

## INDIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS LEGACY



During the 19<sup>th</sup> century and early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century federal policies of assimilation of First Peoples began. Churches became agents of the government residential school system, intertwining education of children with “gospel”. The United Church of Canada and the Methodist Church and Presbyterian Church in Canada prior to 1925 were involved in the running of 12 Indian Residential Schools from 1849 to 1970. Industrial schools, day schools, “Sixties Scoop”, and foster care system were also part of the extended reach of the legacy. Great harm was done to generations of children, their families, and communities.

**Apologies** for historical wrongs were made by The United Church of Canada to Aboriginal Peoples (1986) and Former Students of Indian Residential Schools and Their Families (1998). The Church has since begun a long, intentional journey to reconciliation.

<http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/apologies>

<http://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/1986-1998-aboriginal-apologies.pdf>  
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**What can congregations do** in response to the legacy of the residential schools?



Start with educating ourselves: our minds, bodies, and spirits. <http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/social-justice/prayer-action-and-community>  
<http://www.united-church.ca/social-action/social-justice/prayer-action-and-community>

**Timeline: 20 years beyond the 1986 Apology** A brief summary of how the United Church has been engaged in living out the Apology since 1986.