

Fairness 4 Everyone

Twitter Learning Series

July 2020 | by **Cindy Blackstock**



First Nations Child & Family
Caring Society of Canada

Société de soutien à l'enfance
et à la famille des Premières Nations
du Canada

What is systemic racism?

Why is it so hard to see and disrupt?

Do good people discriminate?

Why do others feel those affected are "complaining about everything"?

let's talk about First Nations systemic racism in this new twitter learning series.

*Fairness
4
Everyone*





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Colonialism is the bedrock of systemic racism affecting First Nations. Native American scholar, Robert Williams talks about how the “savage” and “civilized” dichotomy is baked into western societies, laws and norms.



- Introduction
- Terminology
- The Indian Act:**
 - 1. Imposed the elected chief and band council system, 1869-present day
 - 2. Denied women status, 1869-1985
 - 3. Created reserves, 1876-present day
 - 4. Encouraged voluntary and enforced enfranchisement, 1876-1985
 - 5. Could expropriate portions of reserves for public works, 1876-1985
 - 6. Renamed individuals with European names, 1880-unknown
 - 7. Created a permit system to control Indians' ability to sell products from farms, 1881-2014
 - 8. Prohibited sale of

Learn more about each of Bob Joseph's *21 Things*

Select one of the numbered tabs on the left or click the following links to learn more.

The Indian Act:

1. Imposed the elected chief and band council system - 1869 to Present Day
2. Denied women status
3. Created reserves
4. Encouraged voluntary and enforced enfranchisement
5. Could expropriate portions of reserves for public works
6. Renamed individuals with European names
7. Created permit system to control First Nations ability to sell products from farms
8. Prohibited sale of ammunition to Indians
9. Prohibited sale of intoxicants to Indians
10. Declared Potlatch and other cultural ceremonies illegal
11. Restricted Indians from leaving their reserve without permission from an Indian Agent
12. Created Residential Schools, 1886-1996 (first discussed in 1840s; last school closed in 1996)
13. Forbade Indians from speaking their home language
14. Forbade Western Indians from appearing in any public dance, show, exhibition, stampede or pageant wearing traditional regalia
15. Leased uncultivated reserve lands to non-Indians, 1918-1985
16. Forbade Indians from forming political organizations, 1927-1951
17. Prohibited anyone, Indian or Non-Indian, from soliciting funds for Indians to hire legal counsel
18. Prohibited pool hall owners from allowing Indians entrance
19. Forbade Indian students from practicing their traditional religion
20. Denied Indians the right to vote
21. Is a piece of legislation created under the colonial rule for the purpose of subjugating a group of people

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Imagine if the Indian Act applied to you. Your land would be "crown land," Indian Affairs could change your will & the federal government would decide who is "status" or "non-status" in your family. You get under-funded public services & more..



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The Indian Act is one of the oldest laws in Canada. It was used to force kids into residential schools & applies to First Nations. It does not apply to Inuit or Metis so avoid using the term "Indigenous" when talking about it. Check out Bob Joseph's book.

INDIAN SCHOOLS DEAL OUT DEATH

Startling Rate of Mortality is
Shown in Report to the
Department

TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT

Dr. Bryce Shows That Condi-
tions Are Such as to En-
courage Disease

Winnipeg, Nov. 15.—Not too favor-
able a report on the health conditions
prevailing in the Indian industrial and
boarding schools of the Dominion is
that, just issued by Dr. P. H. Bryce in
his capacity as chief medical officer of
the department of Indian affairs.
Taken in conjunction with the fact
that the religious denominations in
charge of Indian education have asked
the government within the past month
to take over control of the schools to
a greater extent, the report is signifi-
cant.

The Indian schools, as is generally
known, are conducted by the Roman
Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian and
Methodist denominations, who receive
grants from the government to assist
in carrying on the work. Attention
having been drawn to a large number
of deaths among the pupils, either
while attending school or soon after
leaving, Dr. Bryce was instructed to
make a report on the subject. During
the spring months, he visited all the
schools with a few exceptions. He
obtained a statistical statement of the
past and present conditions of the
health of children. A list of questions
was left with each teacher, and from
fifteen replies received some rather
appalling deductions have been drawn.
The report says that of the total of
1,537 pupils reported upon nearly 37
per cent. are dead, and in one school
with absolute accuracy the statement
shows that 69 per cent. of the ex-
pupils are dead, and that everywhere
the almost invariable cause of death
is given as tuberculosis.

"It is apparent," the report says,
"that general ill health from contin-
uous respiration of the air of in-
creasing foulness is inevitable, but
when sometimes consumptive pupils,
and very frequently others will dis-
charging scrofulous glands, are pre-
sent to add an infective quality to the
atmosphere, we have created a situ-
ation so dangerous to health that I
am often surprised that results were
not more serious than they have been
shown statistically to be."

Dr. Bryce remarks that conditions
in a majority of schools are such
as to demand an immediate remedy.
In two or three schools there is a very
noticeable absence of drill or manual
exercise among boys or callisthenics
or breathing exercises among young
girls.

The report strange to say, does not
contain any recommendations or sug-
gestions as to what should be done
to reduce this abnormal death rate
among Indian pupils, although the
statistics given and general condi-
tions described, make it quite evident
that vigorous action cannot be long
delayed.

