

Visualizing Canada's Indian Residential Schools

Project Features

- Explore **qualitative data** and **personal stories** of residential school survivors
- Explore **interactive map** showing residential schools, First Nations reservations, and the **connections** and **movement** between them
- Show data from **individual school reports** in a narrative format, combining timeline format (qualitative data) with quantitative data
- **Search** for specific story, school, or reservation
- Make hard-to-access NTRC and NCTR data available to all Canadians; provide a home for IRS data outside of government databases
- Understand the IRS system through the stories of the survivors and of a single school
- Available on **desktop** and **tablet** format, in **story** and **research** modes, allowing for both a narrated presentation and research on specific survivors and schools
- Also available in **print** format

Title Page

Canada's Indian Residential Schools

1876-1996





Presentation Mode

Project is available in two modes, story and research, allowing for both a narrated presentation and research on specific survivors and schools

This selection, and search, is also available on the header bar by scrolling up

Select a presentation mode:

Story

Research

This visualization will walk you through the stories of residential school survivors, before showing the locations of Indian Residential Schools, First Nations reservations, and the connections and movements between them on an interactive map. The visualization ends by exploring the narrative of a single school, selected on the map or via search, which is accessible by scrolling up.

Scroll on to continue.

Intro Page

This page gives some context and background to the IRS system in a similar way to written introduction

This is a quick intro (some context and background)

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This visualization tells the story of Indian Residential Schools through a single school, before analyzing the system as a whole. Scroll on to explore.

trigger map_pin

Instructions

This page introduces the qualitative data and survivor stories that follow

Some more instructions?

The following is a selection of stories as told by Residential School survivors, gathered by the National Truth and Reconciliation Commission between 2008 and 2015.

Survivors

Side scroll and drag to select a survivor and their story

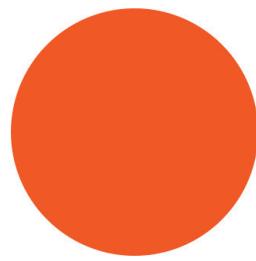
More instructions? Title?

Currently 14 available and searchable



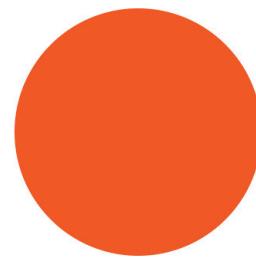
Bill Brown

I didn't know I was going away to school. I thought I was just going for a train ride and I was just excited to go."



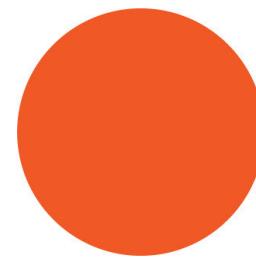
Emily Kematch

"I didn't know I was going away to school. I thought I was just going for a train ride and I was just excited to go."



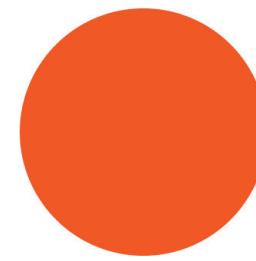
Anthony Henry

"I was born in a tent in the woods so I was brought to the world in a very harsh environment, which I guess is a good thing because it made me the tough guy I am."



Albert Fiddler

"I was a good athlete, I was a good hockey player, I was a good runner."

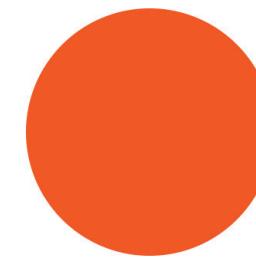


Doris Young

"I was always hungry. And we stole food."

Delores Adolph

"The nun slapped me across the face, and, and I had too much soap in my hair, and my ears."



Martha Loon

"We had staff members who took us under their wing. And one, over the years, started to recognize us as, like, younger siblings."



Richard

"I was twelve. At twelve years old, I began drinking to forget."

Survivors

Side scroll and drag to select a survivor and their story

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I didn't know I was going away to school. I thought I was just going for a train ride and I was just excited to go."

Emily Kematch

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Doris Young

"I was always hungry. And we stole food."



Delores Adolph

"The nun slapped me across the face, and, and I had too much soap in my hair, and my ears."



Martha Loon

"We had staff members who took us under their wing. And one, over the years, started to recognize us as, like, younger siblings."



Richard Loon

"I was twelve. At two, I began drinking beer."

Survivors

Delores Adolph



Survivors

Delores Adolph attended the residential school in Mission, British Columbia likely called St. Mary's sometime in the 1950s. The school was operated by the Catholic church from 1867 to 1984. Delores gave a statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on 19 May 2011 in Mission, British Columbia.

