

Remembering the Children

Archival Research and Access to Records



National Centre for
Truth *and* Reconciliation
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Centre national *pour* la
vérité *et* la réconciliation
UNIVERSITÉ DU MANITOBA

Today's presentation

1. Research
2. Archives and Access
3. Agreements
4. Closing reflections



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Research



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NATIONAL STUDENT MEMORIAL REGISTER

Remembering the Children Who Never Returned Home



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Missing Children Project – Phase 2

5

i. Review of approx. 2.2 million records

4 steps involved in this work

Step 1: Scoping

Step 2: Eyes on review

Step 3: Verification

Step 4: Register update

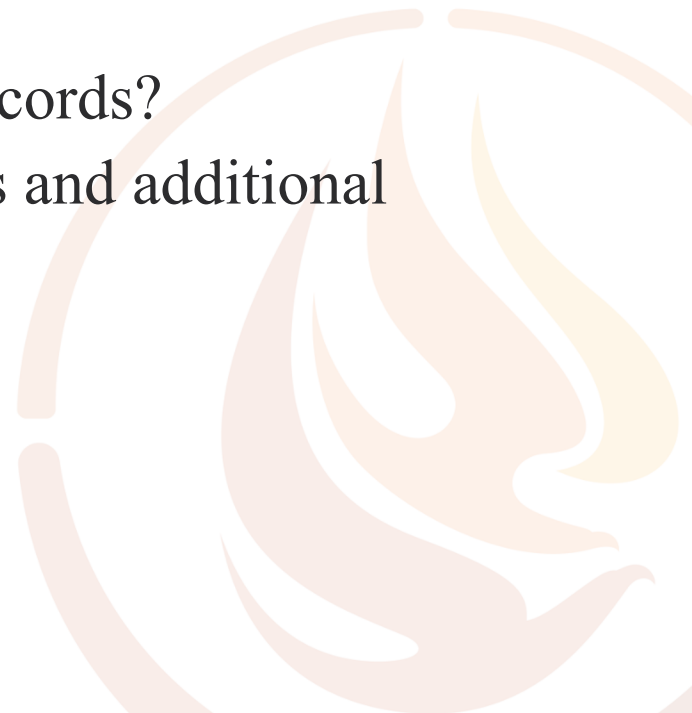




OMI Lacombe Archives and Records

6

- i. What records are outstanding?
- ii. What repositories hold Oblate records?
- iii. Other Catholic diocesan archives and additional records



Archives and Access



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The NCTR Archives – Where did we come from

SCHEDULE “N”

MANDATE FOR THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

There is an emerging and compelling desire to put the events of the past behind us so that we can work towards a stronger and healthier future. The truth telling and reconciliation process as part of an overall holistic and comprehensive response to the Indian Residential School legacy is a sincere indication and acknowledgement of the injustices and harms experienced by Aboriginal people and the need for continued healing. This is a profound commitment to establishing new relationships embedded in mutual recognition and respect that will forge a brighter future. The truth of our common experiences will help set our spirits free and pave the way to reconciliation.

Principles

Through the Agreement, the Parties have agreed that an historic Truth and Reconciliation Commission will be established to contribute to truth, healing and reconciliation.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission will build upon the “Statement of Reconciliation” dated January 7, 1998 and the principles developed by the Working Group on Truth and Reconciliation and of the Exploratory Dialogues (1998-1999). These principles are as follows: accessible; victim-centered; confidentiality (if required by the former student); do no harm; health and safety of participants; representative; public/transparent; accountable; open and honourable process; comprehensive; inclusive, educational, holistic, just and fair; respectful; voluntary; flexible; and forward looking in





What types of records does the NCTR hold

9

GOVERNMENT RECORDS

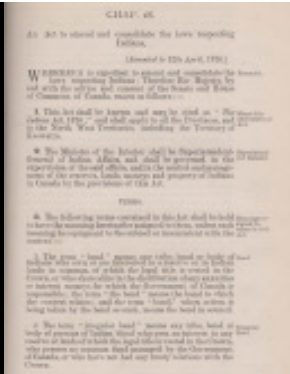
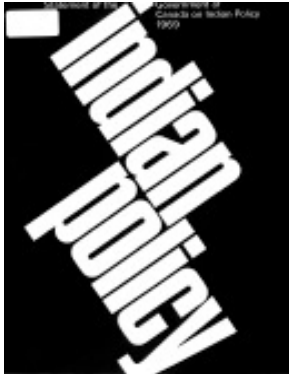
- Police files
- Indian agent files
- School admissions
- Hospital records
- Student transportation

