


# SSBA POSITION PAPER - ADVOCACY FOR MANDATORY CURRICULUM: FIRST NATIONS, METIS AND INUIT PRE-CONTACT AND THE LEGACY OF THE INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

*Members Council  
September 23, 2016  
Jamie Lerat  
First Nations and Metis Education*



- ***“Ignoring Indigenous culture leads to classroom disconnect”***
- ***“We all have a responsibility to teach the truth....”***
- ***“Learning about Indigenous culture and history is rooted in what it means to be Canadian”***
- ***The infusion of Aboriginal perspectives throughout mandated elementary and secondary curricula will build self esteem and academic success of Aboriginal youth, and help address the multi-generational cultural repression arising from official policies”.***





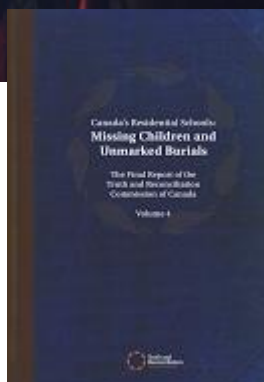
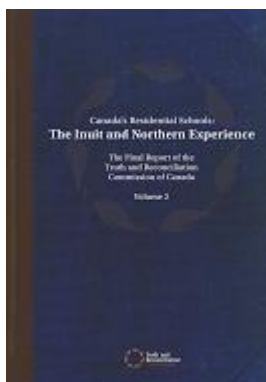
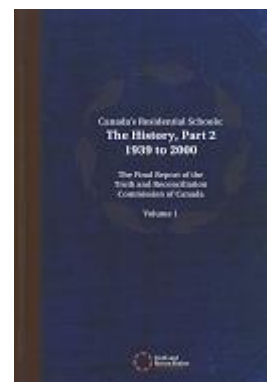
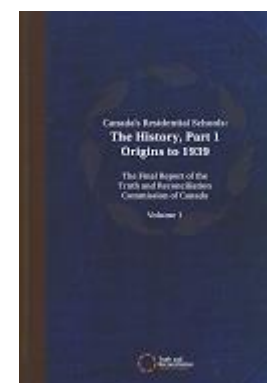
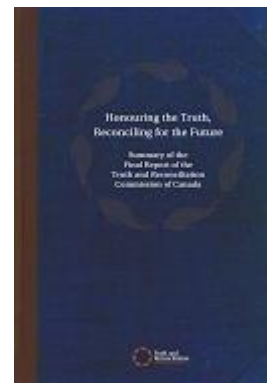
# The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

## OVER THE PAST 7 YEARS:

Received  
**6,750**  
statements  
from  
witnesses

Recorded  
**1,355**  
hours of  
testimony

Is producing  
a **6-volume**  
report





**Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:  
Calls to Action**

**Call to Action 10:**

*“....to draft new Aboriginal education legislation..... full participation and informed consent of Aboriginal Peoples.. ..... include a commitment to sufficient funding and would incorporate the following principals...”*

- ii.** Improving education attainment levels and success rates.
- iii.** Developing culturally appropriate curricula.
- iv.** Protecting the right to Aboriginal languages, including the teaching of Aboriginal languages as credit courses.
- vii.** Respecting and honouring Treaty relationships.



**Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:  
Calls to Action**



## **Call to Action 62:**

*“....in consultation and collaboration with Survivors, Aboriginal Peoples and educators to:*

- i.** Make age-appropriate curriculum on residential schools, Treaties and Aboriginal Peoples' historical and contemporary contributions to Canada, a mandatory education requirement for K to 12 students.
- iv.** Establish senior-level positions in government at the assistant deputy minister level or higher, dedicated to Aboriginal content in education.



**Truth and Reconciliation  
Commission of Canada:  
Calls to Action**

## **Call to Action 63:**

*“....to maintain an annual commitment to Aboriginal education issues, including:*

- i.** Developing and implementing K-12 curriculum and learning resources on Aboriginal Peoples' history, and the history and legacy of Residential Schools.
- ii.** Sharing information and best practices on teaching curriculum related to residential schools and Aboriginal history.
- iii.** Building student capacity for intercultural understanding, empathy and mutual respect.
- iv.** Identifying teacher training needs related to the above.