Survivors

Missionaries opened a boarding school at the St. Mary mission in the Fraser Valley in 1863. The school was relocated in 1882 and a new school was built in 1933. In its early years the school made little use of corporal punishment, but this policy was dropped as the school was increasingly integrated into the federal residential school system. The school closed in 1984. In 2004 a former school employee was convicted of 12 counts of indecent assault in relation to his time at the school and was sentenced to three years in prison.

Survivors

Life Before Residential School

Delores Adolph was born in 1951 and grew up in a self-sufficient Aboriginal family in British Columbia.

“Before I came to residential school, our, our families fished and hunted for our food. Our mother, she grew our own vegetables, because we were quite a ways from the stores, and because we lived in the remote area where, where there is no stores. And you know there was, our means of travel was canoes, so that’s how we travelled. And our, our home life, it was not the greatest, but what our parents were trying to teach us how to, how to be, to keep busy, and then, and for us not to say there’s nothing to do. So, we, we packed water, and we packed, we packed our wood. Sometimes we had to roll our wood up, up the dike, and then roll it down the other side, and, and we had to learn how to cut our, our wood, and make kindling for the fire, and that was our way of life. And, and my grandfather was busy trying to teach us how to build canoes. Build, make paddles. Build a bailer, to bail water out of our canoe. And, and then they were trying to teach us how to, how to race on those old fishing canoes, and we always beat the boys. And they didn’t like that, because we, we beat them all the time. So, that meant that we were, that we were strong at that point, before we came to residential school. And my life has been upside down since I came to residential school.”

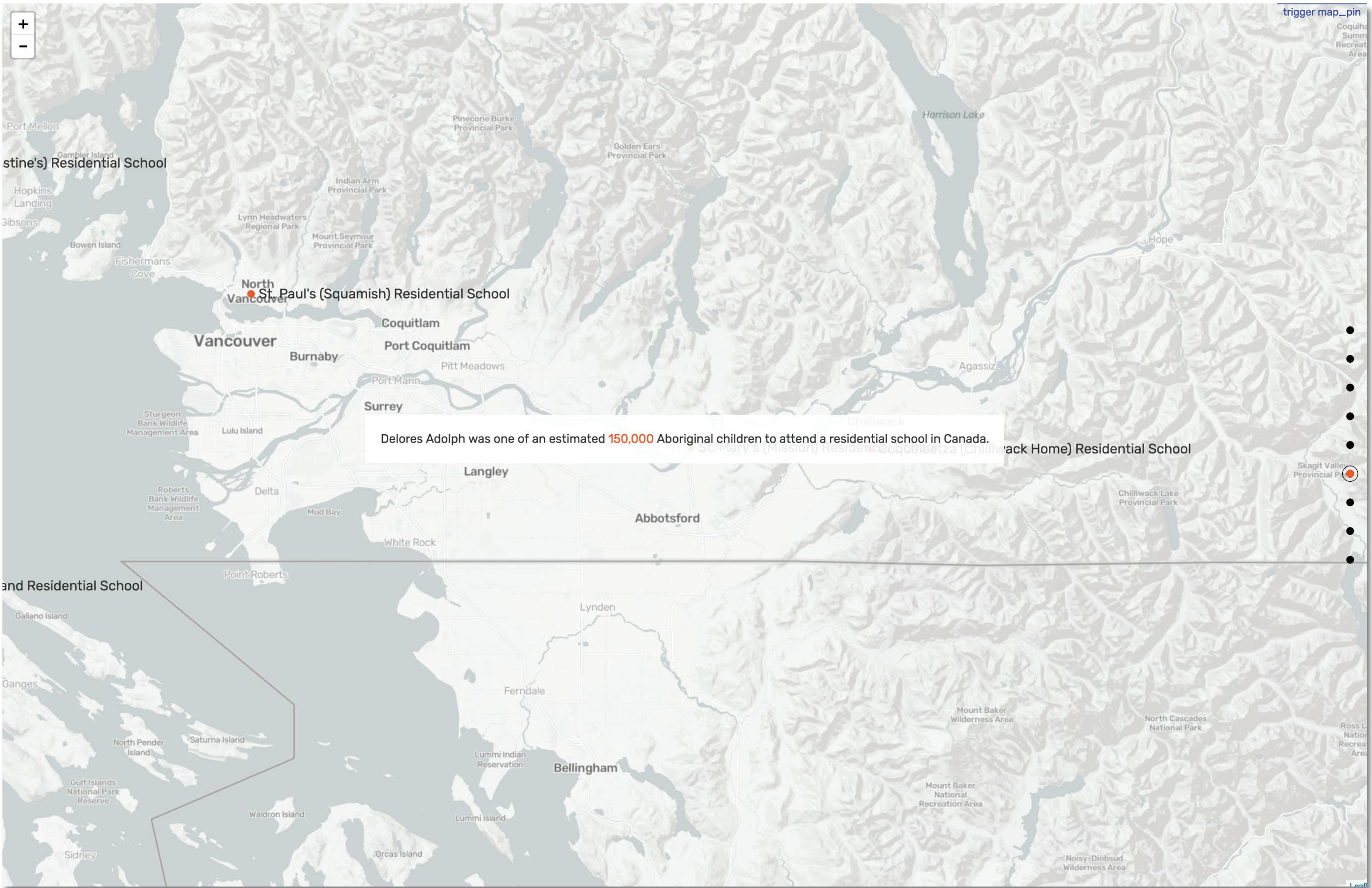
Survivors

Discipline

Delores Adolph also said that the punishment she received at the Mission school impaired her hearing.