Four Indian Boys Frozen to Death Bodies Found on Ice of Fraser Lake

Vanderhoof, B.C., Jan. 4 (CP).—
Investigation of the deaths of four
Indian boys was under way here to-
night as Coroner C. Pitts prepared to
hold an inquest on the frozen bodies,
found on the surface of Fraser Lake.

Huddled together in slush ice only
three-quarters of a mile from Nautley
Reserve, their goal, the youngsters'
bodies were discovered Saturday
night. Only today did word of the
tragedy reach Vanderhoof, 300 miles
northeast of Vancouver.

The dead: Morris Justice and Allen
Willie, both 8 years of age; and
Johnny Michael and Andrew Paul,
both aged 9. The bodies were taken
to Nautley Reserve, at the east end
of Lake Fraser, for an inquest.

The boys left an Indian school at
Lejac, on the southern shore of the
lake, apparently intent upon trekking
to Nautley Reserve. Capless and
lightly clad, the bodies were found
frozen together. One boy had lost a

NCTR @NCTR.LUM · 17h
Jan. 3, 1937-The bodies of Allen Patrick, Andrew H. Paul, Justa Maurice, and John
Michel Jack are taken to the Nautley Indian Reserve. The investigation into the deaths
begins with Coroner C. Pitts. Photo: Globe and Mail, NCTR Archives ID: R00004969
#ThefourboysofLejac #TruthB4 Columbia

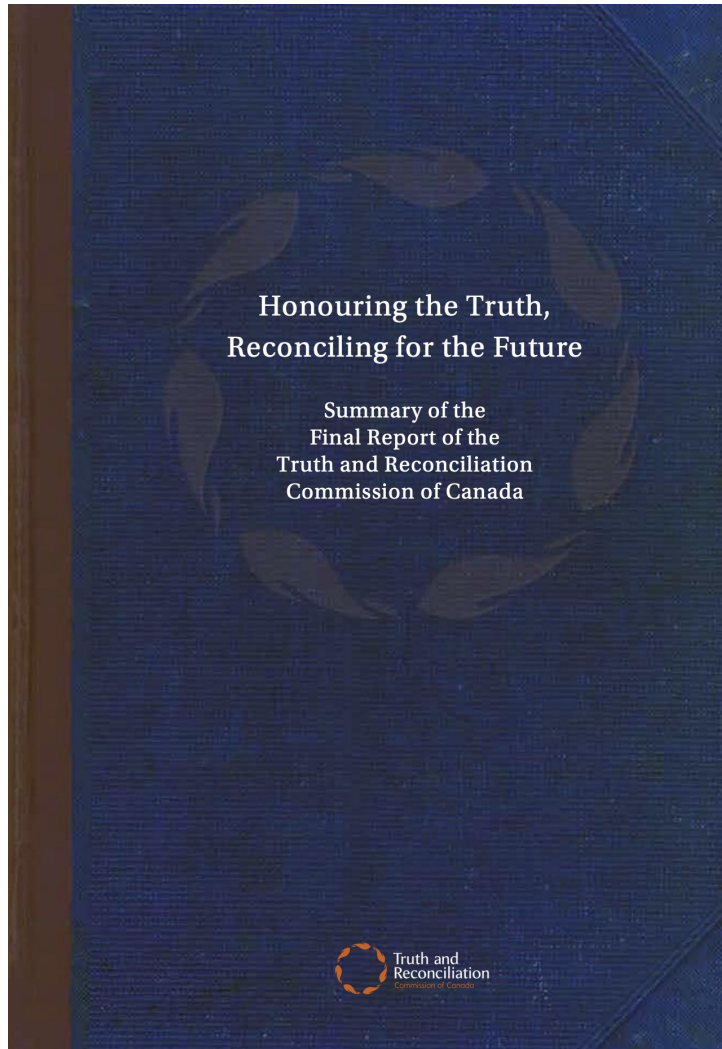
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Systemic racism excuses colonial inhumanity by dehumanizing First Nations peoples. Some excuse residential schools by saying "people back then didn't know" or "knew better." Repeated newspaper reports & gov't records show people knew & knew better.



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To better understand residential schools and what people and governments of the various periods knew, check out John Milloy's 2017 book "A National Crime" and read the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report available free in French and English at <http://trc.ca>

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A history of missteps

BP By Brett Popplewell Staff Reporter
 Sat., Oct. 30, 2010 | 2 min. read

1763: Great Britain and its native allies defeat France and its native allies in the Seven Years' War. The Royal Proclamation of 1763 creates the first "Indian reserves" in Canada, guaranteeing lands that cannot be opened to settlers.

