

Trigger Warning: Residential Schools

The first-hand accounts of survivors are shared within these graphics. You can read more accounts in "The Survivors Speak" report put together by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was mandated "to receive statements and documents from former students, their families, community and all other

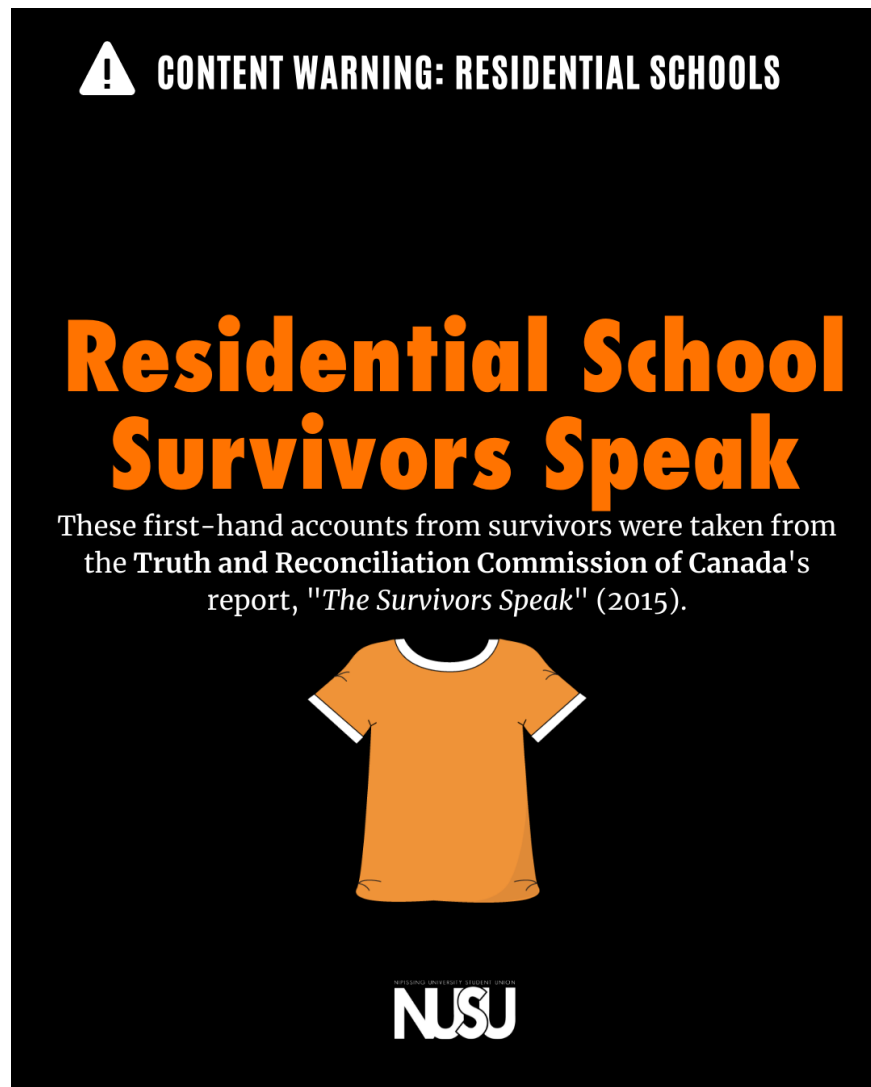
interested participants" and to recognize "the unique experiences" of all former students.

Over 6,750 people have given recorded statements to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Most of these were given in private settings. Others were given

at the national, regional, and community events; sharing circles; and hearings organized by the Commission. These private and public statements form a key part of the Commission's legacy.

Indian Residential School Survivors Society: 1 800 721 0066


Indian Residential Schools Resolution Health Support Program: (24 hour crisis line) 1 866 925 4419



CONTENT WARNING: RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

Residential School Survivors Speak

These first-hand accounts from survivors were taken from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's report, "The Survivors Speak" (2015).



