

# The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

## Background

In 1990, Phil Fontaine was the Leader of Association of Manitoba Chiefs, he called for an apology from churches involved with the Indian Residential Schools.<sup>i</sup> In 1991 in response, a Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) was “mandated to investigate and propose solutions to the challenges affecting the relationship between Aboriginal peoples (First Nations, Inuit, Métis), the Canadian government and Canadian society as a whole.”<sup>ii</sup>

In 1997 Phil Fontaine, then National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) brought the conversation of Canada’s Indian Residential School (IRS) system to the floor of parliament. In 1998, there was a Statement of Recognition from the government of Canada, and there was a \$350 Million healing fund and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation created, which ended in 2010.<sup>iii</sup>

## CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT

In 2007, the federal government of Canada formalized the largest class action settlement of \$1.9 billion compensation package for the surviving students. Only a percentage of the estimated 150, 000 students that were forced to attend Indian Residential Schools, would receive settlement. On June 2, 2008, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was created to:

- Prepare a complete historical record on the policies and operations of residential schools.
- Complete a public report including recommendations to the parties of the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.
- Establish a national research centre that will be a lasting resource about the IRS legacy.<sup>iv</sup>

The TRC came to a close June 2015, and the final report released December 2015 and it included 94 Calls to Action. The first to be recognized by the Trudeau government was the National Inquiry to Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women (MMIW) December 2016, and commissioners appointed August 2016.

---

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/phil-fontaine>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples/Pages/introduction.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/a-history-of-residential-schools-in-canada-1.702280>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.trc.ca/about-us.html>