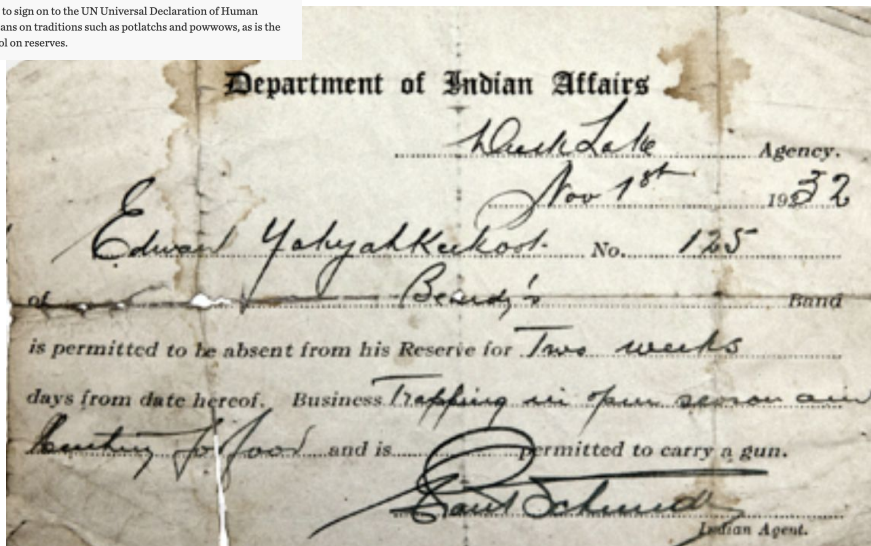
1876: Parliament passes the Indian Act. A report that year explains the act's purpose: "The aborigines are to be kept in a condition of tutelage and treated as wards or children of the State. Every effort should be made to aid the Red man in lifting himself out of his condition of tutelage and dependence, and that is clearly our wisdom and our duty... to prepare him for a higher civilization."

1920: Duncan Campbell Scott, deputy superintendent of the Indian department from 1913 to 1932, proposes amendments to the Indian Act. "I want to get rid of the Indian problem," he says. "Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic..."

1925-1951: The government forbids Indians from forming their own political groups. It also bans powwows, sweat lodges and sun dances. The ban is not lifted until 1951.

1940s: Inspired by what it has read about Canada's Indian Act and its legal classification of "status Indians," the South African government examines Canada's Indian reserve system and later models elements of apartheid after the Canadian system.

1946-1948: In order to sign on to the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Ottawa lifts bans on traditions such as potlatches and powwows, as is the prohibition on alcohol on reserves.

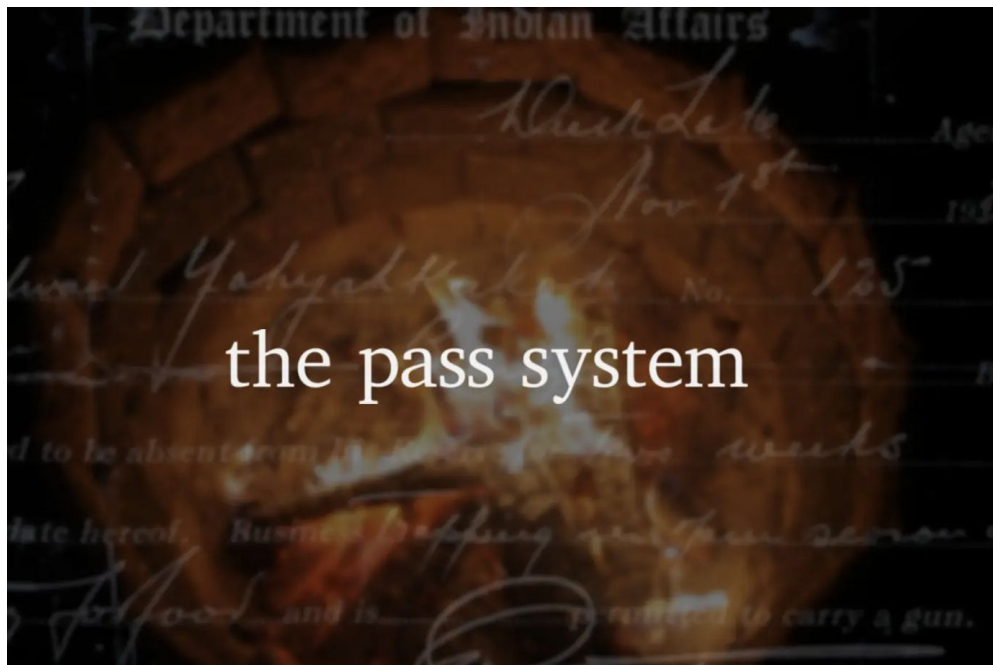


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Systemic racism= the further away injustice is from you the more clearly you see it. In the 1940's, apartheid South African leaders implemented Canada's reserve pass system. When S.A. apartheid fell, Canadians cheered while the Indian Act & reserves remain.

4





the pass system

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For more information on the Pass System, watch this documentary



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Systemic discrimination = Stereotypes to legitimize discrimination. "They are ALL... bad with money, lazy, etc." As the federal government promoted a First Nations Accountability Act (<3% of FN have bad audits), 2 Montreal mayors were arrested for corruption - no Act for them.

4.78 In this audit, we found that INAC sought to better understand its estimate of 60,000 reports required yearly from First Nations. To arrive at this estimate, INAC had counted all reports under all of its previous regional data systems related in some way to grants and contributions. The total included many reports not directly required under contribution agreements, such as a requirement to give INAC updates about all changes to the First Nations population on each reserve, including births, deaths, and moves.

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The Auditor General found that First Nations submit 60,000 reports to the federal government per year - many were not even read. See the OAG recommendation to reduce the reporting burden [here](#), and the AFN info sheet [here](#).