**UWSA**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The University of Winnipeg Students' Association  
Local 8- Canadian Federation of Students  
0R30-515 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9  
General office: (204) 786-9792  
Fax: (204) 783-7080

### Structure

We propose that all undergraduate students at the University of Winnipeg be required to take 3 credit hours from a list of approved courses. Graduate, PACE, and ELP students would not be subject to this requirement.

The UWSA and the ASC have convened faculty, student, elder, and staff representatives to form the Indigenous Requirement Curriculum Advisory Committee. This committee will provide authoritative guidance on the finalized list of qualifying courses submitted to Senate for approval.

The Indigenous Requirement Curriculum Advisory Committee met in early December, producing guidelines for course inclusion within the Indigenous Requirement. A course will be eligible to satisfy the Requirement if:

- a) It focuses on Indigenous content, including history, culture, ways of knowing and lived experience;
- b) It fosters an environment of knowledge and experience exchange between Indigenous students, faculty, community members, and the larger University community.

Courses eligible for fulfilling the Indigenous Requirement will be considered using the following criteria:

- a) Topics;
- b) Readings;
- c) Assignments;
- d) Guest lectures;
- e) Instructor;
- f) Students;
- g) Experiential components;
- h) Locations.

These criteria are not weighted, but will be considered by the Indigenous Requirement Curriculum Advisory Committee holistically, along with any justifications provided by a department.



**University of Winnipeg makes  
Indigenous course a requirement.**

**New undergraduate students will  
have to take at least 1 indigenous  
studies course starting 2016-17**





**Lakehead**  
UNIVERSITY

**Lakehead University, Thunder Bay,  
Ontario, to mandate indigenous learning**

**All Lakehead students required to learn  
about indigenous peoples, starting in  
2016**



Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY

[www.projectofheart.ca/sk](http://www.projectofheart.ca/sk)





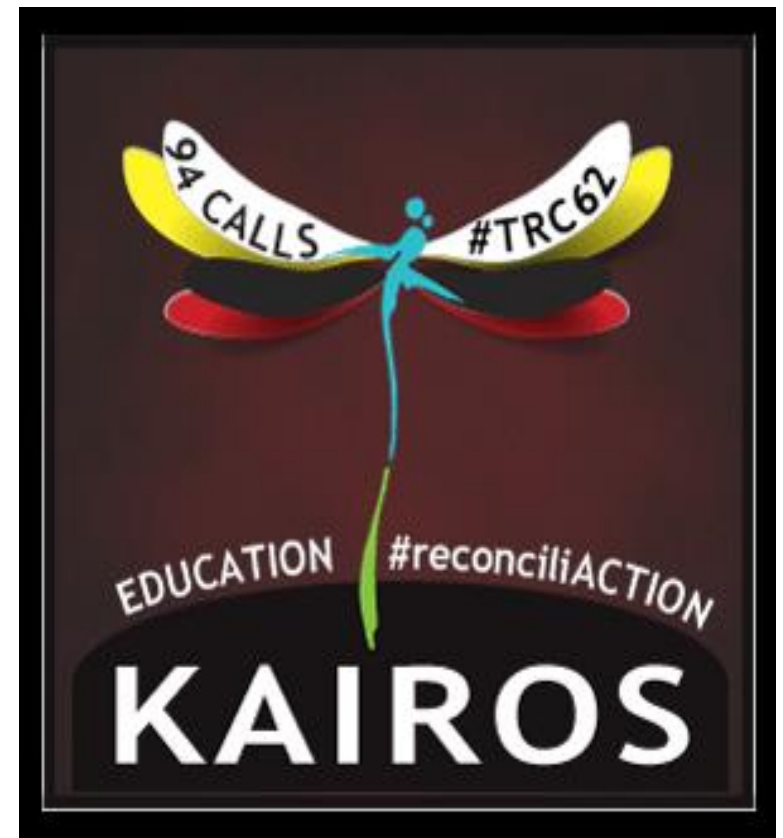
**100 Years of Loss Exhibit**



**Witness Blanket Exercise**



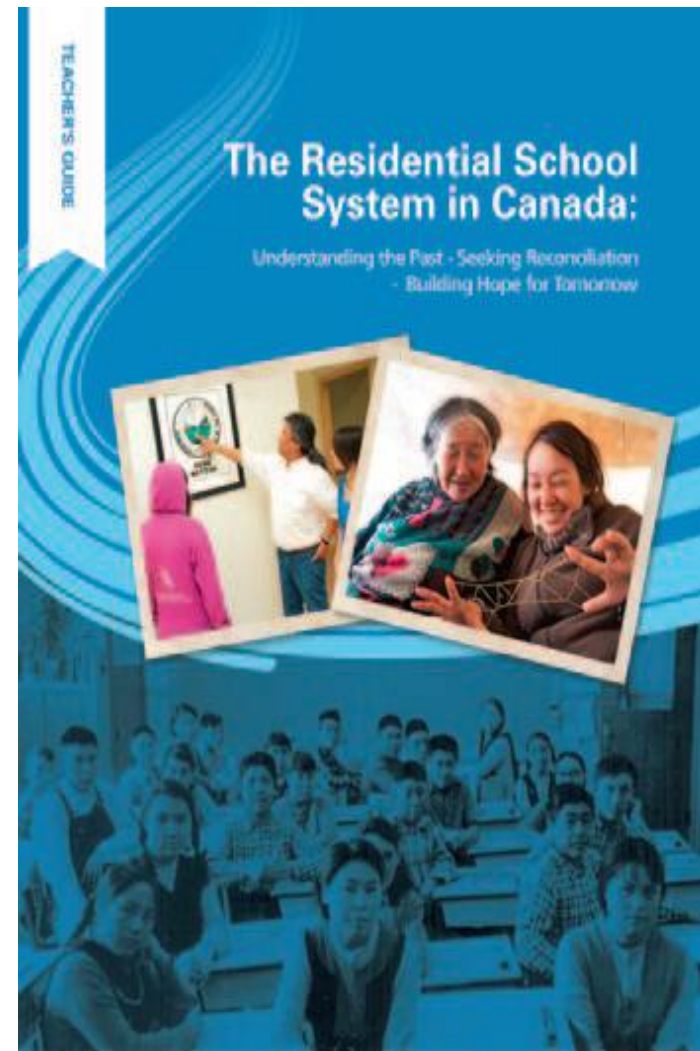




# *Residential Schools Resource*

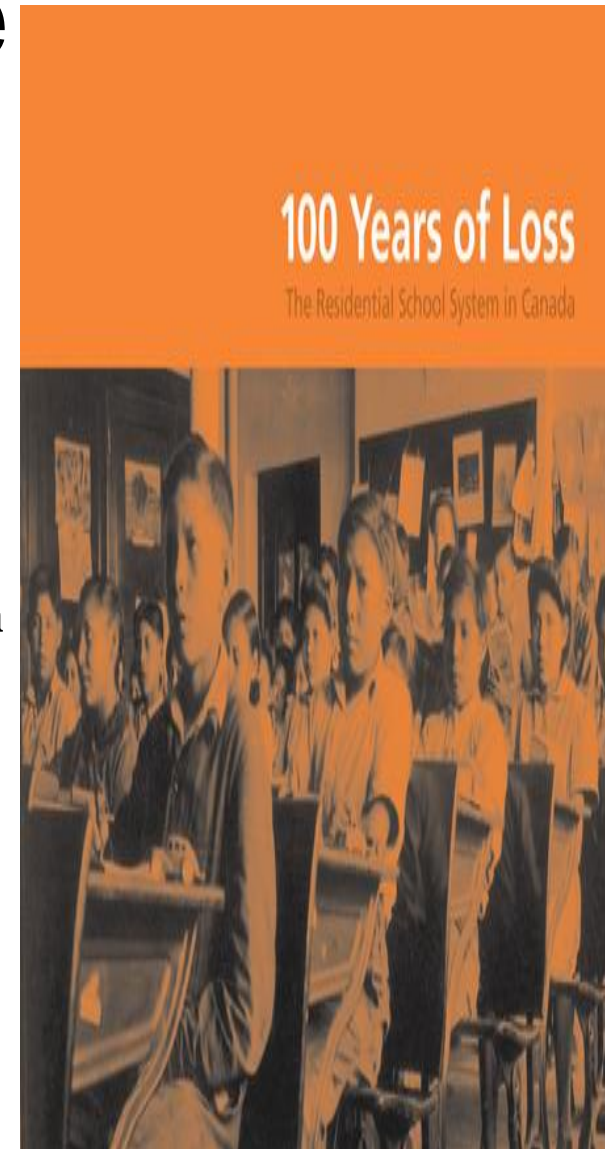
**A resource developed for mandatory use in grade 10 Northern Studies, to support teachers and students as they examine the legacy of the Canadian Residential School System.**

