# Residential School Memorial

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#### **DISCLAIMER:**

# This presentation may contain themes that you find distressing.

If you need to leave the Chambers during our presentation to take some personal space, please do so.

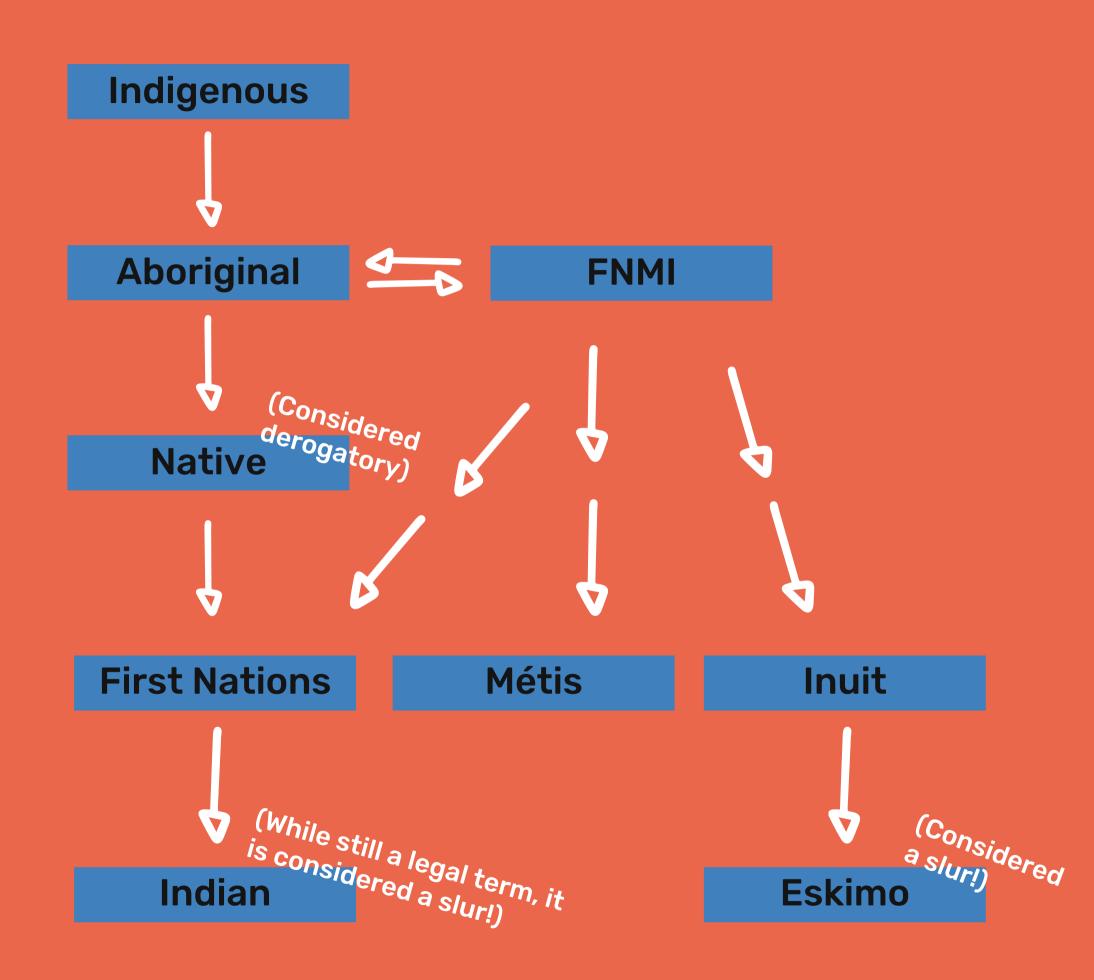
A national 24-hour Indian Residential School Crisis Line is available at: 1-866-925-4419.



# Anote on terminology!

• In this presentation we will be using various terms to refer to different things.





#### Residential School Timeline

1831

### First Residential School opens

The Mohawk Institute in Brantford, Ontario, accepted its first boarding students in 1831.

