

DID YOU KNOW.....

Residential schools were established throughout Canada to assimilate the child into the non-aboriginal culture mainly, the Euro-Canadian Culture. Between the years 1884 and 1996, over 150,000 Aboriginal students throughout Canada were forced to attend the residential school, with over 6000 dying.

Under the direction of the federal government, the schools were operated and managed by religious groups. Most students lived there for several years starting as young as four years old, up to the age sixteen.

The majority of students suffered physical, mental, verbal, spiritual and sexual abuse which would affect them and their families in a negative way for the rest of their lives.

In Nova Scotia, the residential school was located in Shubenacadie and was eventually destroyed by fire in 1986.

It wasn't until June 2008, before the Prime Minister of Canada finally made a public apology to the residential school survivors and their families. Since then, a Truth & Reconciliation (TRC) committee was established to meet with and interview survivors and their families, to record their experiences. They published a 94 call to action strategy, for all levels of government to come together to begin repairing the harm that was done to the Aboriginal people, caused by the residential schools.



Residential School – Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia