HEALING THE GENERATIONS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

2002 CURRICULUM UPDATE

SECTION 5: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA (2002)

HISTORY, SOCIAL STUDIES

MAIN IDEA

During the time residential schools operated, the Churches explicitly supported the Federal Government's assimilation goals in running the schools. The Government paid for capital expenditures and staff salaries through operating grants. In 1969 the Federal Government assumes complete responsibility of all Residential Schools in Canada; therefore, they were no longer run by the Churches. In 1988, the Government of Canada issued a "Statement of Reconciliation" to all Residential School Survivors. It was their way to express to all Aboriginal people in Canada their profound regret for past actions of the Federal Government, one being Residential Schools.

LEARNING OJECTIVES:

• Student will learn about what the Federal Government has done to help residential school survivors through their healing journey.

ACTIVITIES

- 1. Review the Federal Government of Canada apologies to the class.
- 2. Since this lesson was created in 2002 there has been a more current apology by Federal Prime Minister, Stephen Harper please visit the **New Curriculum 2013 Grade 9 Day of the Apology** lesson plan.
- 3. Follow this lesson up with the **Aboriginal Healing Foundation** lesson plan.

ASSESSMENT

Not Applicable

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HANDOUT

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF CANADA APOLOGIES

The Federal Government of Canada has acknowledged the damages done to Aboriginal communities as a result of the residential school system. First Nations have demanded, and received apologies from the Federal Government, some former students are also seeking redress through the criminal justice system for harms done to them at residential school.

In its report released in 1996, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples recommended that the government and churches offer apologies to residential school survivors, that people be compensated for the abuse they suffered and that a public inquiry be struck to examine the treatment of First Nation students at residential school. In response to the Report, the Federal Government issued a Statement of Reconciliation in which it apologized to those individuals who suffered abuse while at residential school. The Government also granted \$350 million to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) to support healing initiatives that address the legacy of abuse left by the residential school system. The Government has also been investigating the merits of various dispute resolution approaches for resolving the civil claims being brought against the Crown and the Churches involved.

Today, most First Nations run their own schools. They are reclaiming the education of their children and attempting to put the residential school experience in the past.

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