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Governments try to legitimize systemic racism via token First Nations spokespersons. When playing “cowboys & Indians”, most wanted to be a cowboy – they lived longer. Stereotypes = self-righteous “cowboys” anointing “good” & “bad” “Indians”.

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Look for community authorization for persons promoting communal views on specific issues and a long track record of engagement with the issue at hand.

6



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Governments Systemic racism = receiving less support & being judged as if you get more. I wrote this 15 years ago & although the figures have shifted, the gaps remain. Imagine having to cope with every day hardships, let alone COVID, if you lived on reserve.

Figure 1: Contrasting Social Supports for Children on and Off Reserves in Canada

Sector	Off Reserve Supports	On Reserve Supports
Public Sector	Federal programs Provincial programs Municipal services	Federal programs based on population count
Corporate Sector	G-8 economy provides family incomes of \$37,757 for non Aboriginal workers in Canada (Campaign, 2000)	Limited corporate sector annual family income 7,165.00 per annum (Beavon and Cooke, 2001)
Voluntary Sector	90 Billion dollars per year in annual revenue (Turner, 2001)	Extremely negligible evidence of VS service delivery or funding of FN based forms of volunteerism (Nadjiwan and Blackstock, 2003)



CATALYST FOR CHANGE:

A Roadmap to a Stronger Charitable Sector



Report of the Special Senate Committee
on the Charitable Sector

The Honourable Terry M. Mercer, Chair
The Honourable Ratna Omidvar, Deputy Chair

JUNE 2019

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The voluntary sector is often called the “third sector” of society and it relies heavily on public funds (15B in 2017/2018 funded federally), but very little gets on reserve. Do a Google search of First Nations non-profit funds to see how little attention this gap gets.

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Underrepresented and underpaid: diversity and equity among Canada's post-secondary education teachers

While post-secondary institutions are publicly committed to equity and diversity, progress has been slow in achieving employment and wage equity for academic staff. This report provides a snapshot of academic staff representation and income in Canada's universities and colleges in 2016, noting in particular changes in the university sector over the last decade.¹

While available data is limited, it does reveal that the academic workforce is not as diverse as either the student body or the labour force. Evidence also shows significant wage gaps: between men and women; and between white, Aboriginal and racialized academic staff.²

Chart 1 - Racialized and Aboriginal Academic Staff, Labour Force and Students



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Systemic racism = Universities/colleges hiring fewer First Nations peoples, paying them less & expecting them to teach Indigenous courses, serve on Indigenous committees and represent the university at Indigenous events. Tenure/promotion is western based.



Total Labour Force | 60.2 | 51.5 | 54.2 | 50.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

Similar to their racialized peers, unemployment rates for Aboriginal professors are also higher than the average for both men and women, although small counts affect the ability to reliably differentiate between Aboriginal men and women professors. Among college instructors (where the counts are higher),

Earnings Gap

Average earnings for Aboriginal university teachers are significantly lower for both men (-26.3%) and women (-26.7%) relative to non-racialized men. The picture diverges by gender for Aboriginal college instructors, where Aboriginal men have virtually no earnings gap with non-racialized men (0.1%), while for Aboriginal women, the gap is about 20% (see Table 17).

Table 17- Average Earnings by Occupation, Aboriginal Identity Status and Gender, 2015

	All				Aboriginal			
	Men	Difference*	Women	Difference*	Men	Difference*	Women	Difference*
University Teachers	\$110,713	3.6%	\$91,366	20.4%	\$84,594	26.3%	\$84,158	26.7%
College Instructors	\$69,490	2.1%	\$56,552	20.4%	\$70,925	0.1%	\$56,869	19.9%

Source: Statistics Canada, 2016 Census

* Difference relative to non-visible minority men

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Sometimes reconciliation efforts can have a colonial side effect. For example, the expectation that First Nations faculty teach “Indigenous” courses means they are not as free as other faculty to share their knowledge in other course areas or survey other interests.

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She told investigators it was a "greyish beige colour" and made from tough material "like denim," with zippers down the back and front. The sleeves had fringes to bind the arms together across the front and bindings to secure the hands together behind the neck, she said during a second interview with OPP on Aug. 10, 1994.

111. St. Anne's survivors seek to restore the integrity of the IAP process, by the ONSC enforcing its own orders against Canada, and by eliminating all threat of costs against St. Anne's IAP claimants and their counsel. Canada's position that St. Anne's survivors are engaging in abuse of process, is an attempt to divert the Court from addressing Canada's admission that could constitute contempt of court orders, and is a mockery of St. Anne's survivors' good faith efforts to ensure the justice also works for Indigenous citizens.

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Systemic racism = unchecked hypocrisy. Staff at St. Anne's residential school shocked children in an electric chair. The federal government adopted the TRC in 2015 & yet they withhold records of the abuse and accuse survivors of "abuse of process" for trying to get them.

9



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Read more about the horrendous abuse of children at St. Anne's and the federal government's determined and unjust fight against survivors by clicking on the photo link, and read the legal submission [here](#).



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9



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Systemic racism = not being wanted in society. Sometimes those perpetrating systemic racism think they are being “subtle” & “no-one” will notice. The people being discriminated against notice it – it happens to them all the time.

10





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For more information on how to eliminate “invisible” and “subtle” racism go to [Beyond Blue](#). So grateful to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia and Beyond Blue for sharing these powerful resources with the world.