"The nun slapped **me** across the face, and, and **I** had too much soap in my hair, and my ears, and **I** was trying to get the soap out of my ears and my face, and **she** gave **me** one good slap, and, like, and all **I** saw was stars. And so **I** didn't know that my eardrum was broken at that, at that point. So, after a while, **you** know, **they** were getting mad because **I**, **I** couldn't hear what **they** were saying. "

Locations



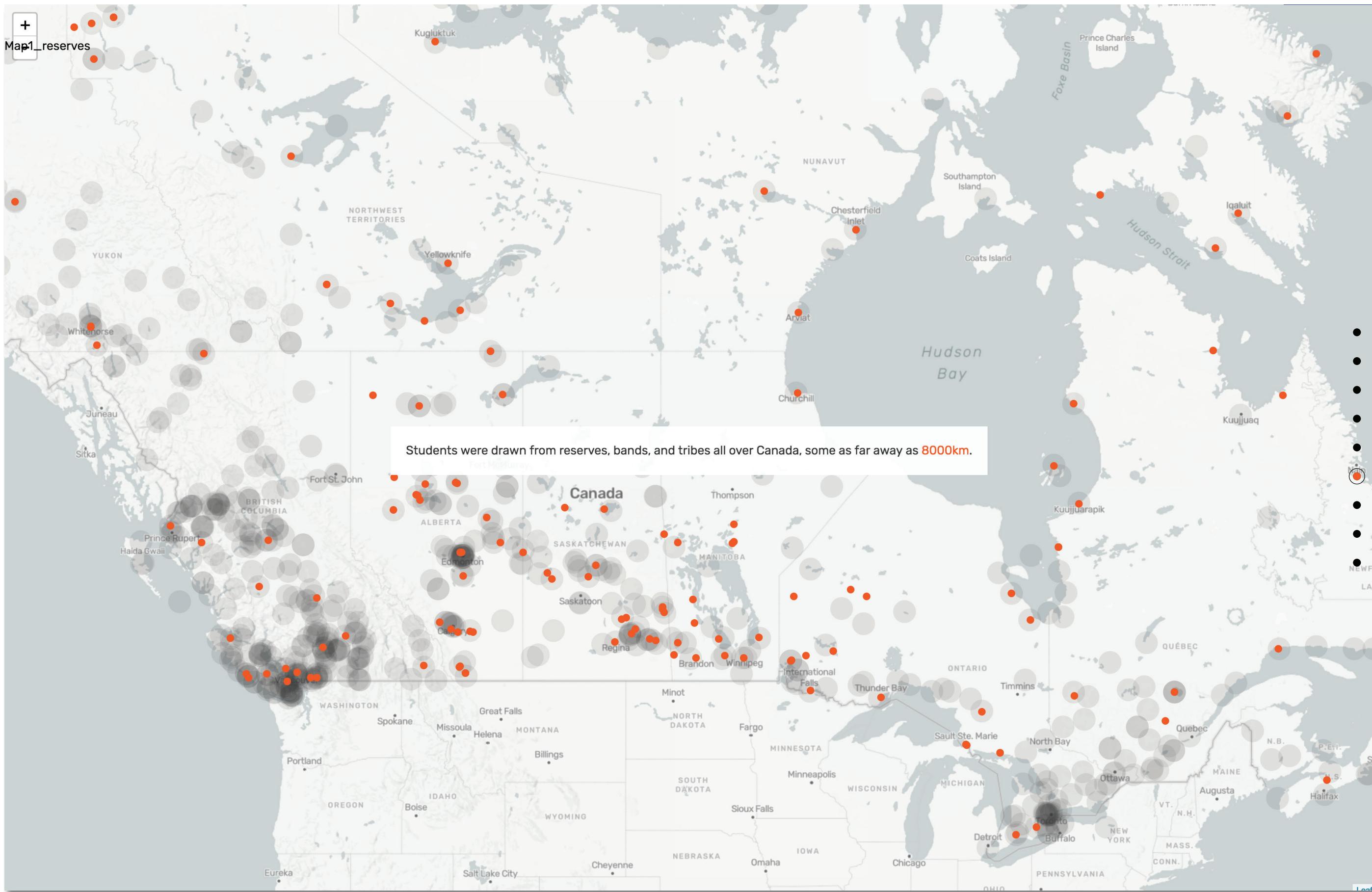
Locations