SURVIVOR RECORDS

- Statements
- Art
- Poems
- Music
- Material objects

CHURCH RECORDS

- Student records
- Photographs
- School newsletters
- Cemetery records
- Religious records



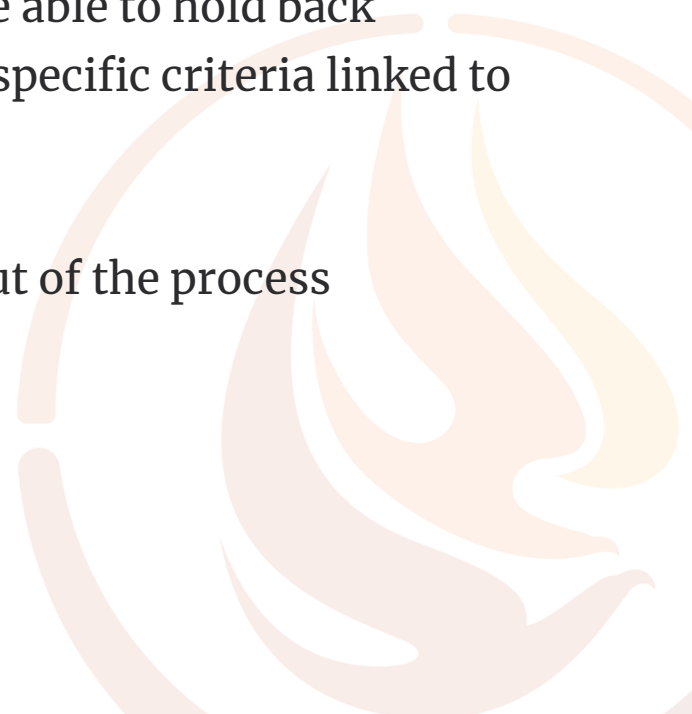


Issues around relevancy

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Church archives and government departments were able to hold back records that were deemed “not relevant” based on specific criteria linked to the listed schools in the settlement agreement.

