

Subject: Residential Schools

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Awakening of Elizabeth Shaw, The - Eva Manly and Paul Manly - 25 min.

In 1898, Elizabeth Shaw came to the Tsimshian village in Port Simpson, B.C. to work as the Matron of the Thomas Crosby Boy's Home, a residential school for native children. This is a video about what she witnessed and what happened when she tried to change it.

Before Columbus (CC) - NFBC

This is a series of three films - ***Invasion, Conversion, and Rebellion*** - which describe the Indian experience in the Americas during the past five hundred years.

Part 1 - Invasion - NFBC - 50 min.48 sec.

This tells the real story of Columbus's "discovery" of the Americas, a story not often found in the history books. The film describes the seizure of territory on two continents from the Arctic to the tip of Tierra del Fuego.

Part 2 - Conversion - NFBC - 50 min.11 sec.

This shows that the European conquest of the Americas was not just a struggle for territory but a battle for souls. The priests were never far behind the conquistadors. Churches were built on the ruins of temples, sacred relics were plundered, and Indian children were forced to attend residential schools. This film recounts the tragic history but also shows that Indian spirituality was not destroyed.

Part 3 - Rebellion - NFBC - 50 min 20 sec.

This describes the war against the Indians, a war that has never ended. It is estimated that 90 million people died in this slaughter in the first century after Columbus. The Ona of South America were exterminated in the early part of this century, a fate shared by many Native peoples since 1492. But people as diverse as the Kuna of the Caribbean coast of Panama, the Ika of Colombia, the Sioux of the Black Hills of Dakota and the Mohawk of Quebec continue to fight for their land, their rights, and their culture.

Beyond the Shadows - Gryphon Productions - 28 min.

A powerful documentary about the legacy of Native Indian Boarding Schools. The video touches on the historical background of these schools, but primarily depicts painful personal experiences: the causes of multi-generational grief and the healing processes underway in communities today.

Beyond Survival - - Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council - 88 min.

Residential School Conference of Nuu-chah-nulth people - 1994.

Circles - It's About Justice (CC) - NFBC - 57 min., 45 sec.

A film about justice and community healing, ***Circles*** is an inside look at sentencing circles - an alternative approach to justice in the Yukon. By bringing together the perpetrator of a crime, his or her victims, peers and elders, sentencing circles focus on finding ways to heal the offender, the victim and the community, instead of simply on punishment. For many Aboriginal men in the North, going to jail was a natural extension of attending residential schools run by missionaries. For some, circle sentencing is a way to re-connect with their spiritual traditions and to break away from the cycle of crime, court, prison. The Yukon is the first jurisdiction in North America to use sentencing circles in partnership with the formal justice system. Some of the ex-offenders and victims portrayed in ***Circles*** are now helping to set up circle sentencing in American inner cities and suburbs.

Fallen Feather, The (DVD) - Fallen Feather Productions - 93 min

Indian Industrial residential Schools Canadian Federation.

Healing the Hurts - Phil Lucas Productions - 59 min.

The memory of the Indian residential school experience produces strong emotions for most Native people: pain, anger, loss, and bitterness. Directly or indirectly, it affects all Native people of all generations in Canada. This video was produced at the request of a group of survivors of the Indian residential school system who gathered at Alkali Lake to participate in a healing circle. This special group of people wanted to share their experience with others by means of a documentary film. The community-level process of forgiveness and reaching out for personal well-being provides a model for understanding and healing the hurts and shame of the residential school experience.

Kuper Island - Return to the Healing Circle - Gumboot Productions - 44 min.

They called it Alcatraz. It was the Kuper Island Residential School, and it stood on a remote island off the coast of British Columbia. For almost a century, hundreds of Coast Salish children were sent to Kuper Island. Some died trying to escape on logs, across the water. Many more died later, trying to escape their memories. Now, twenty years after the school closed, the survivors are embarking on a remarkable spiritual journey. For them, the healing time has come.

