

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCVWuTmYUb8>

## 1. This Was Not an Accident. It Was Policy.

Residential schools were:

- **Created intentionally**
- **Funded deliberately**
- **Under-regulated by design**
- **Run through church–state partnership**
- **Meant to assimilate, not educate**

Phil and Kathleen make this explicit:

These were **not schools**.

They were institutions of **containment and assimilation**.

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## 2. The Purpose, in the Government's Own Words

The state identified Indigenous peoples as:

- “getting in the way”
- resisting settlement
- resisting land theft
- resisting control

Proposed “solutions” (documented historically):

- extermination
- containment
- enslavement
- **assimilation**

Residential schools were chosen as the “humane” option.

The strategy:

- Break the bond between child and parent
  - Destroy language
  - Destroy culture
  - Destroy identity
  - Replace with Christianity + obedience
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## 3. Mandatory Removal of Children

Key facts established in this session:

- Attendance became **mandatory** (ages 4–16)
- RCMP + Indian agents enforced removals
- Once enrolled, **parents lost control**
- Children who ran away were forcibly returned

This was **state-sanctioned child removal** for over a century.

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#### 4. Funding Tells the Truth

Numbers matter here:

- **\$180 per child per year** (1930s)
- Other institutions (prisons, reform schools, schools for the deaf): **3x funding**
- Per-capita funding meant:
  - more children = more money
  - sick children admitted = more spread of disease

Conclusion:

If education were the goal, funding and regulation would have matched provincial schools.

They did not.

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#### 5. No Real Rules = Systemic Abuse

Comparison Kathleen makes:

- Provincial schools: ~90 pages of regulations
- Residential schools: **~4 pages**

No enforceable standards for:

- food
- health
- teacher qualifications
- discipline
- building safety
- ventilation
- overcrowding

This absence **enabled violence**.

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## 6. Abuse Was Routine, Not Exceptional

Phil's testimony is devastating because it's **representative**, not extreme.

Established realities:

- Physical abuse: routine
- Sexual abuse: widespread
- Emotional degradation: constant
- Name changes: identity erasure
- Language suppression
- Religious coercion

Phil's Grade 3 class:

**20 boys. Every single one abused.**

Not one.

Not a few.

**All.**

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## 7. Ritualized Sexual Abuse and Normalization

The most disturbing clarity comes here:

- Abuse framed as “cleansing”
- Confession + sexual acts intertwined
- Known among children
- Named in language (Ojibwe term shared)
- Normalized as routine

This is how systems hide atrocity:

Normalize it.

Ritualize it.

Silence it.

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## 8. Children Died — In Large Numbers

This is not speculation.

Documented evidence:

- **Dr. Peter Bryce (1907)** — federal medical officer
- Found:
  - 25% mortality overall
  - up to **69% mortality** in some schools
- Tuberculosis rampant

- Poor food, overcrowding, no ventilation

What happened next:

- Report buried
- Bryce fired
- System continued
- Funding model unchanged

Kamloops was not “new.”  
It was **confirmation**.

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## 9. Unmarked Graves: Why They Exist

Clear explanations given:

- No money to send bodies home
- Children buried on-site
- Often without markers
- Records incomplete or deliberately vague

TRC findings:

- 2,000+ named deaths
- 1,000+ unnamed deaths
- Thousands more unaccounted for

Ground-penetrating radar is **evidence gathering**, not speculation.

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## 10. Denialism Is the Final Violence

This session is very clear:

Denial is not ignorance — **it is continuation**.

Why people deny:

- Protect national self-image
- Avoid moral responsibility
- Preserve inherited privilege
- Avoid grief

Why denial is dangerous:

- It enabled the abuse
- It buried the reports

- It silenced survivors
- It allows repetition

“Never again” means nothing without acceptance.

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## **11. The Fight Back: Accountability at Last**

Turning point:

- Phil Fontaine’s public testimony (1990)
- Thousands of lawsuits
- Courts overwhelmed
- Shift to settlement negotiations

Kathleen’s role:

- Architect of survivor-centered justice
- Rejected narrow British-law compensation model
- Centered:
  - truth-telling
  - healing
  - commemoration
  - dignity
  - apology

This led to:

- **Truth and Reconciliation Commission**
- Survivor testimony preserved
- National education mandate
- Permanent historical record

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## **12. Apology: Why It Mattered**

Church accountability:

- Oblates apologized first (1991)
- Catholic Church resisted structurally
- Vatican hid behind legal fragmentation

Breakthrough:

- 2022 Vatican delegation
- Pope Francis:
  - said “**I am sorry**”
  - said “**I believe you**”
  - came to Indigenous lands
  - expanded apology publicly

Phil's framing is critical:

This did not erase the harm.

It lifted a burden.

For many survivors:

- validation
- recognition
- dignity restored

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### 13. The Truth Canada Must Hold

This session leaves Canada with one unavoidable reality:

You cannot love this country honestly  
without holding its contradictions.

This is not about hating Canada.

It is about **telling the truth so it never happens again.**

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### What This Session Sets Up Next

We move from:

- assimilation
  - resistance
  - survival
  - **self-determination**

The next conversation is about:

- Indigenous resurgence
- governance
- reclaiming power
- rebuilding futures beyond trauma