10





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Systemic racism = unjust “justice”. On August 9, 2016, Gerald Stanley shot & killed Colten Boushie. Stanley’s lawyers were able to reject all potential Indigenous jurors. Stanley was acquitted – Colton’s family still seeks justice.

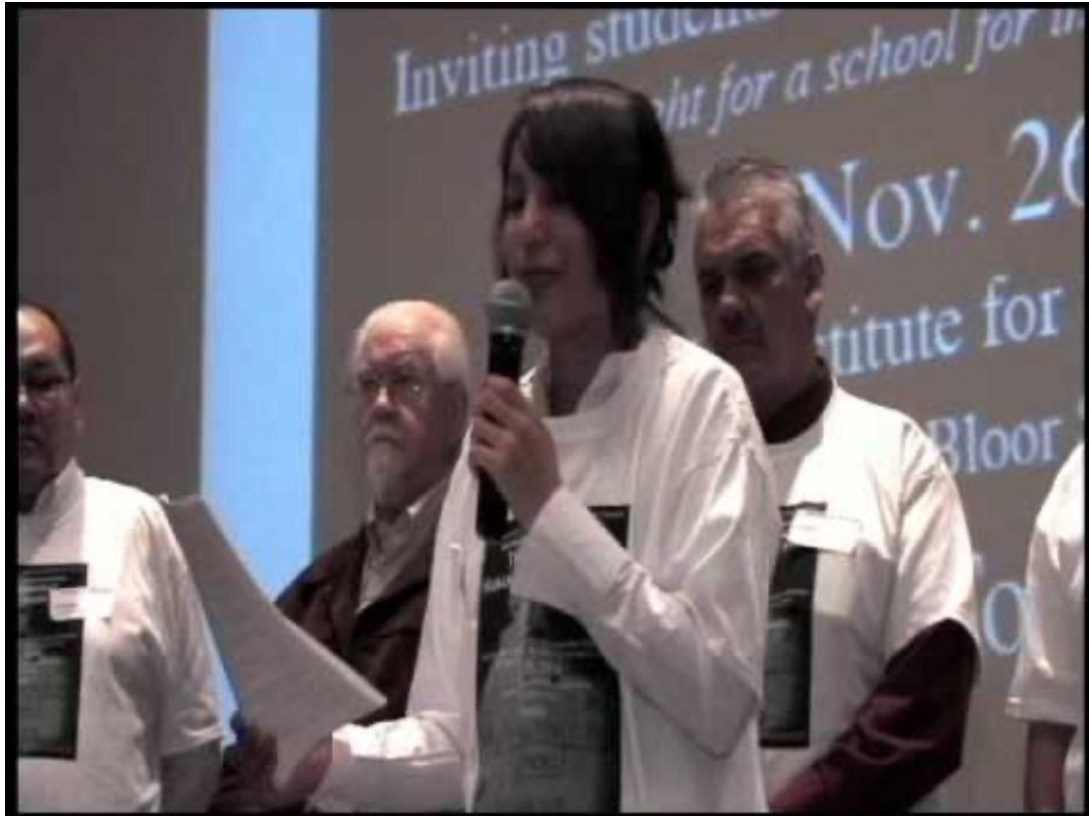
11



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Systemic discrimination = discriminators claiming the right to set the pace for change. After failing to act on solutions to keep women safe during the inquiry; Canada pushes its response (& action) on the MMIWG report off to some unknown date.

12



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Systemic racism = children fighting for equality. Shannen Koostachin rejected Canada's excuses for giving less funds for First Nations schools/education and fought for equality. She passed away at age 15; Shannen's Dream is her legacy.

13





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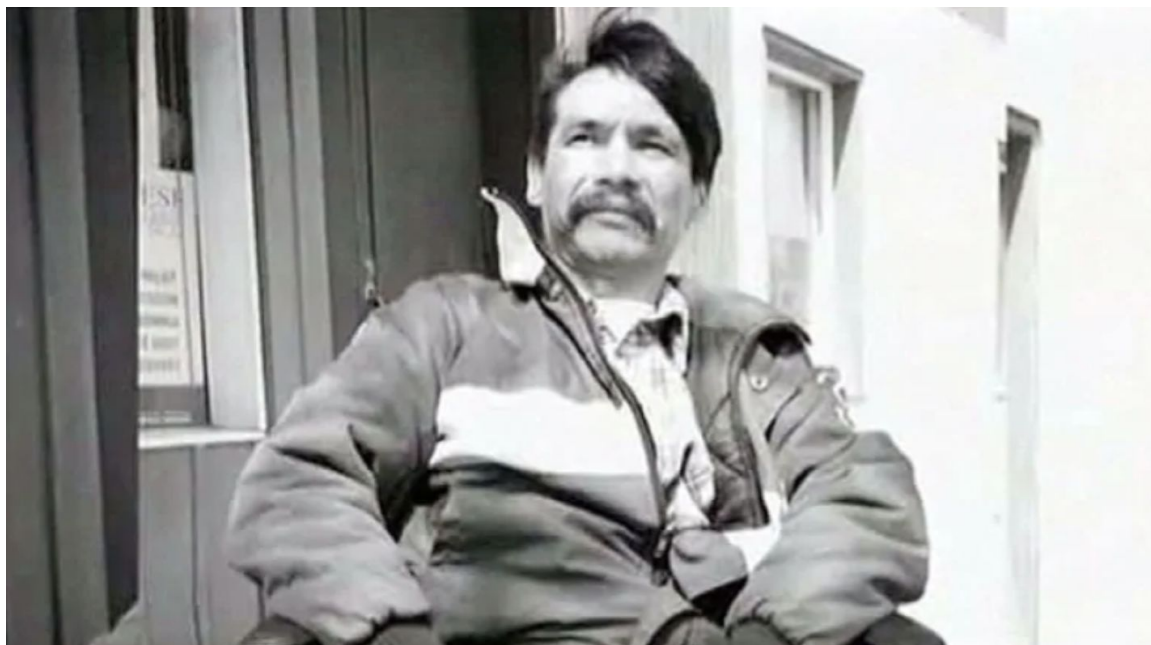
To learn more about heroic Shannen, listen to this great presentation by her sister, education advocate, Serena Koostachin watch the following video, and go to www.shannensdream.ca

