

## Resources for Further Learning

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### 1. Check out these Projects/Movements

#### Project of Heart

Who they are and what they do:

“Project of Heart” is an inquiry based, hands-on, collaborative, inter-generational, artistic journey of seeking truth about the history of Aboriginal people in Canada. Its purpose is to:

- Examine the history and legacy of Indian residential schools in Canada and to seek the truth about that history, leading to the acknowledgement of the extent of loss to former students, their families and communities.
- Commemorate the lives of the thousands of indigenous children who died as a result of the residential school experience.
- Call Canadians to action, through social justice endeavors, to change our present and future history collectively.

Project of Heart acknowledges the families and communities to whom those children belonged. It was originally designed to bring awareness both to the settler community and communities of new Canadians. Project of Heart has evolved, through community ownership of the project itself, to educate all Canadians about the history and legacy of this crime and tragedy. In acknowledging the loss suffered by Aboriginal children, families and communities through the Indian Residential School experience, we also gain an understanding of the strength, wisdom and resilience of the traditional peoples of this land. Project of Heart seeks to:

- Expand the opportunities available for the wisdom of Aboriginal Elders to be heard, recognized and honored
- Change attitudes and behaviors – hearts and minds – as Elders give voice to language, values, traditions and teachings that were suppressed by residential schooling
- Inspire the building of relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada based on mutual understanding, respect and collective action to create a different future

Website: <http://poh.jungle.ca/>

### **Project 417**

Who they are and what they do:

Working with First Nations people across Canada, we aim to develop and enhance native leaders in the Christian community as well as establish networks and community within the First Nations.

Website: <http://project417.com/>

### **Where Are The Children**

Who they are and what they do:

The Legacy of Hope Foundation was established to address the long-term implications of the damage done to Aboriginal children and their families by many of the residential schools. The psychological wounds run deep and have infected new generations. Healing is a gradual process that will demand time and patience.

A primary objective of our work is to promote awareness among the Canadian public about residential schools and try to help them to understand the ripple effect those schools have had on Aboriginal life. But equally important, we want to bring about reconciliation between generations of Aboriginal people, and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Everyone who belongs to the First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities has been affected by the residential school experience. Only through understanding the issues can we undertake this healing journey together.

Website: <http://www.wherethechildren.ca/>

### **Legacy of Hope**

Who they are and what they do:

The Legacy of Hope Foundation (LHF) is a national Aboriginal charitable organization whose purposes are to educate, raise awareness and understanding of the legacy of residential schools, including the effects and intergenerational impacts on First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, and to support the ongoing healing process of Residential School Survivors. Fulfilling this mandate contributes towards reconciliation among generations of Aboriginal peoples, and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada.

The LHF fulfills this mandate by: working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, communities and organizations across Canada; and undertaking communications, research and policy activities that support the development and implementation of our educational programming. All of these activities are informed by the experiences and stories of Residential Schools Survivors, their families and communities.

Our work is guided by ethical guidelines and principles for working with Survivors and Aboriginal communities. These ethical guidelines are based on:

- a. A deep concern and compassion for, and honouring of, Survivors, their families and communities
- b. A clear understanding of the need for and importance of the oral tradition of Aboriginal peoples.

We take as our fundamental guiding principle that the work of the LHF must contribute to the health, safety, well-being and healing Survivors, their families and communities, and towards promoting reconciliation in Canada.

Website: <http://www.legacyofhope.ca/>

### **Idle No More**

Who they are & What they do:

"Idle No More calls on all people to join in a peaceful revolution, to honour Indigenous sovereignty, and to protect the land and water".

INM has and will continue to help build sovereignty & resurgence of nationhood. INM will continue to pressure government and industry to protect the environment. INM will continue to build allies in order to reframe the nation to nation relationship, this will be done by including grassroots perspectives, issues, and concern.

Website: <http://www.idlenomore.ca/>

### **2. Take a tour of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights**

Visit their website and arrange a visit:

<http://museumforhumanrights.ca/>

### **3. Attend a Pow-Wow**

#### **What's a Pow-Wow?**

Each Pow Wow begins with the Grand Entry, when all the dancers enter the Dance Circle for the first time. The pageantry and drama of the Grand Entry make is one of the most beautiful traditional Aboriginal ceremonies and a must see of anyone interested in native culture and customs. Pow Wows are one of the oldest, most important and colourful Aboriginal ceremonies. Traditionally, they have been dedicated to warriors and a way of giving thanks to the Creator for all that Mother Earth provides for her people (Thanksgiving ceremony). The Pow Wow is the centre piece of the Canadian Aboriginal Festival with visitors from all parts of Canada and around the

world gathered to witness this most beautiful traditional ceremony. All people of all races and creeds are invited. In fact, you do the First Nations people honour by attending this great offering to the Creator.

### **Where do they happen?**

They happen all over Canada. Check your local listings to find one near you. Check out this website for the Pow-Wow Trail: [http://500nations.com/Ontario\\_Events.asp](http://500nations.com/Ontario_Events.asp).

### **What should I know about attending one?**

You should read this article on “Pow Wow Etiquette”: <http://www.powwows.com/2011/07/19/pow-wow-etiquette/#>.

### **4. Go on a Learning Tour**

#### **What’s a Learning Tour?**

A learning tour is just that – a tour through a reservation where the goal is to just simply learn. BIC Canada has recently begun creating learning tours to help people better engage with the First Nations culture. It’s a time to ask questions, learn about the history and unique factors affecting the people of a certain tribe/band. These tours are done in community so there is time to discuss and reflect amongst others who are learning alongside of you. Contact BIC Canada to learn more about opportunities to be a part of a learning tour or to organize one for your group.

### **5. Get connected with local organizations that are already involved with the First Nations Community.**

Here are a few suggestions:

- Mennonite Central Committee (MCC): <http://mcco.ca/aboriginal>
- Speroway: <http://www.speroway.com/>
- Agadasin Initiatives: <http://www.agidasin.com/>

### **6. Host a conversation about reconciliation:**

<http://1000conversations.ca/>

### **7. Contact BIC Canada for more information about First Nations Initiatives already on the go:**

[office@canadianbic.ca](mailto:office@canadianbic.ca).