1876

#### The creation of the Indian Act

The Indian Act is was used to to administer Indian status, local First Nations governments and the management of reserve land.

1883

#### Residential Schools start in the West

"In order to educate the children properly we must separate them from their families. Some people may say this is hard, but if we want to civilize them we must do that."

1920

### Attendance is now mandatory

An amendment to the Indian Act made it compulsory for Status Indian children to attend either an Indian Residential school or a Day School.

1997

### Last Residential School closes

After 166 years, the last school is shut down in 1997 in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut.









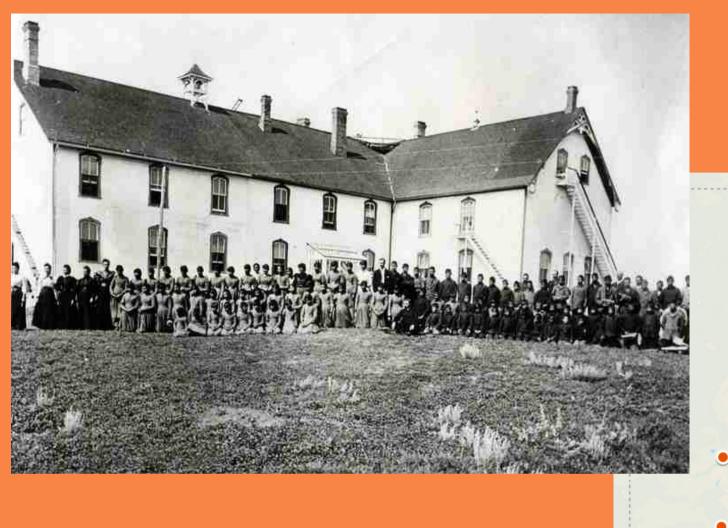


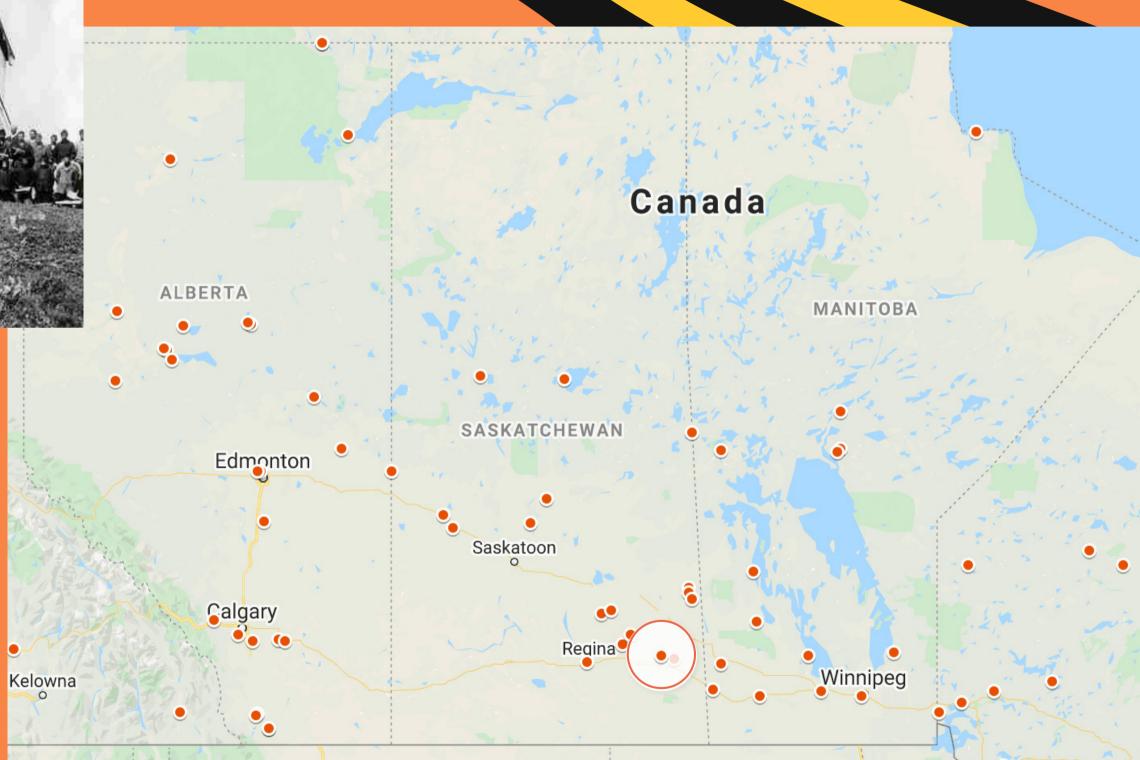
### Reasoning for the flags





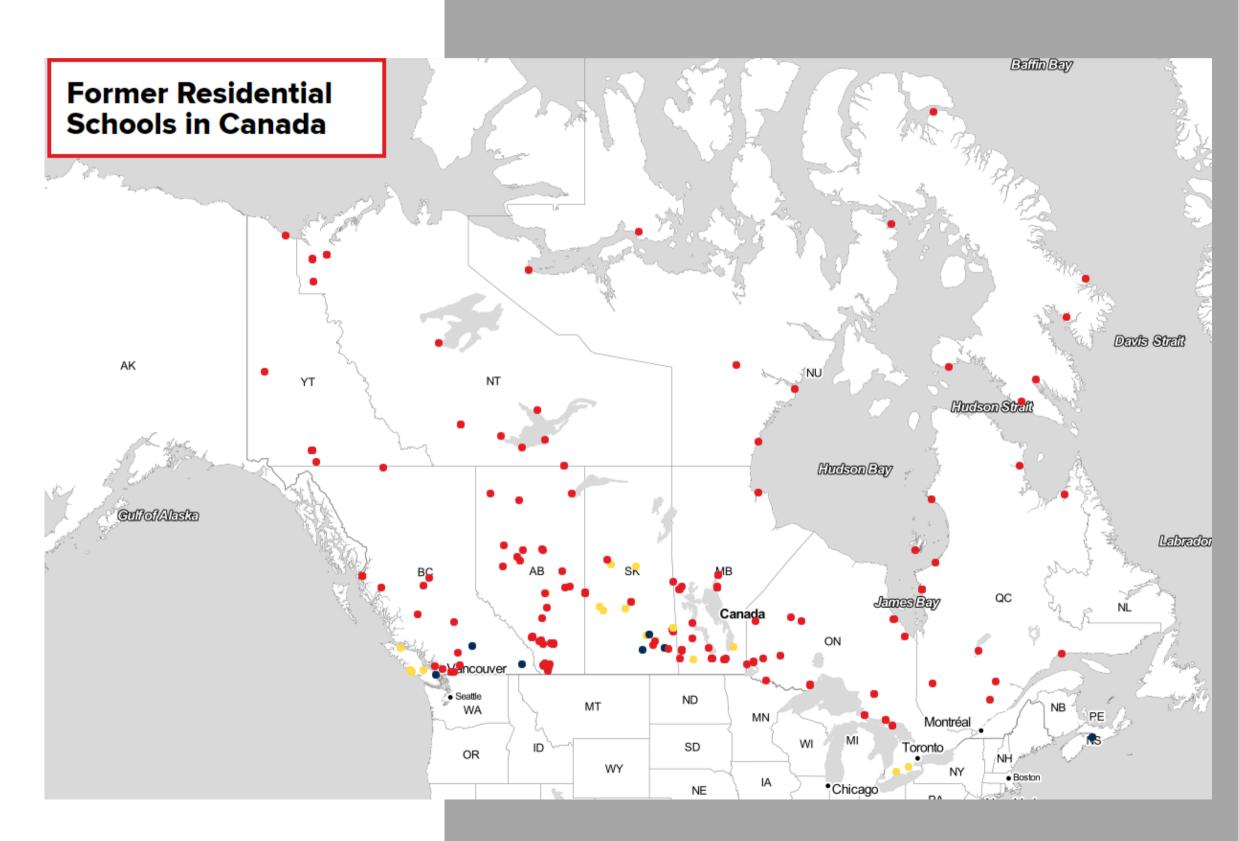
Ground penetrating radar work at Cowessess First Nation locating more unmarked gravesites.