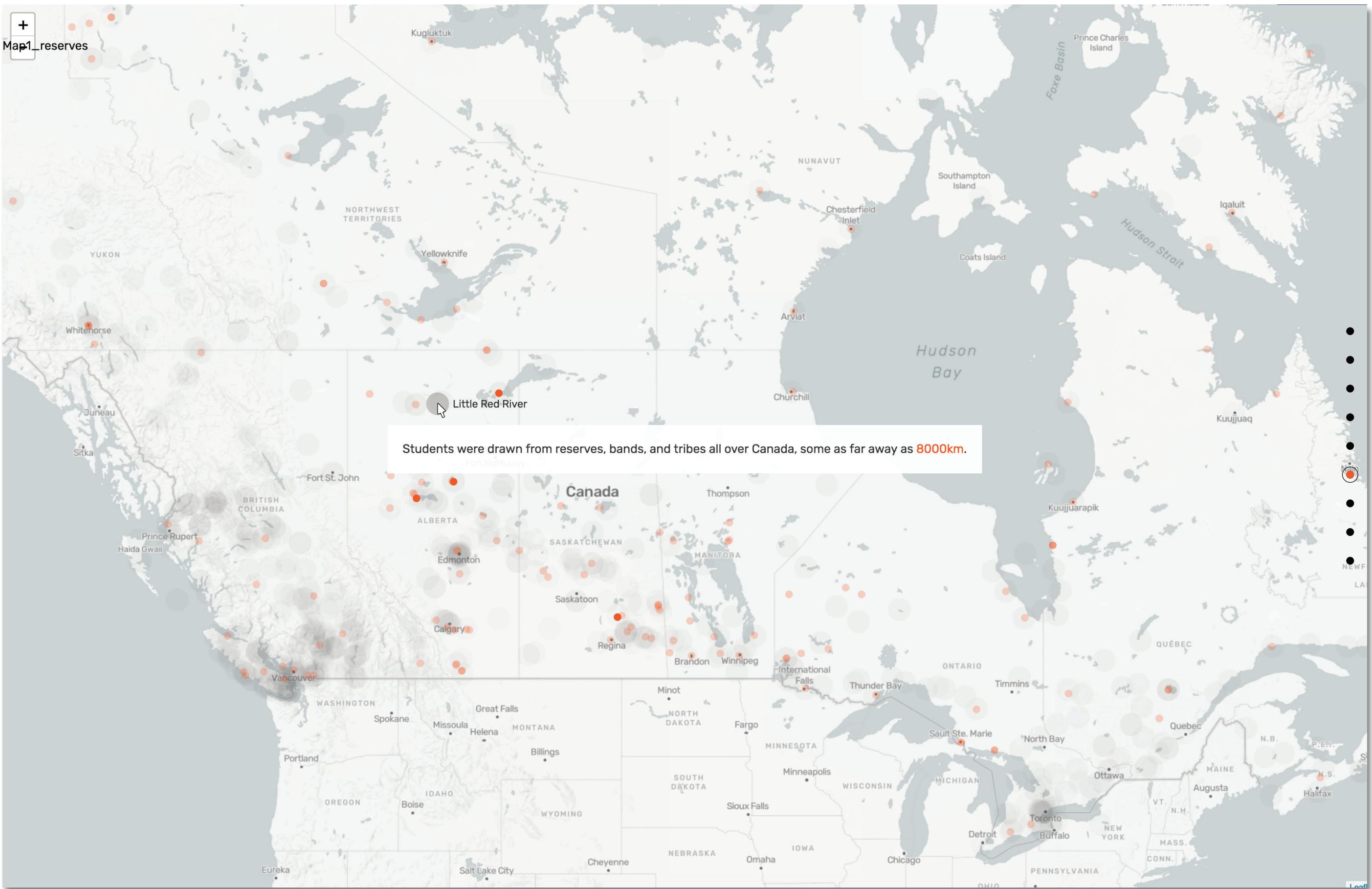
Locations



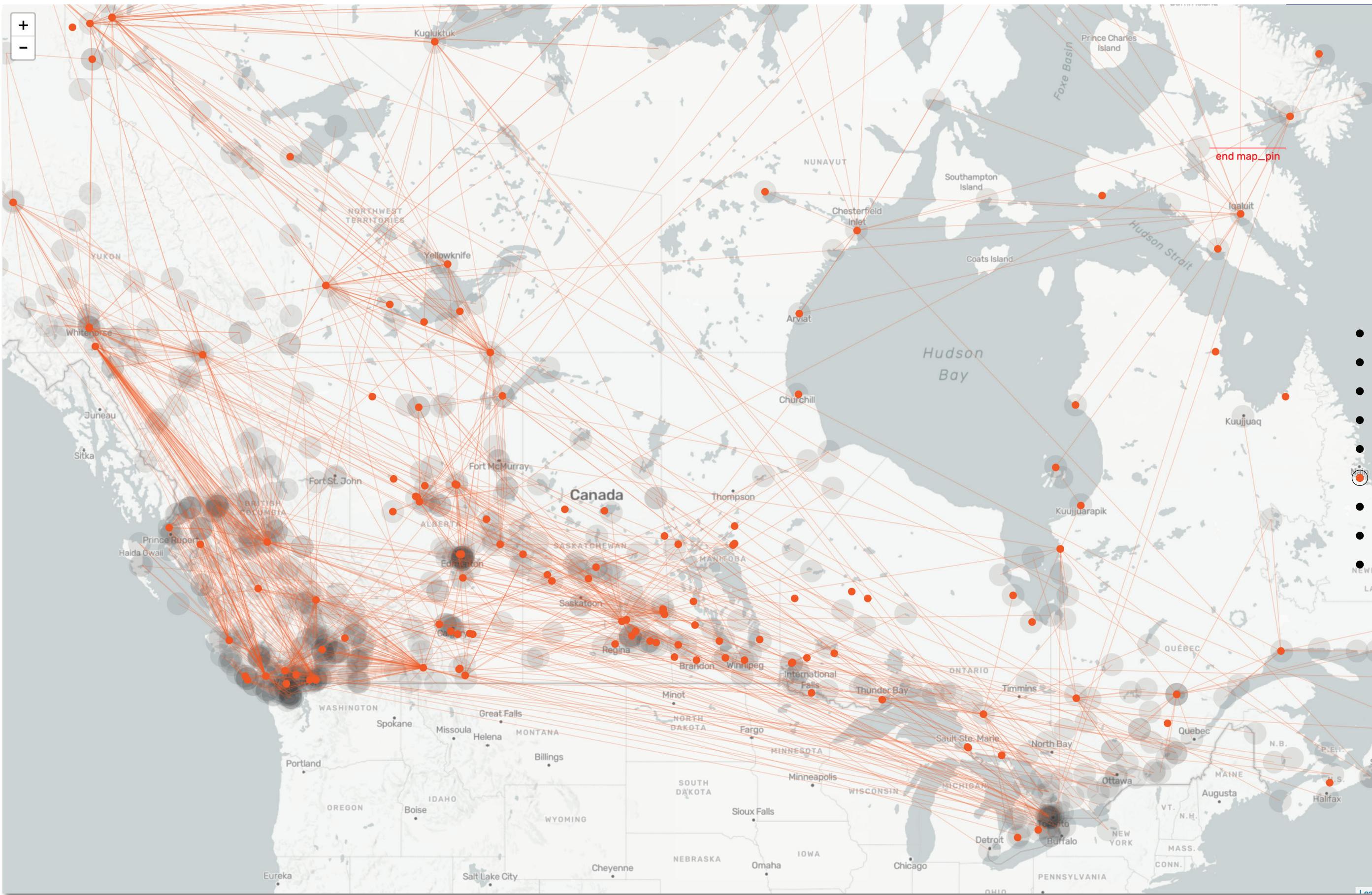
Locations



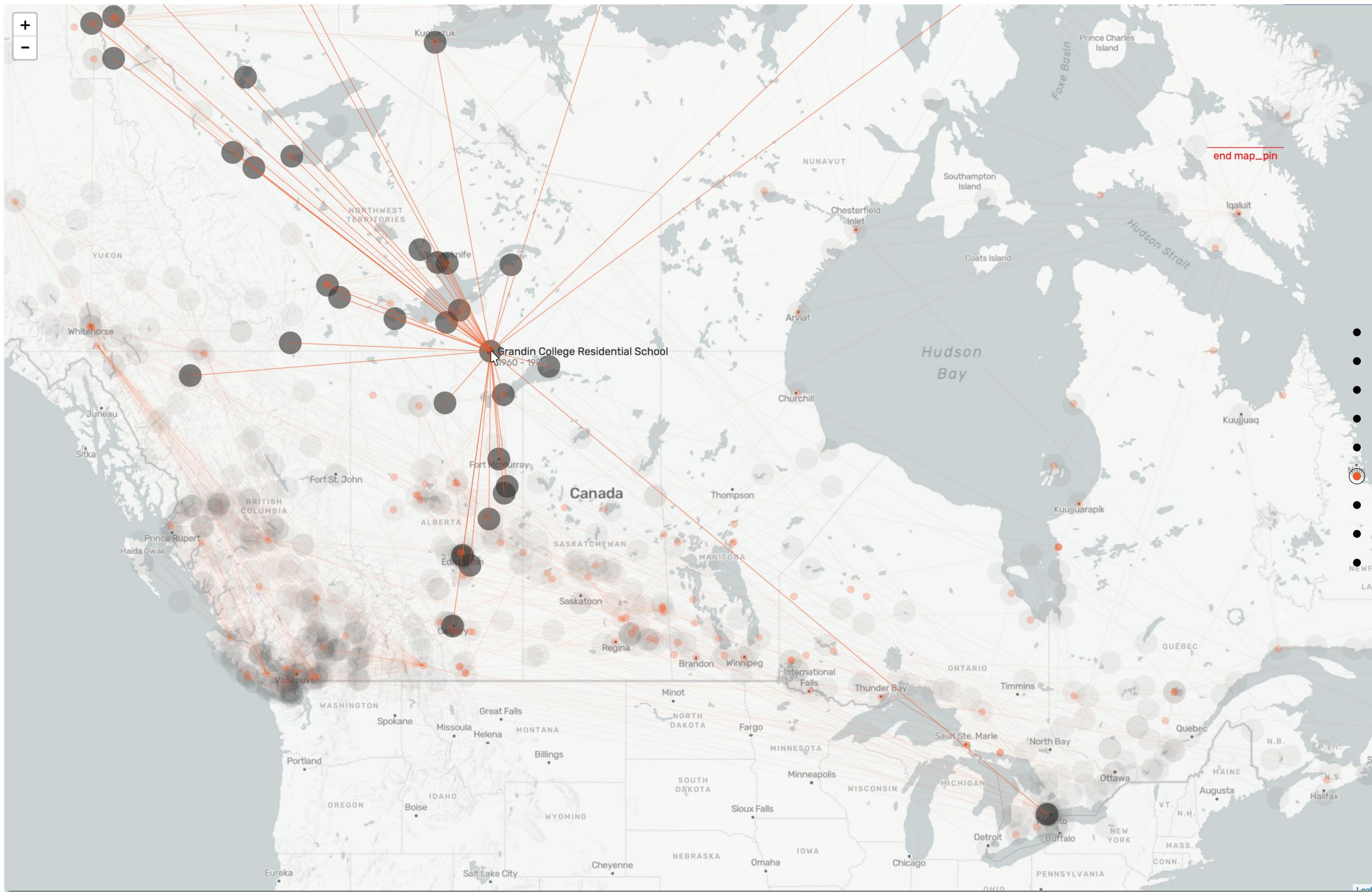
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