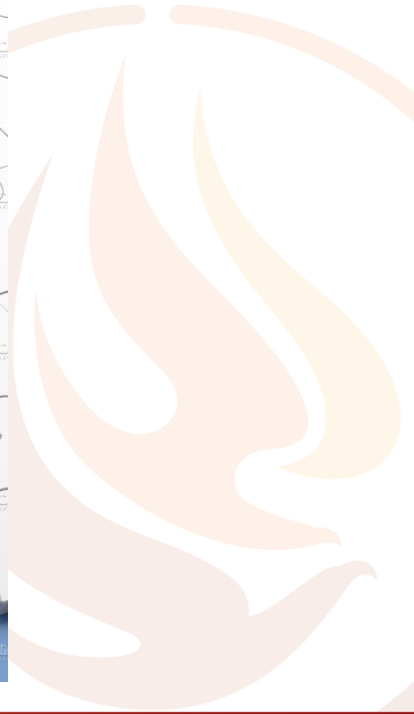
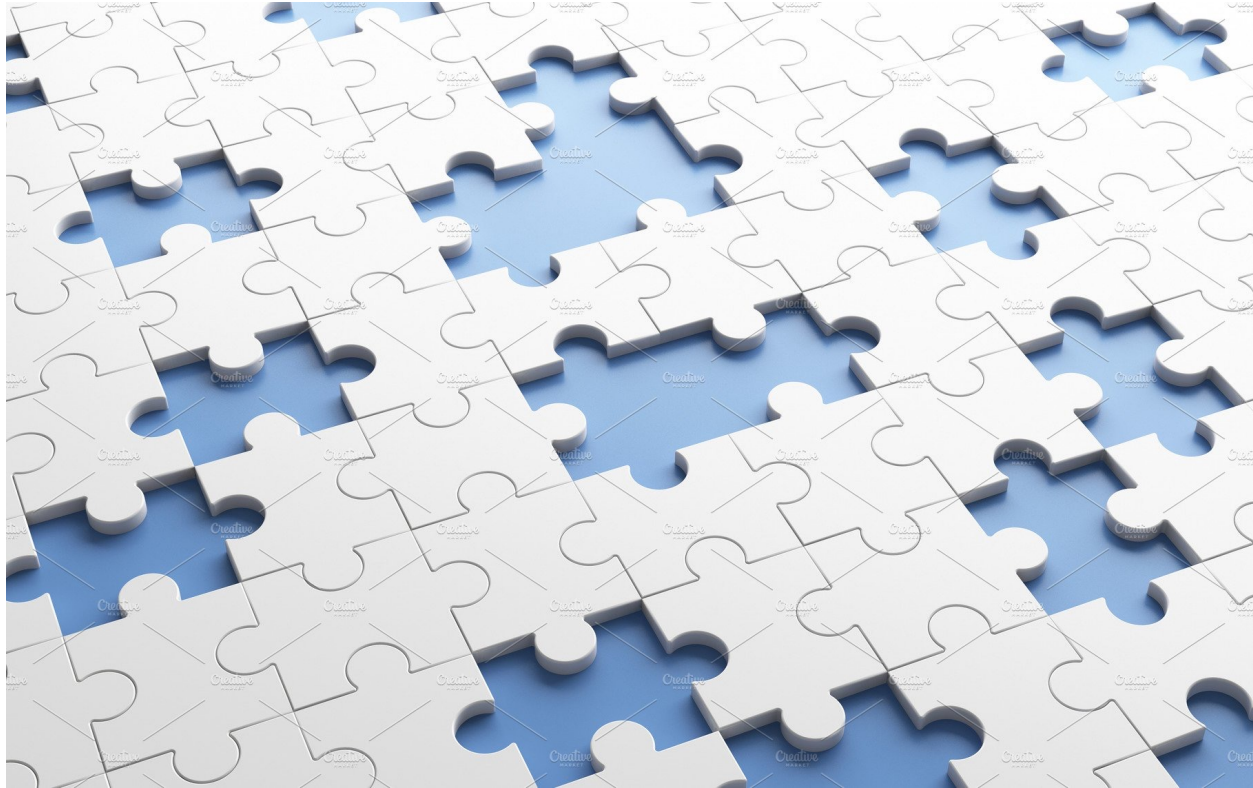
Many Survivors from non-IRSSA schools felt left out of the process





Identifying gaps in the archives

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A Renewed Urgency to Produce and Provide Access to Records

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How we provide community-based access

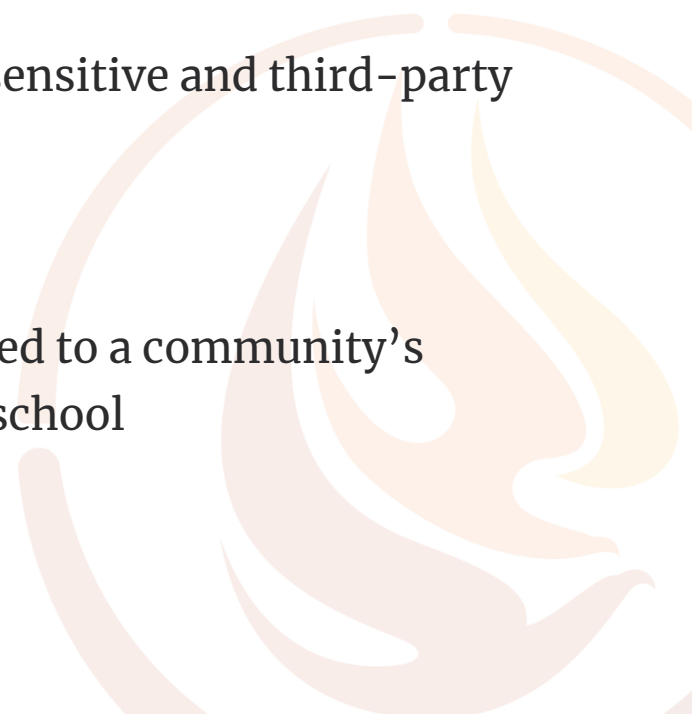
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Proactive Disclosure of records

Release of smaller batches of records reviewed for sensitive and third-party information prior to release

Remote access

Remote access to tens of thousands of records related to a community's research, such as all records related to a particular school