## The Search Continues

- No Search for Graves
- Search planned or in progress
- Search completed



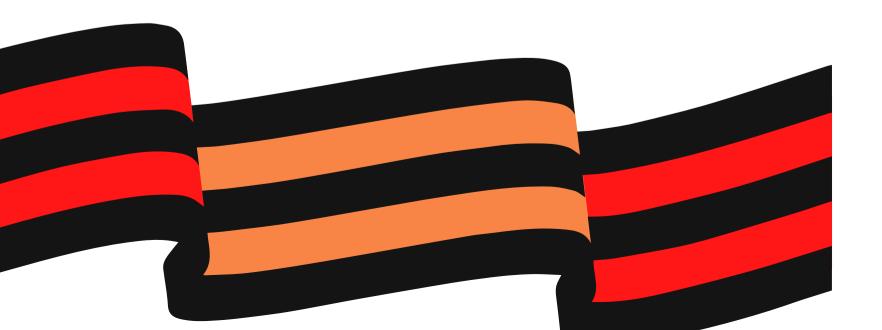
#### Why here?

 The University of Alberta operates on lands that were not theirs to begin with.



# How many flags? 7509

- Orange Flags: 3200
  - Officially recognized by the Truth and Reconciliation
- Red Flags: 4309
  - Additional unmarked graves that have been discovered





#### ARRC

# Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation Committee



#### What is ARRC?

- ARRC is a Standing Committee of the UASU
- We act as a link between Students'
   Council and Aboriginal students;
- We assist in the SU's implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action.

#### Where are we on this process?

- 57 ARRC Recommendations
  - 29% (17) are listed as 'complete'
  - 14% (8) are listed as 'on going'
  - 45% (26) are listed as 'inprogress'
  - 5% (3) are listed as 'initial planning'
  - 5% (3) are listed as 'not started'

#### TRC

# Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada



- The Truth and Reconciliation
   Commission of Canada operated
   from 2008 to 2015;
- Was tasked with documenting the history and lasting impacts of the Indian Residential School System.



94 Calls to Action





#### **Little Progress**

- Justice (25-42)
- Royal Proclamation & Covenant of Reconciliation (45-47)
- Settlement Agreement Parties & the United Nations Declaration (48-49)
- Equity in the Legal System (50-52)
- National Council for Reconciliation (53-56)
- Church Apologies and Reconciliation (58-61)
- Education for Reconciliation (62-65)
- Business & Reconciliation (92)
- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (77-78)



#### **Moderate Progress**

- Child Welfare (1-5)
- Education (6-12)
- Health (18-24)
- United Nations Declaration (43-44)
- Youth Programs (66)
- Commemoration (79-83)
- Missing Children (71-76)
- Newcomers to Canada (93-94)

#### **Significant Progress**

- Language and Culture (13-17)
- Training for Public Servants (57)
- Museum & Archives (67-70)
- Media & Reconciliation (84-86)
- Sports & Reconciliation (87-91)



### Why are we doing this?

The conversations have slowly been dying out.