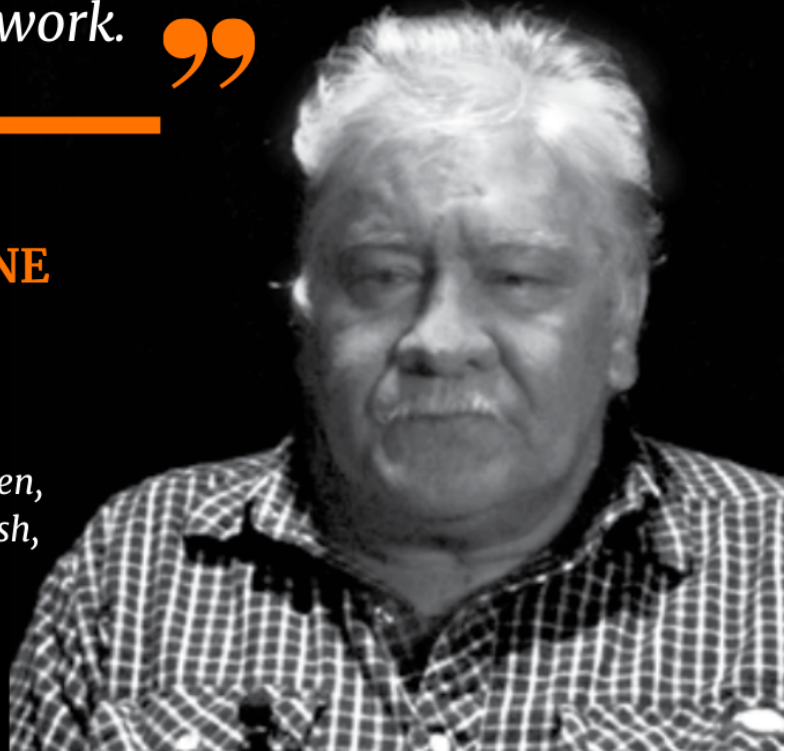
NUSU
NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS

“

*I was in Grade One, the work that was given to me, I didn't know anything about and, and the teacher was speaking English to me and I didn't understand what he was saying. **That's why it was so hard; I didn't understand English very much.** I understand a little bit, at that time, but I did not understand what he told me. And he would get mad at me and angry at me because I couldn't do my work.* ”

WILLIAM ANTOINE

William Antoine grew up speaking Ojibway on the Sheshewaning Reserve in Ontario. When he was seven, he was taken to the Spanish, Ontario, boys' school.





HOWARD STACY JONES

Howard Stacy Jones said he was taken without his parents' knowledge from a public school in Port Renfrew, British Columbia, to the Kuper Island school.

“

*I was kidnapped from Port Renfrew's elementary school when I was around six years old, and this happened right in the elementary schoolyard. And my auntie witnessed this and another non-Native witnessed this, and they are still alive as I speak. These are two witnesses trying, saw me fighting, trying to get away with, from the two RCMP officers that threw me in the back seat of the car and drove off with me. **And my mom didn't know where I was for three days**, frantically stressed out and worried about where I was, and she finally found out that I was in Kuper Island residential school.*

”

Sphenia recalled that at one stop, the train picked up an infant:

“

*I could hear a baby crying about the second day, so I start looking, and I found this little one in the corner. There was a whole bunch of kids around. **I don't know if they were alive or whatever, you know.** I picked him up, anyway, and I remember packing him around. I lost the space that I was sitting at. So, I was walking around. I was lucky I had a coat. I took my coat off, I remember holding him, sitting, holding him, looking at his face. Nothing to eat, nothing to drink. I couldn't give him anything.* ”