Memorandum of Agreement



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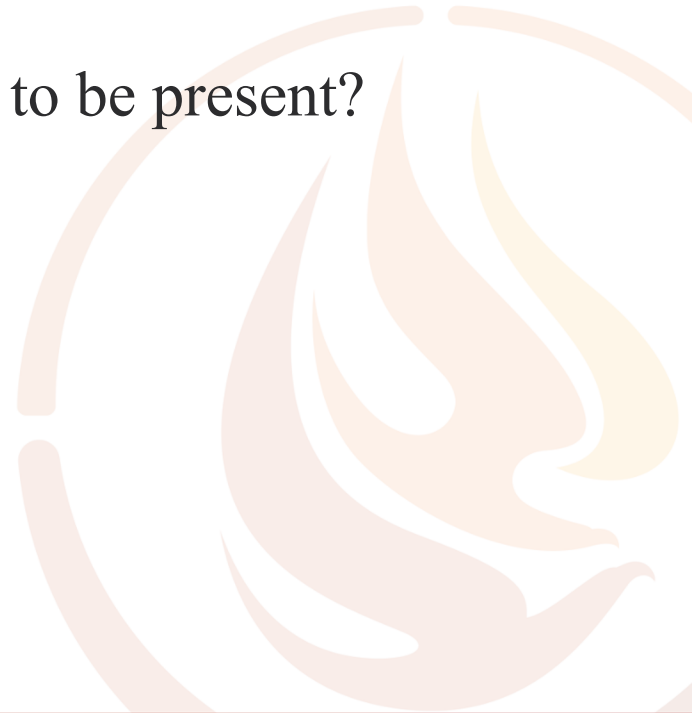
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What is the purpose?

15

- i. Why do we need agreements?
- ii. What is involved and who needs to be present?
- iii. What is the timeline?





Templates available





What are some of the challenges?

17

- i. Western legal frameworks and Indigenous rights to access their information
- ii. Disclosure of information vs. disclosure of records





Our Relations - Community Data Storage

18

Free to use

A Microsoft 365 environment for community members and researchers to store data related to their research, such as GPR data, photographs, shared team documents, AV statements, etc.

Safe and secure

Communities will have full control over who has access to the environment and will have the ability to transfer the files to a community archive following completion of the research or have them stored at the NCTR while retaining ownership and rights.

Closing reflections



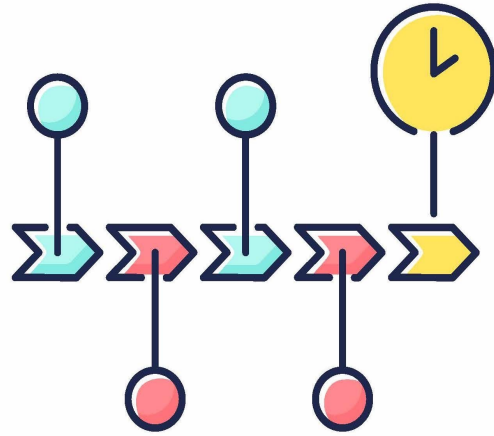
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Conflicting Timelines

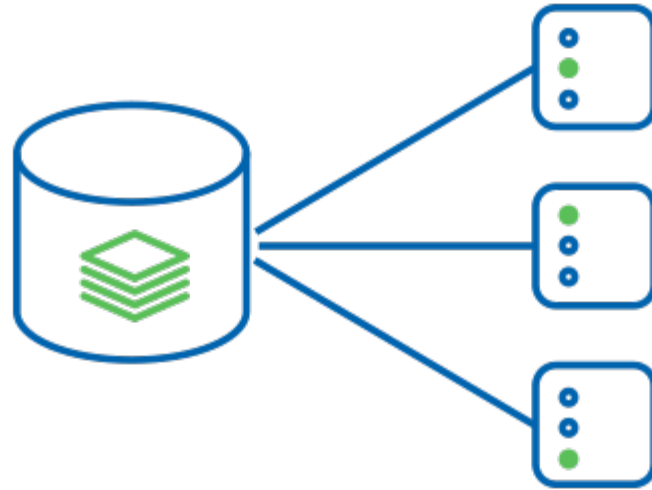
20





Need for a central catalogue

21



Thank you!

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