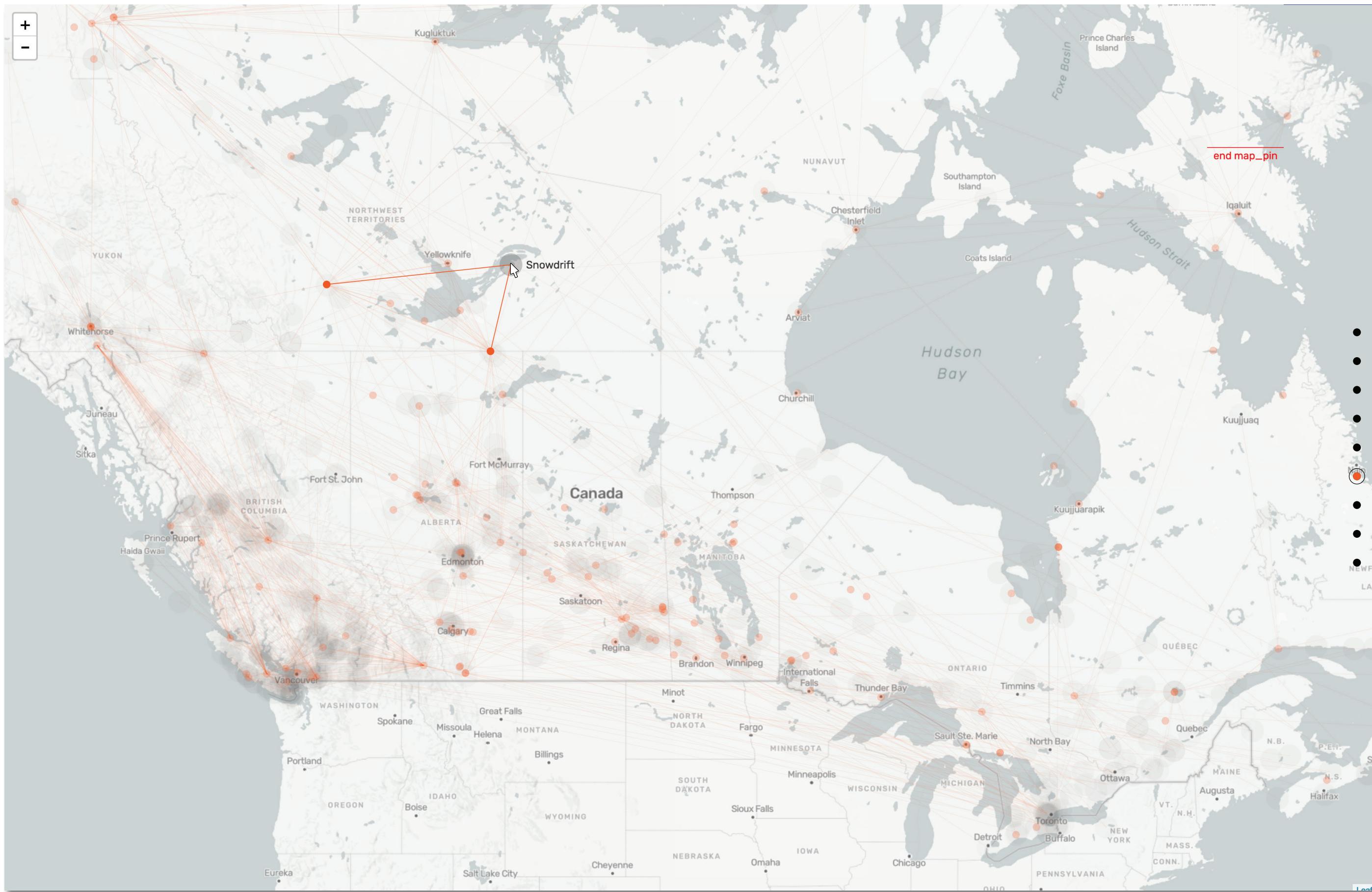
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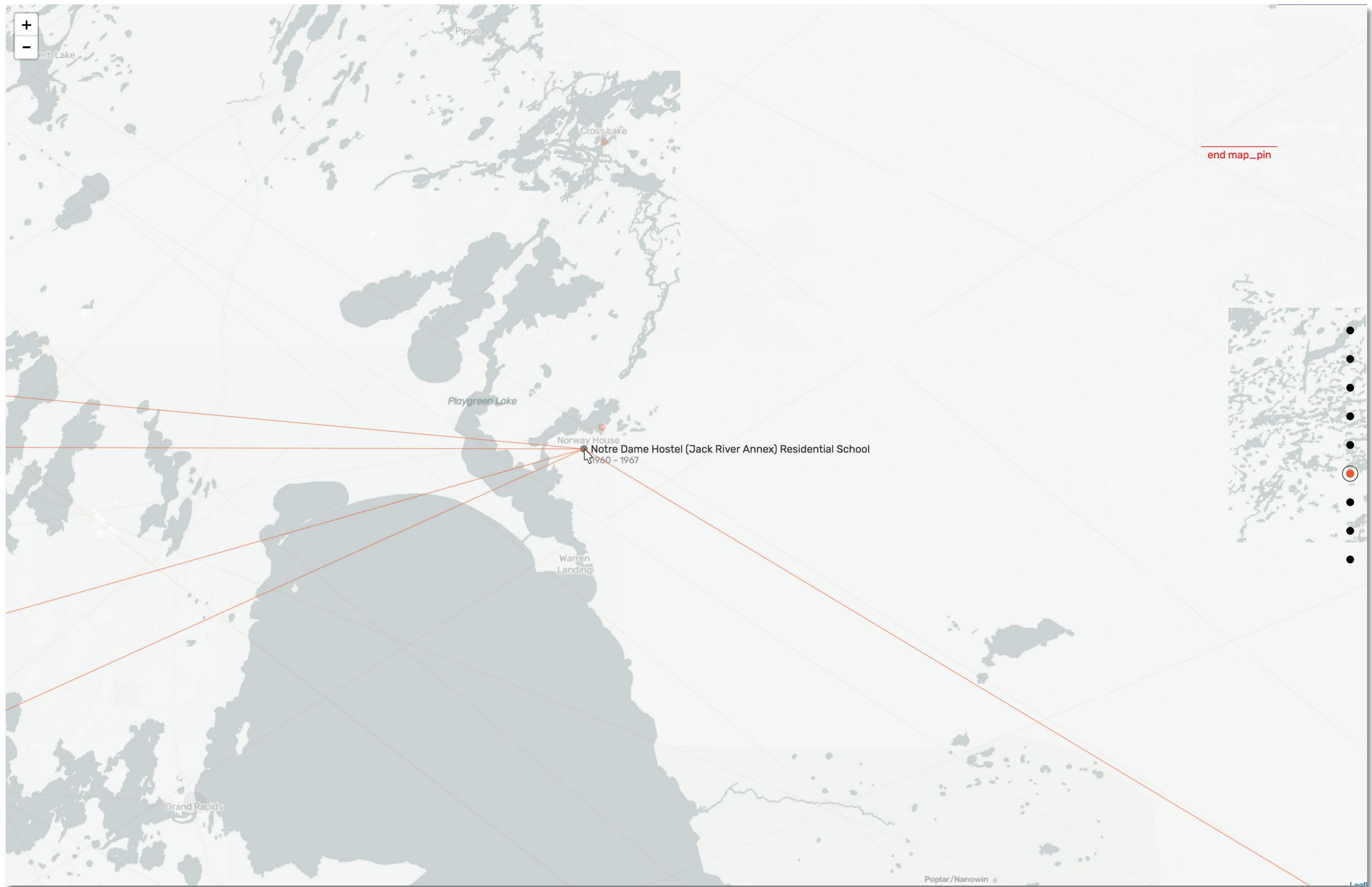
Locations