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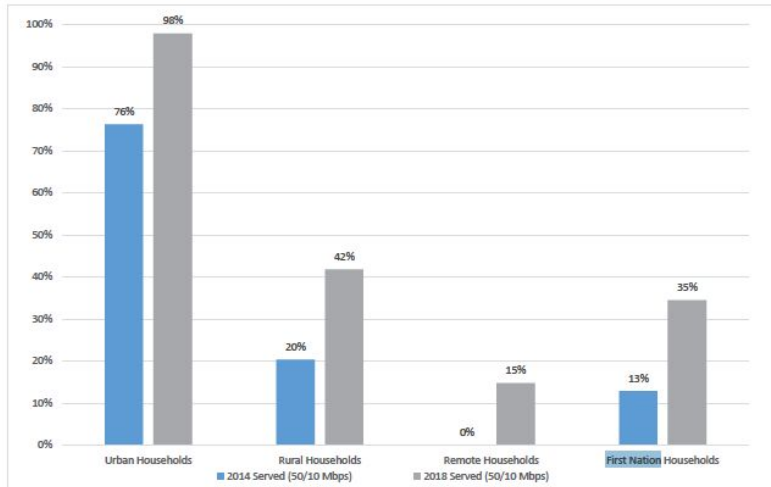
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Systemic racism = being ignored to death. Brian Sinclair went to emergency to get some help. Staff assumed he was drunk or just warming up. When someone finally checked on him 34 hours later – he was dead. Racism was a factor.

14



Figure 2-1 Broadband Penetration in Canada from 2014–2018 (50/10 Mbps)



Source: ISED



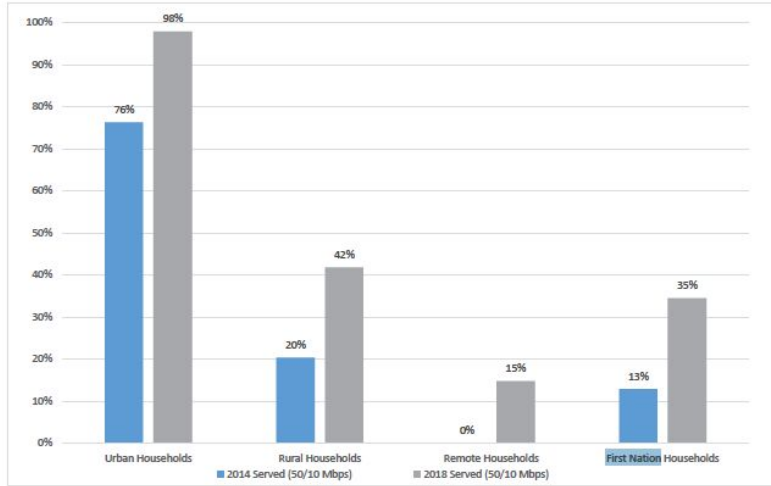
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Systemic racism = disconnected. Working or learning on line during COVID? A 2020 report shows that 65% of First Nations homes have no broadband access. For those thinking remoteness is an excuse – the International Space Station has excellent service.

15



Figure 2-1 Broadband Penetration in Canada from 2014–2018 (50/10 Mbps)



