



Residential School Resources



United Way
East Ontario

WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES
IN PRESCOTT-RUSSELL, OTTAWA,
LANARK AND RENFREW COUNTIES

Residential School Learning Resources

Created for the Indigenous Employment Advisory Leadership Table,
led by United Way East Ontario and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition

From United Way East Ontario's environmental scan, [The Employment Gap for Indigenous Youth in Eastern Ontario](#), we learned about the importance of creating safe, culturally sensitive places of employment when attempting to successfully recruit Indigenous youth. Ensuring cultural safety is key in fostering supportive environments and relationships. It goes beyond cultural awareness (acknowledgement of one's own and other cultures), cultural sensitivity (accepting of other difference), and cultural competence (using academic, experiential, and interpersonal skills to understand difference). Cultural safety also involves a component of self-reflection to recognize our own cultural lens and develop empathy and advocacy to move towards understanding and positive change. Below you will find a list of Indigenous residential school learning resources that you can use to begin your journey toward creating a culturally safe and sensitive work environment that will not only attract Indigenous youth but also ensure their successful retention.

Books on Residential Schools

Indian Horse – Richard Wagamese

One Story, One Song – Richard Wagamese

The Orange Shirt Story: The True Story of Orange Shirt Day – Phyllis Webstad

Phyllis' Orange Shirt – Phyllis Webstad

Shi-shi-etko – Nicola Campbell

Shin-chi's Canoe – Nicola Campbell

Seven Fallen Feathers – Tanya Talaga

Dear Canada, These Are My Words: The Residential School Diary of Violet Pesheens – Ruby Slipperjack

In Search of April Raintree – Beatrice Mosionier

The Train – Jodie Callaghan

My Name is Seepeetza – Shirley Sterling

Fatty Legs – Christy Jordan Fenton & Margaret Pokiak Fenton

A Stranger at Home – Christy Jordan Fenton & Margaret Pokiak Fenton

I Am Not A Number – Jenny Kay Dupuis

When We Were Alone – David. A Robertson & Julie Flett

The Break – Katherena Vermette

Porcupines and China Dolls – Robert Arthur Alexie

The Marrow Thieves – Cherie Dimaline

When I was Eight – Christy Jordan Fenton

Not My Girl – Christy Jordan Fenton



Stolen Words – Melanie Florence

The Land Is Our Storybook – Julie-Anne Andre & Mindy Willet

When We Play Our Drums, They Sing!/Lucy & Lola – Richard Van Camp, Monique Gray Smith, Julie Flett

Sugar Falls: A Residential School Story – David Robertson

As Long As The River Flows – Larry Loyie

Five Little Indians – Michelle Good

The Red Files – Lisa Bird-Wilson

The Education of Augie Merasty: A Residential School Memoir – Joseph Auguste (Augie) Merasty & David Carpenter

Speaking Our Truth – Monique Gray Smith

They Called Me Number One – Bev Sellers

I Lost My Talk – Rita Joe

Moon of the Crusted Snow – Waub Rice

I'm Finding My Talk – Rita Joe

7 Générations – David A. Robertson

Betty: The Helen Betty Osbourne Story – David A. Robertson

Amik Loves School – Katherena Vermette

I Can Make This Promise – Christine Day

Up Ghost River – Edmund Metatawabin

Films

Indian Horse

<https://www.amazon.ca/Indian-Horse-DVD-Digital-Bilingual/dp/B07CG47J7L>

We Were Children – Tim Wolachatiuk

https://www.nfb.ca/film/we_were_children/trailer/we_were_children_trailer/

Other

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation

<https://nctr.ca/>

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation: Call to Action

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/british-columbians-our-governments/indigenous-people/aboriginal-peoples-documents/calls_to_action_english2.pdf

Murray Sinclair Collection

<https://sincmurr.com/>



Residential School Reading List (From Senator Murray Sinclair)

<https://sincmurr.com/2017/01/14/residential-school-reading-list>

Assembly of First Nations (AFN Toolkit)

<https://education.afn.ca/afntoolkit/learning-module/residential-schools/>

Mary Simon – Cultural Identity and Education

<https://sttpcanada.ctf-fce.ca/lessons/mary-simon/activities/>

Ottawa Specific Agencies

For additional information regarding local Indigenous organizations in Ottawa, please visit the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition website: <https://www.ottawaaboriginalcoalition.ca/>

Please note that the above list of resources is not exhaustive but can be used for initial exploratory learning.