Mission School Syndrome (CC) - BC Learning Connection - Min of Education - 58 min.
Grades 11-12

An in-depth view of the history and ongoing impact of the missionary and residential school system in the Yukon Territory from its inception in 1893 until recent times. Examines the role these schools had in fulfilling the Canadian government's policy of assimilation and how a continuing cycle of family breakdown was created. The video also spends a short amount of time explaining what Mission School Syndrome is. Interviews with survivors, former administrators, historians, and religious officials are combined with still photographs, archival footage, primary documents and current video of the buildings to give a wide range of perspectives on this topic.

Mother of Many Children - NFBC - 57 min. 50 sec.

An examination of the role, socialization and living conditions of Canadian native women, this film focuses on the cycles of personal growth from birth to old age, as experienced and recounted by Indian and Inuit women in a series of interviews. The use of archival material to discuss the long-term effects of residential schooling on Indian children and the consideration of how Indian women's role has been shaped by dominating Institutions add to the film's usefulness in the classroom.

Muffins for Granny (DVD) - Mongrel Media – 80 min.

The sad history of the Canadian government's residential school programme has had a profound effect on First Nations peoples across the country. For filmmaker Nadia McLaren, it's a personal history as well; her Ojibway grandmother was forced into a residential school and its repercussions have echoed through her family. Looking to understand her loving, but troubled, grandmother. McLaren interviews seven First Nations elders about their experiences in residential schools. Mixing stark animated moments with human faces and home movie footage. *Muffins for Granny* is a raw and honest documentary about a difficult chapter in Canadian history – a chapter that, for some, is not over.

Nisga'a Dancing in Both Worlds – (DVD) – Kinetic Video – 43 min.

Since time immemorial, in North West British Columbia, K'ali-Aksim Lisims – the great River Nass and surrounding mountains have been home to the Nisga'a people. Though sustained by the natural richness of their homeland, theirs is a history of survival. In the 18th Century, a devastating volcano erupted killing thousands of people as it spread molten lava down the valley. Explorers, missionaries and government representatives both from Victoria and Ottawa invaded their lands bringing with them white man's diseases and alien ways, including the tragedy of the Residential Schools. For 13 years, Chiefs and leaders contrived to gain acknowledgement of possession and control of their rightful territories, culminating in 2001 when the Calder Case led by lawyer Tom Berger finally found success at the Supreme Court of Canada. Legal right to their ancestral territories led to the Final Agreement establishing conditions of self government.

Pulling Together Series -An Untold B.C. History - BC Hydro & Knowledge Network

This program examines the early development of relations between settlers and aboriginal people and the formation of colonial government policy regarding the aboriginal people of B.C. From first contact in the late 1700's through to the establishment of reserves and residential schools, Confederation and the Indian Act, it provides a historical overview that is not often taught. Despite a history of prohibitive legislation and regulation, we witness the cultural renewal of people.

Stolen Children (DVD) CBC Learning 47 min.45 sec

After decades of waiting, Aboriginal Canadians received a formal apology from the federal government on June 11, 2008. This landmark event in Canadian history recognized the loss of culture caused by the church-run residential schools that thousands of Aboriginal children were forced to attend. It also acknowledged the physical and sexual abuse that many suffered in those institutions. In this package of documentaries from *The National*, CBC explores the impact of residential schools on former students and the larger community, presenting ideas for what more can be done to address this painful chapter in Canada's history.

Wandering Spirit Survival School - NFBC - 27 min., 32 sec.

This school, organized by concerned parents, broke with tradition by introducing subjects that are of particular relevance to its pupils. Indian legends, traditions, languages and crafts balance the program of academic subjects required by the Ontario Ministry of Education. The experience of the children at Wandering Spirit is contrasted with the very different life experienced by their parents, schooled in the old residential schools.

Where the Spirit Lives - Beacon Films - 108 min.

Set in 1937, amid the Canadian Rockies, ***Where The Spirit Lives*** is the uplifting story of Amelia, a courageous young Blackfoot Indian girl, and her plight to escape the horrors that white society forced upon her. Kidnapped from her reserve by the government and placed in an Indian Residential School, Amelia struggles to retain her heritage in a surrounding determined to wipe out any vestiges of her native culture. With only the help of Kathleen, a compassionate teacher who befriends her, Amelia must find within herself the courage to live in what white society calls civilization, a place that is for her a foreign and hostile environment.