Source: ISED



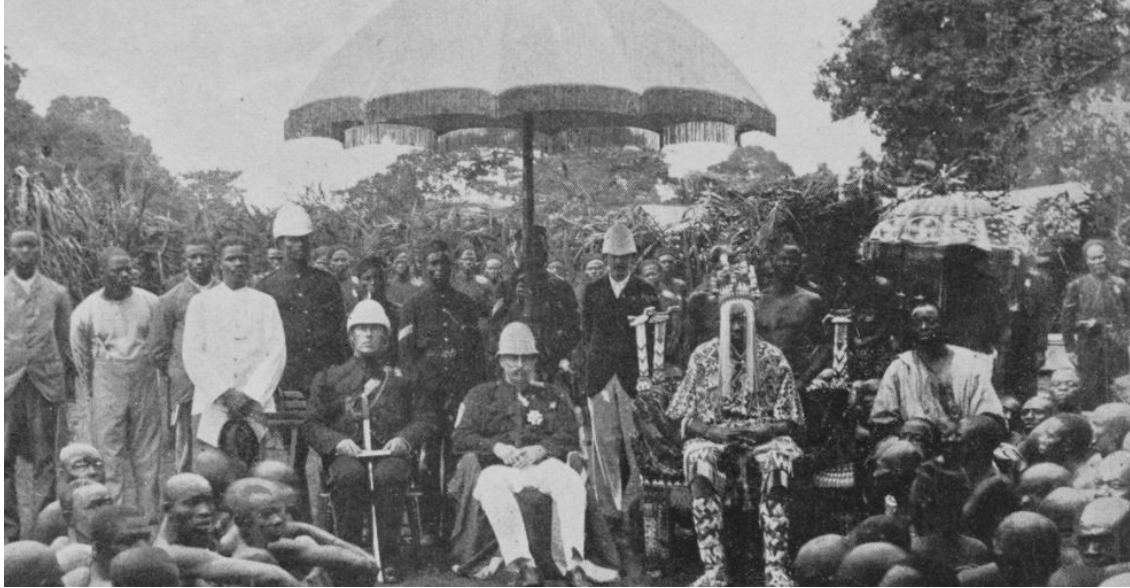
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Population of the International Space Station: 6.

Learn more about the lack of internet access [here](#).

15





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Systemic racism = photo op. Colonizers & discriminators use the camera to entrench the savage/civilized dichotomy & suggest Indigenous leaders approve injustices toward their people or half measures of redress. It still goes on.

16



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Like many tools, the camera can also be used for decolonization but its use should inspire deliberate and strategic consideration. As a First Nations person, a picture may say a thousand words – but it may not be the message you want to send.

16



In January 2017, two twelve-year-old children tragically took their own lives in Wapekeka First Nation (“Wapekeka”), a NAN community. Before the loss of these children, Wapekeka had alerted the federal government, through Health Canada, to concerns about a suicide pact amongst a group of young children and youth. This information was contained in a July 2016 detailed proposal aimed at seeking funding for an in-community mental health team as a preventative measure.

The Wapekeka proposal was left unaddressed by Canada for several months with a reactive response coming only after the two youths committed suicide. The media response from Health Canada was that it acknowledged it had received the July 2016 proposal in September 2016; however, it came at an “awkward time in the federal funding cycle” (see affidavit of Dr. Michael Kirew, January 27, 2017, at para. 16). The Panel acknowledges how inappropriate this response is in such circumstances and the additional suffering it must have caused (See 2017 CHRT 7 para. 9).

Tragically, in February 2017, two other youths aged 11 and 21 took their own lives in NAN communities of Deer Lake and Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (see affidavit of Sol Mamakwa, February 13, 2017, at para. 5) (See 2017 CHRT 7 para. 10).

- Approximately 46% of all Indigenous children are under 25 years of age (Statistics Canada, 2012).
- The suicide rate for First Nations male youth (age 15-24) is 126 per 100,000 compared to 24 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous male youth.
- For First Nations females, the suicide rate is 35 per 100,000 compared to 5 per 100,000 for non-Indigenous females (Health Canada, 2010).
- Suicide rates for Inuit youth are among the highest in the world, at 11 times the national average.

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Systemic racism = an “awkward time”. In 2019, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal linked the feds’ inequitable funding to the suicide deaths of four children. Canada’s response: the 2016 First Nation’s request 4 mental health help came at an “awkward time”

17



WE MATTER

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Find more information on suicide prevention and how you can help check out We Matter and the Centre for Suicide Prevention.

Indigenous Suicide Prevention

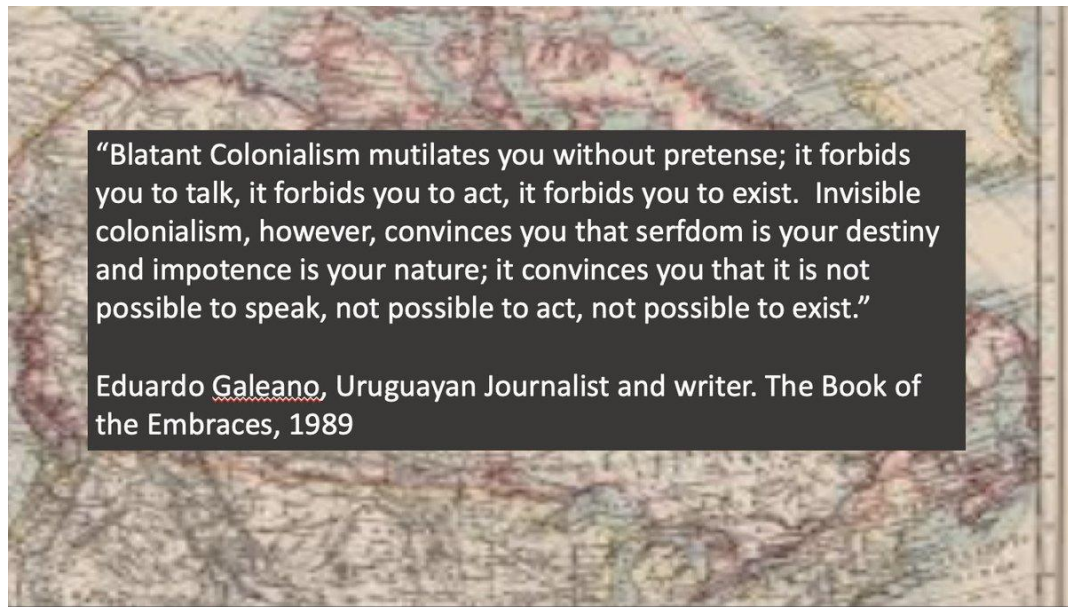
CENTRE FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

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“Blatant Colonialism mutilates you without pretense; it forbids you to talk, it forbids you to act, it forbids you to exist. Invisible colonialism, however, convinces you that serfdom is your destiny and impotence is your nature; it convinces you that it is not possible to speak, not possible to act, not possible to exist.”

