ON THE TOPIC OF ASSIMILATION,
JOHN A MCDONALD IS QUOTED:

"The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change,"

BY 1931

~80 RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS ARE OPERATING IN CANADA. THEY EXIST TO: SEPARATE CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES, STRIP AWAY CULTURAL IDENTITY & FORCE ASSIMILATION INTO CANADIAN SOCIETY.

Why? The dissolution of Indigenous people, culturally and legally, would absolve the government from obligations to Indigenous people, and give them control over their land and resources. In the schools, Indigenous children were physically and sexually abused, subjected to poor living conditions, and forced to participate in nutrition experiments. It is estimated that 150,000 First Nation, Métis, and Inuit children were in the residential school system, and that over 6000 died during their time there.

1960s-1980s

DURING THE "SIXTIES SCOOP", INDIGENOUS CHILDREN ARE REMOVED FROM THEIR FAMILIES, WITHOUT CONSENT, & PUT IN THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM.

Social workers - lacking cultural knowledge, made assumptions about what constituted adequate care based on their own white-centric standards. Indigenous children were often placed in upper-middle class white Canadian families. As with residential schools, children were expected to assimilate into "Canadian" culture and identity.

1920

DEPUTY MINISTER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
DUNCAN CAMPBELL SCOTT IS QUOTED:

"Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian department..." These sentiments would be echoed again by Prime Minister Trudeau in his proposed 1969 "White Paper" policy.

1960

FIRST NATIONS PEOPLE ARE THE LAST TO RECEIVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

Non-indigenous (white) women in Manitoba were granted the right to vote in 1916. Chinese and Japanese people in Canada were given the right to vote in 1947 and 1948, respectively.

1969

PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU PROPOSES THE "WHITE PAPER" POLICY, WHICH WOULD ABOLISH THE INDIAN ACT. THE GOAL? TO ABSORB/ASSIMILATE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES INTO CANADIAN SOCIETY.

Along with abolishing "Indian" status, all treaties would be terminated, reserves would become municipalities, and residents would be subject to the same laws that applied to settler Canadians. Due to strong Indigenous opposition, the White Paper was retracted in 1971.

1996

THE LAST RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CLOSES.

Gordon Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan had been controlled by the federal government since the late 1960s. Between then and 1984, hundreds of lawsuits detailing allegations of sexual abuse were filed against William Starr and other residence administrators and staff.

BETWEEN 2001 AND 2012, THE POPULATION OF INCARCERATED INDIGENOUS PEOPLE INCREASES BY 37.3%. THE NUMBER OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN INCARCERATED INCREASES BY 109%.

This overrepresentation of Indigenous bodies in the Canadian corrections system remains today, and reflects institutionalized discrimination, systemic over-policing and racial-profiling of Indigenous people. Many Indigenous folks are denied bail—leading to an overrepresentation of Indigenous individuals incarcerated while legally innocent: they are incarcerated *on remand*. Today, Canadian prisons are sometimes referred to as the “new residential schools”.

JULY 2017

SETTLERS CELEBRATE #CANADA150, A CELEBRATION OF A COUNTRY FOUNDED ON GENOCIDE & ERASING INDIGENOUS HISTORY, CULTURE, & PEOPLE.

Instead of partaking in Canada Day festivities, take today (and tomorrow, and the next week, and the next year, and beyond) to educate yourself about Canada’s history of—and ongoing—violence against Indigenous communities. Talk to your friends and family about it. Visit unsettling150.ca for readings, resources, and actions.

BETWEEN 1980 AND 2012, 16% OF ALL WOMEN MURDERED IN CANADA WERE INDIGENOUS. INDIGENOUS WOMEN MAKE UP ONLY 4% OF THE POPULATION.

When asked about a public inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women in Canada in 2014, then-prime minister Stephen Harper infamously stated “*it isn't really high on our radar, to be honest.*”

In December 2015, a national inquiry—into the 1200 documented cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls over the last three decades—is launched.

2016

JUSTIN TRUDEAU APPROVES EXPANSION OF THE KINDER MORGAN PIPELINE, DESPITE LACK OF SUPPORT & APPROVAL FROM THE MAJORITY OF FIRST NATIONS.

Expansion of the pipeline will happen on traditional First Nations territories and put the health and drinking water of these communities at risk.

2016

THE HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL RULES THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DISCRIMINATED AGAINST FIRST NATIONS CHILDREN.

The Human Rights Tribunal ruled that this discrimination took the form of failing to provide adequate health care services and under-funding child welfare services on reserves. Rather than addressing the needs of Indigenous children and dismantling this institutionalized discrimination, in 2017 the Trudeau government responded by spending over \$700,000 fighting this ruling and taking the Human Rights Tribunal to court.

#RESIST150

#COLONIALISM150

