

# RESOURCES FOR ACTION

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## Engage with the truth and reconciliation process.

In 2021, the discovery of potential unmarked graves near an Indian residential school in British Columbia sparked a national outcry about the forced separation, assimilation, and abuse children experienced in **a network of segregated boarding schools designed to destroy the culture and social fabric of Indigenous communities.**

It is critically important to understand that the impacts of **Indian residential and boarding schools are ongoing.** *Sugarcane* reveals testimony and evidence of a pattern of forced adoption, forced abortion and infanticide at an Indian residential school. To understand the scope of this pattern, further investigation is needed at other schools across North America where there are similar stories.

This is not just a Canadian story. **There were three times as many federally funded Indian boarding schools in the United States.** The United States is only just beginning to have conversations around this foundational history.

There were 139 federally funded schools in Canada and the U.S. government has identified 417 schools in its initial investigation of federally run schools. [Click here for more info.](#)

Similar systems of assimilation for Native children existed around the world including in Australia, New Zealand, Russia, and Norway.

# WHAT NOW?

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- First Nations communities in Canada continue to seek funding and support for their investigations.
- The Canadian government has paid settlements to survivors. Should the Catholic Church and U.S. government engage in conversations on reparations?
- The Catholic Church along with the U.S. and Canadian governments have not fully opened their records to Indigenous communities so that survivors can know the truth.
- The film documents evidence and testimony of a pattern of infanticide at St. Joseph's Mission, the crimes at the other 138 schools and Canada and 417 in the U.S. are still unknown.
- The residential and boarding school system nearly annihilated native languages, do they have a responsibility to fund their revitalization?



# WHAT CAN I DO?

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- Share ***Sugarcane*** with your friends and family.
- Learn about this history – view interactive maps and histories from the United States and Canada, as well as federal reports and relevant reading. For the United States: National Native American Boarding School Coalition | For Canada: National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Educate yourself about the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act, which would establish a Congressional Commission to locate and analyze the records from the **417** known Indian boarding schools that operated in the United States. You can read more about it here.
- Bring this history into your classroom by screening the film for your students.
- Access lesson plans and other curriculum materials about Canadian residential schools and US boarding schools.

We want to hear from you. Take our audience survey, which helps us shape and document our impact campaign.