Eduardo Galeano, Uruguayan Journalist and writer. The Book of the Embraces, 1989

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Systemic racism = believing it. “I think we are stupid”, said a 13 yr old First Nations girl returning from a teaching an advocacy course for youth in Toronto. Why? Her under-funded on reserve school had no library or science lab – other schools did.

18





healthychildren.org

Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.
from the American Academy of Pediatrics

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Interested in talking to your kids about racism? Here is a resource to get you started.

18



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The Monster Underground

There are more than a thousand cases of industrial pollution affecting 335 First Nations in Canada. Some of them have serious health effects. But the governments responsible have dragged their feet for decades.



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Systemic racism = poison. Imagine caring for your kids during COVID with toxic mercury, arsenic, or uranium in your backyard or in your water? Over 300 First Nations live in that reality – Government action to fix it has been very slow.

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Systemic racism = Pan-First Nations. Westcoast First Nations are showcased in the Grand Hall of the Canadian Museum of History. What is the problem? The museum is on Unceded Algonquin Territory. First Nations are distinct – learn about those close to you.



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View this map of First Nations to get started.

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Systemic racism + understand Canada is founded on racism and still is. As Pam Palmater describes what this means and what you can do about it.

21



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 **Charlie Angus NDP**  @CharlieAngusNDP · Aug 11

Lawyers for @Carolyn_Bennett
cross-examined Edmund Metatawabin the voice for survivors of St. Anne's IRS.
Canada tried to destroy the children.
Government lawyers suppressed evidence of crimes.
They spent millions fighting against justice.
They should be on the stand.



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Canada's conduct in this case is a disgrace. The residential school that Edmund and others attended had an electric chair. Let's put the Minister under cross examination.

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Systemic racism = Canada's department of justice fighting against these residential school survivors and using public money to do it – during a pandemic. Justin Trudeau and Minister Lametti need to stop this madness, apologize, release the records and pay compensation.

22



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Systemic discrimination = trapped. Born with medical issues, Jordan Anderson was ready to leave the hospital at age 2. Canada & Manitoba argued over who should pay because he was First Nations. Jordan died waiting in the hospital at age 5.

23





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Jordan's Principle ensures First Nations children get the public services they need when they need them. It has taken 14 years of litigation v. Canada to get it implemented. The latest legal order was two weeks ago. Learn more at www.jordansprinciple.ca

23



Number of
Nights First
Nations
Children on
reserve in
Canada spent
away from
their families
between 1989-
2012

66,000,000
That is 187,000 years of
childhood

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Systemic discrimination = 66 million years. In 2016, Canada was found to be racially discriminating v. First Nations kids by giving less funds for public services on reserve & was ordered to cease its discrimination. They still haven't & kids pay the price.

24





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Learn more about the historic, and ongoing, legal case to stop the discrimination by watching this documentary by Alanis Obomsawin and visit www.fnwitness.ca for more information.

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There have been about 11 orders v. Canada since they were ordered to stop and services are better thanks to everyone who fought for justice but Canada has not yet fully complied. Given their behaviour in our case, the federal government's willingness to fund First Nations jurisdiction is worrbersome.

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futile agencies. A way must be found to maximize Indian involvement visibly and actually. An Indian advisory committee to non-Indians who are making the real decisions is not good enough. Not only must Indians actually move into positions of real power and authority but they must also appear to be doing so. There will be mistakes, squabbles and mismanagement, but none are likely to be more unseemly than the behaviour of the Canadian House of Commons during the Rivard and Mansingh affairs, nor the tortuous methods Toronto used to buy furniture for its beautiful new City Hall. The Indian community must demonstrate its faith that the Indian is ready to do something for himself. Not a series of tiggling, piecemeal concessions and assignments of inconsequential busy work, but large, generous, and costly arrangements are called for. It should not be done as a means of getting rid of the Indian problem but as a great humane act of trust and vision.

#Fairness4Everyone

Systemic discrimination = looking the other way. Sims (1967) was fed up with governments piece meal action on discrimination towards First Nations. That was 53 years ago. Get fed up – contact Justin Trudeau and let him know the time for [fairness4everyone](#) is now.

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#Fairness4Everyone

This ends the Fairness 4 Everyone learning Series.
There are many more examples and lots of free ways
to help at www.fncaringsociety.com

Keep learning, acting and don't look away. Darkness
and inertia are discrimination's best friends.

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FREE WAYS
to make a difference

[fncaringssociety.com/
7-free-ways-make-difference](http://fncaringssociety.com/7-free-ways-make-difference)



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