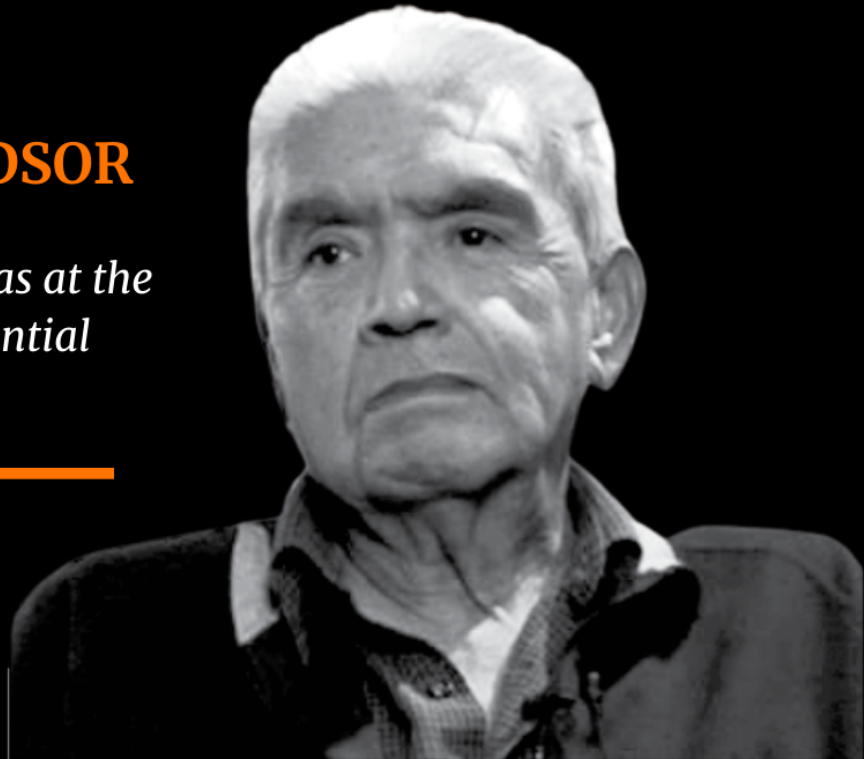
SPHENIA JONES

Sphenia's journey to residential school started from Haidi Gwaii (also known as Queen Charlotte Islands), off the coast of British Columbia.



RON WINDSOR

Ron Windsor was at the Alert Bay residential school.



“

*We had no place to drink water, and we had a little ... bathroom there. **And I was one of them that drank water from the toilet bowl,** because I was caught by the matron, and after that they just locked it. We had no place to go when we got better, then we have to go downstairs to use the washroom. But there was still a lot of other guys there that couldn't move yet, and I still could see them crying, and I was crying with them.*

”

“

*I was crying. **Never cried hard before.** I never felt this sharp pain before, and anger build up, and resentment build up, that if I grow bigger I would get this person back. I knew that I was small, and I can't hit him back*

”

KEN A. LITTLEDEER

*Ken attended the Sioux
Lookout residential school*



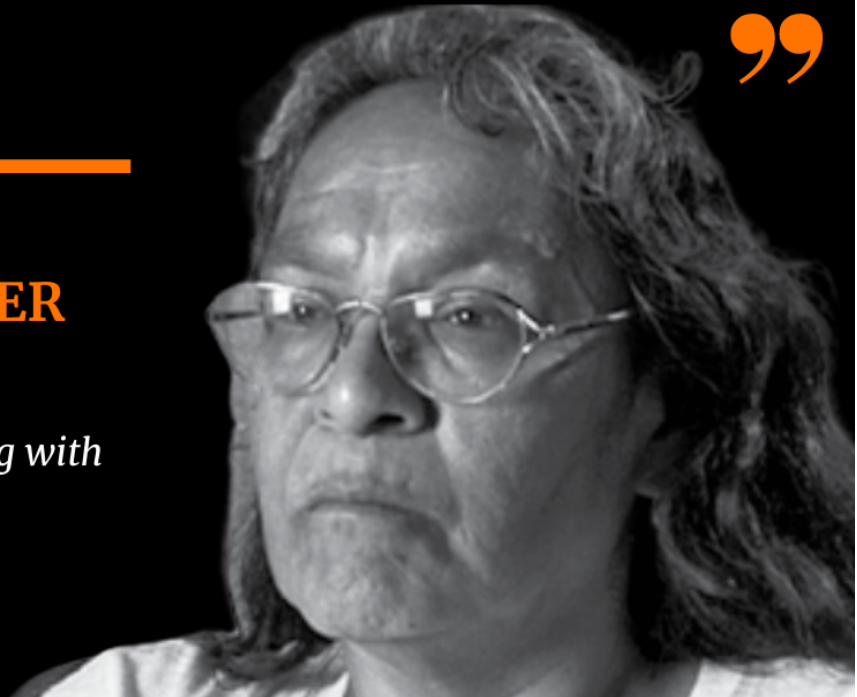
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I don't know what my, what my brother ... what he did. All I know is that it was, we were all in the dining area when they brought him in, when they brought them in. They had, I don't know, I was just pretty small, but it looked like a big, long rod to me, maybe it was smaller. **That's when they were hit in front of all the students.** Maybe it was a lesson for us, or scare tactic, I'm not sure, but I was, I cried. I had one of the nuns holding me down, so I don't go running to my brother. They had another one by my sister. I remember that day. I cried, I cried and I cried

