

Residential Schools



April 24th, 2014



Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge that we are currently on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish people.

Activity



- ❧ On each of these flashcards, please write something of value to you.
- ❧ This can be many things. Something like sibling or friend or daughter/son. Or it can be Canadian, your religion, your heritage. Whatever you feel is important to you.
- ❧ When you are done, please choose the card that is least important to you and give it up.

We Were Children



This is a documentary created by the National Film Board that covers the experiences of two children, a boy and a girl named Glen and Lyna respectively, who were put into residential schools at a young age. We are only going to watch part of it today.

Residential Schools



- ❧ Residential Schools came about as a part of the Canadian government believing that the best thing for people was for them to assimilate into Canadian culture and religion. The schools were often run by religious organizations.
- ❧ So for many decades First Nations children were forced to leave their homes and attend residential schools. Compulsory attendance ended in 1948.
- ❧ The schools were underfunded and many students didn't receive the best education. They were forced to give up their language and culture and to learn English.

Schools and the Indian Act

- ❧ By the 1960s, the federal government began to fund off reserve schools with certified teachers. These teachers weren't prepared to meet the needs of Aboriginal learners and that along with long commutes made it harder for them to be academically successful.
- ❧ In 1951 the government made several changes to the Indian Act. Potlatches and wearing traditional regalia was no longer banned. But the I.A. still maintained the government's power to define Indian status.

Think, Pair, Share



- ❧ So now, I would like you to reflect on the activity we did. Please write a reflection (to be handed in) on the activity or on Residential Schools in general.
- ❧ If there is time we will discuss it in pairs.
- ❧ Then we will discuss it as a class.