*The Vision: That by understanding the past and seeking reconciliation in the present, there can be greater hope for tomorrow .*



# 100 Year of Loss – Edu-kit and Teacher Bundle

- **Education program targeting youth aged 11-18**
- **Designed to support educators and administrators**
- **Raise awareness and assist teaching about the history and legacy of residential schools**
- **Requested from educators for complete in-class resources.**
- **Serves as an entry point for classroom discussion**
- **Includes:**
  - *Survivor testimonial videos*
  - *Teacher's Guide with Lesson Plans*
  - *Teacher resources and extension activities*
  - *A wall-mounted timeline*









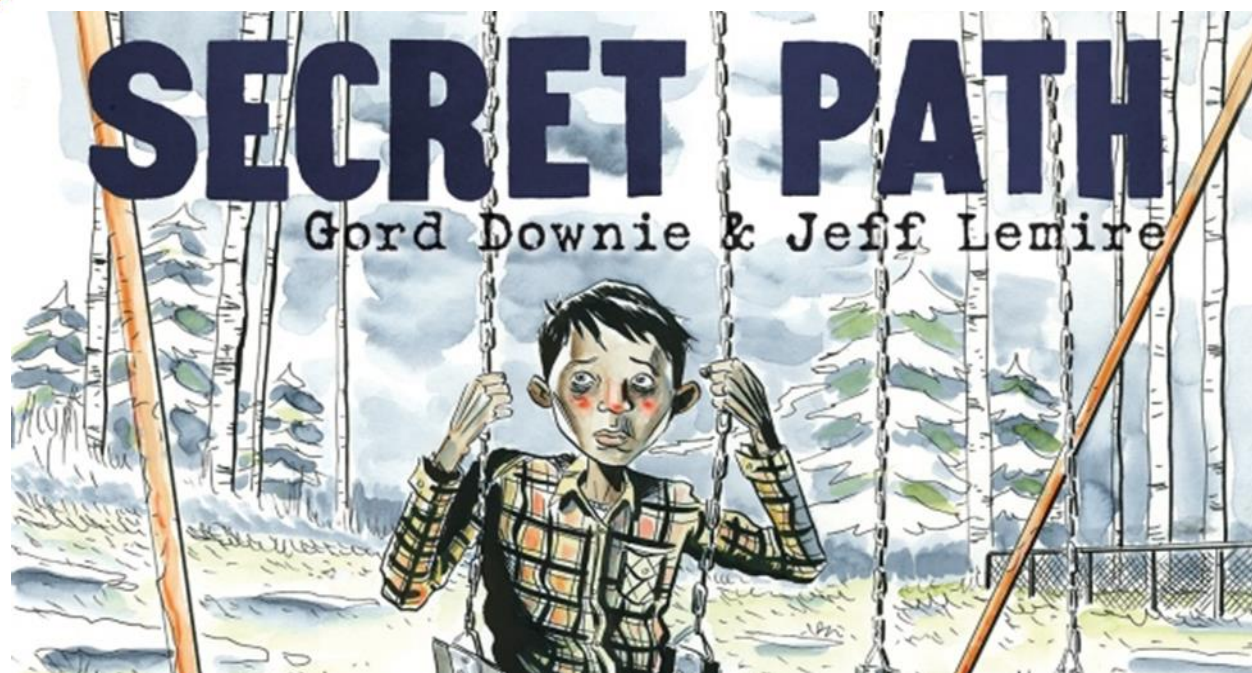


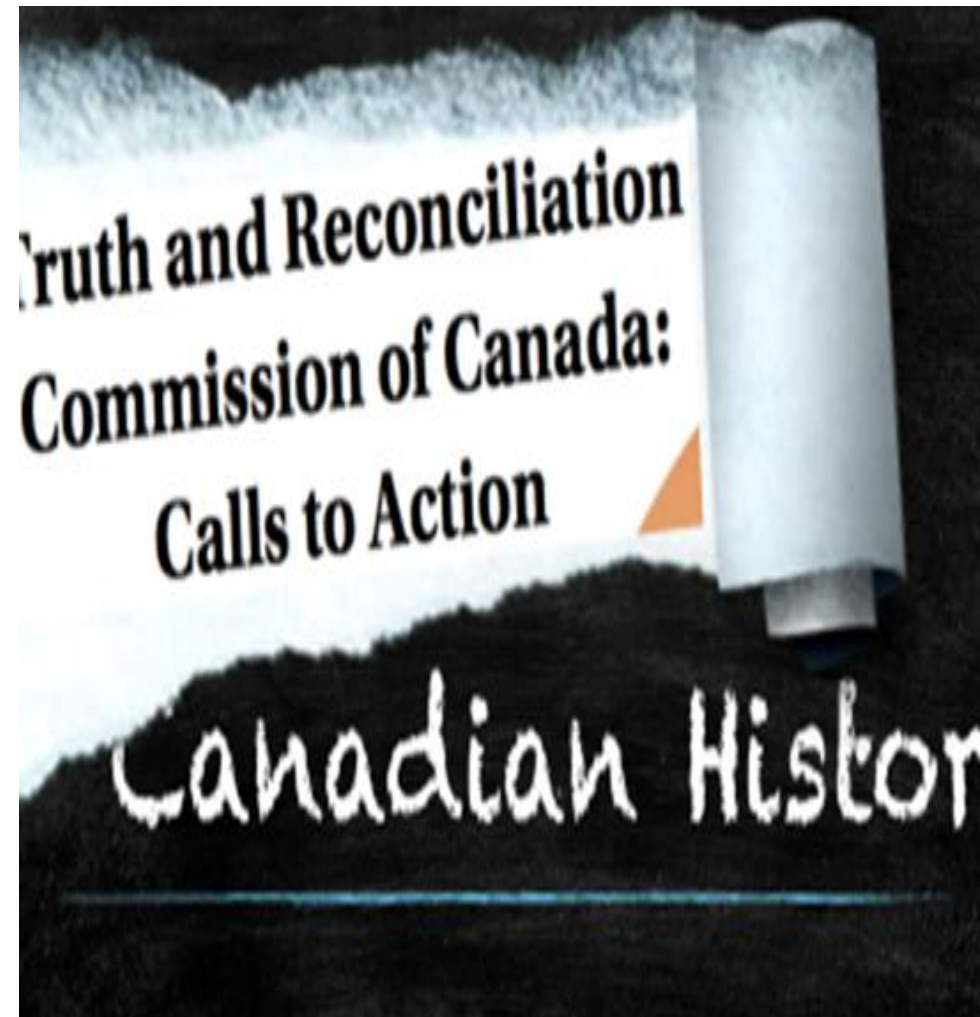
**Chanie  
Wenjack  
("Charlie")**

**Born January  
19, 1954**

**Died October  
23, 1966**

<https://www.historicacanada.ca/content/heritage-minutes/chanie-wenjack>





Ekosi  
Thank you