



National Centre for
Truth and Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Centre national pour la
vérité et la réconciliation
UNIVERSITÉ DU MANITOBA

Dear First Nation Community,

Please be aware you may find content distressing.

My name is Lynn Jones, and I am the Community Engagement Coordinator with the Archive unit at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) and I am working with the team from the Missing Children Phase 3 term project.

The NCTR is continually researching and updating the Memorial Register of the children that attended residential schools to honor and remember those we lost. We want to ensure that the families and communities are involved in reviewing the names for any additions, corrections, or objections of the names found but not listed in our public register. We will be reaching out to community research leads. We appreciate community led discussions and suggestions on how you see NCTR proceeding with contacting communities and next of kin from the list. We hope together we can create a shared vision for a new National Student Burial Register.

We also want to give the communities an opportunity for notifications, confirmation, customs, and traditions or for ceremony or memorials prior to entering the names publicly on the commemorative site and to the NCTR data base. We may have additional children's names in relation to your community.

We understand that your community may already have developed a potentially more thorough list and have procedures already in place for contacting families. We hope to learn from you.

Please be aware that this is not a complete list and research is ongoing.

Please contact me to arrange further discussions at 431-374-6760 or by email: NCTRcommunityengagement@umanitoba.ca. We look forward to working with you.

The National Residential School Crisis Line: 1-866-925-4419

All my relations,
Lynn Jones

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MISSING CHILDREN PHASE 3 (MCP3)

HISTORY:

Missing Children Phase 1 (MCP1)

The NCTR completed the MCP1. This included the development of the National Memorial List. The National Memorial Register was created to forever remember and honour the children who never returned home from residential schools.

This memorial register was the result of the dedicated work of countless people and the advice, guidance and blessings from Survivors, Elders and Knowledge Keepers. It will forever remember, honor and acknowledge those children who died while attending a residential school in Canada. It also represents the first time the names of children that never returned from the Residential Schools are commemorated and made available on a national basis in Canada. Recognizing these children, additionally represents the pain inflicted on families and communities. The names may be identified, however the location of where all were buried remains unknown. 1,000,000 records were reviewed.

Since the initial launch, names have been added or removed at the request of family members who have contacted NCTR to provide further information.

Missing Children Phase 2 (MCP2)

MCP2 consisted of term funding to continue the research started by the TRC and over a thousand additional names were found during that time frame. The names resulting from this project came from additional term staff reviewing over 2,000,000 records. Proper community consultation is required prior to releasing the names publicly or adding them to the public memorial register on our website.

The head of Archives Raymond Frogner stated, “That’s only not even a fifth of our records that we’ve gone through to do that” He further noted that “this is going to take a lot of time and effort and the answers won’t come quickly”. So, there is still a lot of work to be done in finding all the names, along with many challenges.

CURRENT:

Missing Children Phase 3 (MCP3)

MCP3 is soon to begin, and we will be establishing additional staff dedicated to this project which involves Call to Action #'s 72 and 73.

CTA 72. We call upon the federal government to allocate sufficient resources to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to allow it to develop and maintain the National Residential School Student Death Register established by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.



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CTA 73. We call upon the federal government to work with churches, Aboriginal communities, and former residential school students to establish and maintain an online registry of residential school cemeteries, including, where possible, plot maps showing the location of deceased residential school children.

How can you help?

We will soon be reaching out to First Nation communities and organizations first formally by letter across Canada to provide awareness and analyze participation of the MCP3 project.

We need your help to complete this phase. This is your opportunity to have a voice for information sharing. We want to ensure that we have community involvement to provide guidance in developing nationally cultural safe procedures when reaching out to family members in confirming what names have been found for accuracy during MCP2.

NCTR is aware that your community may have or is in the process of researching missing children and burial grounds and may have established your own list. Please note that we do not want to take away from your own research, our intent is to confirm the names that phase 2 found to add to the memorial register. It is your choice to share your research once completed with NCTR for preservation and education that is nationally accessed, and you remain the owners.

Our end goal is to add the recent names to our memorial register and gather community input into creating a national student burial register, while commemorating, memorializing and honouring students who did not return home. The steps to achieve this involve a trauma informed approach and community guidance for best practices.

We acknowledge there will be differences in opinions coast to coast, but together, our hope is that we can find a general soft approach that could apply to all First Nation communities across Canada.