”

MARY VIVIER

Mary attended Fort Frances school along with her brother



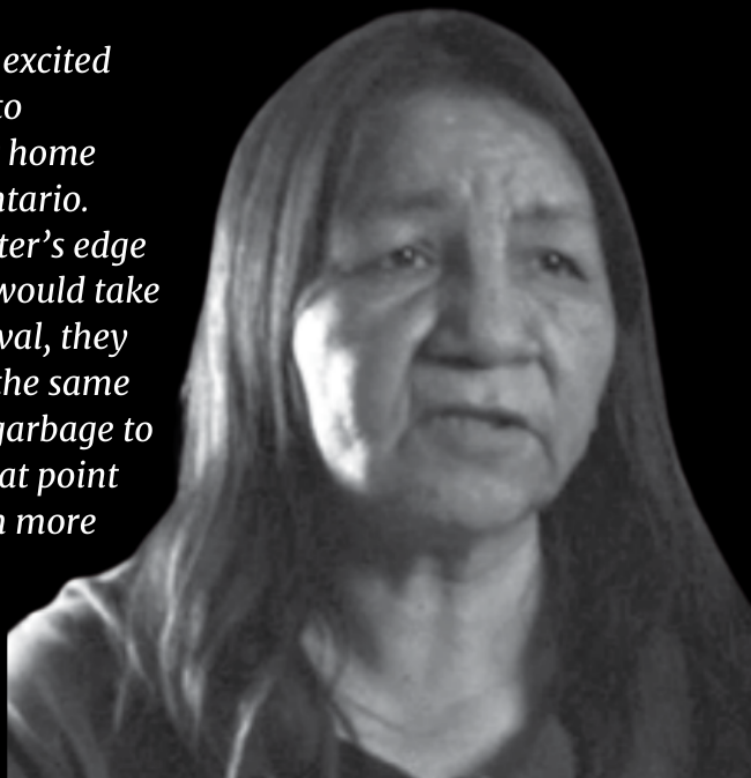
“

I remember how they took our clothes, the clothes that we wore when we left, and they also cut our hair. We had short hair from there on. And they put a chemical on our hair, which was some kind of a white powder.

”

RACHEL CHAKASIM

Rachel and her friends were excited about the prospect of going to residential school from their home community of Moosonee, Ontario. They all ran down to the water's edge to get on the oat plane that would take them to school. On their arrival, they were taken to the school by the same truck that was used to haul garbage to the local refuse site. From that point on, the experience was much more sombre.



BERNICE JACKS

Bernice attended a residential school in the Northwest Territories. As a child, Bernice had been proud of her long hair until a staff member sat her on a stool and cut her hair.



“*My mom used to braid it and French braid it and brush it. And my sister would look after my hair and do it.... **And I sat there, and I could hear, I could see my hair falling.** And I couldn't do nothing. And I was so afraid my mom ... I wasn't thinking about myself. I was thinking about Mom. I say, 'Mom's gonna be really mad. And June is gonna be angry. And it's gonna be my fault.'*

”

To find out more about residential schools and Orange Shirt Day, please visit the following:

legacyofhope.ca/wherearethechildren

trc.ca

orangeshirtday.org

indigenouspeoplesatlasofcanada.ca

humanrights.ca/story/childhood-denied

You can read more accounts in "The Survivors Speak" report put together by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

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