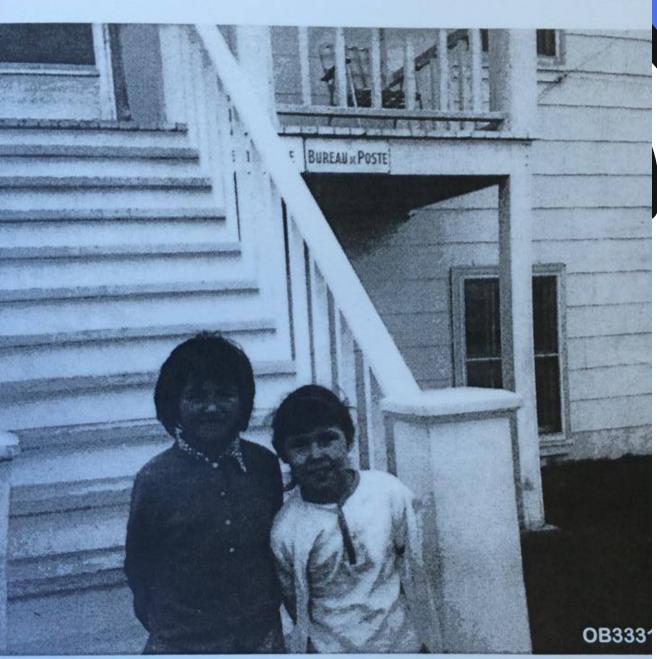
Reconciliation is not a "once-a-year" event.

Many Indigenous students still continue to be effected by Residential Schools today.









Assumption IRS - Ann Therese Seniantha and Trudy Beaulieu
OMI Lacombe Canada - Grandin Archives

# Our Calls for Action

What can you do to help?



Share our graphics

Participate and RSVP at our memorial and get your friends to!

Engage in personal acts of reconciliation/decolonization

Support Indigenous organizations

Seek out further resources

Join us for Indigenous Celebration Week

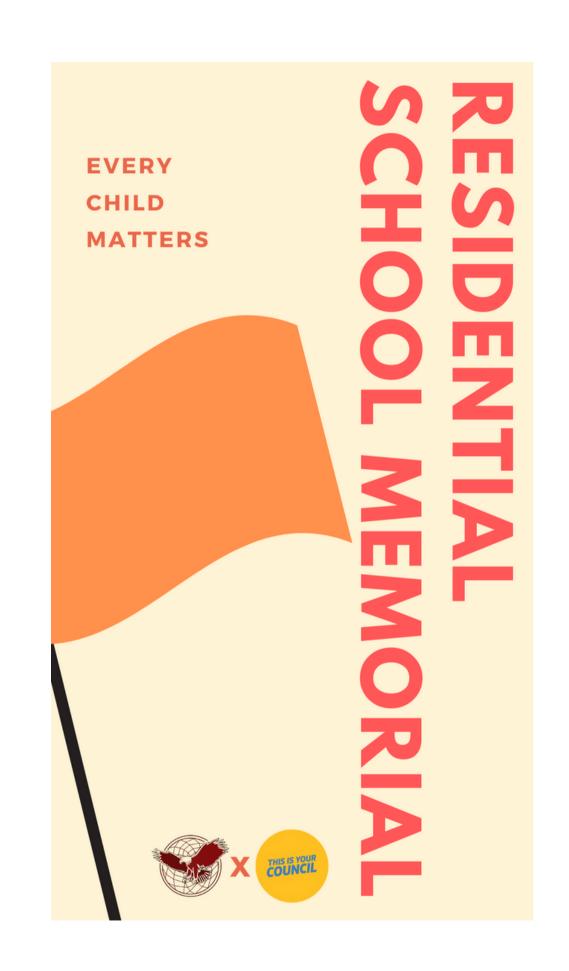
Engage with Indigenous media

### Graphics

Please post these on your social medias!

Link can be found here







### RSVP

https://bit.ly/2YP0gst





### Resource Page



**First Peoples' House** 

Indigenous Organizations at the UofA



**Indigenous Law Students Association** 



**Indigenous Nursing Students Association** 



**Native Studies Student Association** 



The Indigenous Business Students Association



**Aboriginal Student Council** 



**Indigenous Medical and Dental Association** 



# Comments Questions?



#### References:

- https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1524504501233/1557513602139
- https://www.afn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020\_TRC-Report-Card\_ENG.pdf
- https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/timeline/residential-schools
- https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/indian-act
- https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/20575c9b2cf241c8be7d17803eac76f1
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- https://sites.google.com/ualberta.ca/reimagine-ualberta/home?authuser=0

