

Wow, this was a very helpful and eye-opening Pro-D assignment. I thought I knew the history of the residential schools in Canada. There was much I didn't know, all of it awful.

I didn't realize the huge historical span—from 1831 to the 1990's. In 1907, *Medical Inspector for Indian Affairs, Dr. P.H. Bryce, reports that health conditions in residential schools are a "national crime."* Then in 1920 (only 13 years later!) *Duncan Campbell Scott, Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs, makes residential school attendance compulsory for children between the ages of 7 and 15.* Well sure, because that's what you want to do with a situation deemed a national crime. Make it mandatory.

I knew stories of abuse that happened at the schools, but I didn't know that siblings could be at the same school and never (or rarely) be able to see each other. Not just brothers and sisters were kept apart from each other, but also younger sisters and brothers were kept away from older sisters and brothers.

I'd heard how the legacy of the residential schools is generational, but in one of the mini-documentaries, I heard it explained differently. In some ways, the abuse suffered by the second generation victims (who didn't attend the schools themselves) is worse because instead of abuse and mistreatment being inflicted by strangers in the schools, it was inflicted by loved and trusted family and community members who were passing on what they had been “taught” in the schools.

On a lighter note, I have friends from Port Hardy who are huge Buffy Sainte-Marie fans. After watching a very short mini-documentary on her (and doing more online research, because the documentary was so very mini!) I can see why. She's a super interesting lady (even if I still don't love folk music.)

As individuals and as an organization, we need to keep listening and learning. I was honoured to attend the TRC public forum in Duncan, BC in March of 2012. We (I) need to truly listen, not just pretend to listen while we secretly plot our well-meaning solutions to what we hear.

We need to keep educating people, and calling out injustice. I thought Dr. Marie Wilson's short video “How Should People Feel?” was very helpful. “I think the issue of how people feel is only relevant only in as much in that it determines how people act.” I'm sorry I don't have any grand ideas for addressing Call to Action points 58-61 except to listen, learn, and “do justly” (as Micah said) what is in front of me.