Locations



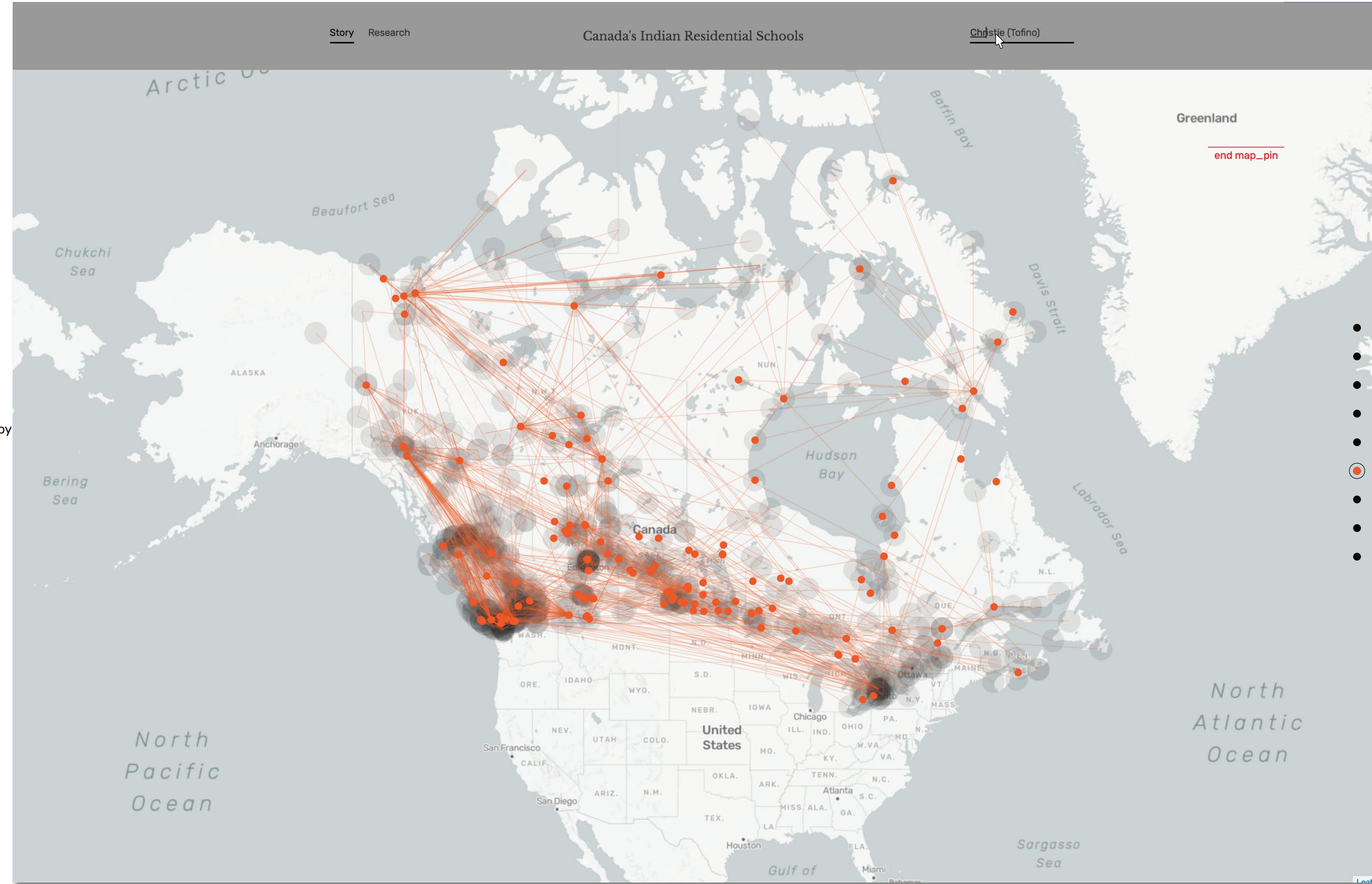
Locations



Search

Auto-complete search available by scrolling up

Search for survivor stories, reservations, or schools and results will come into view



Search



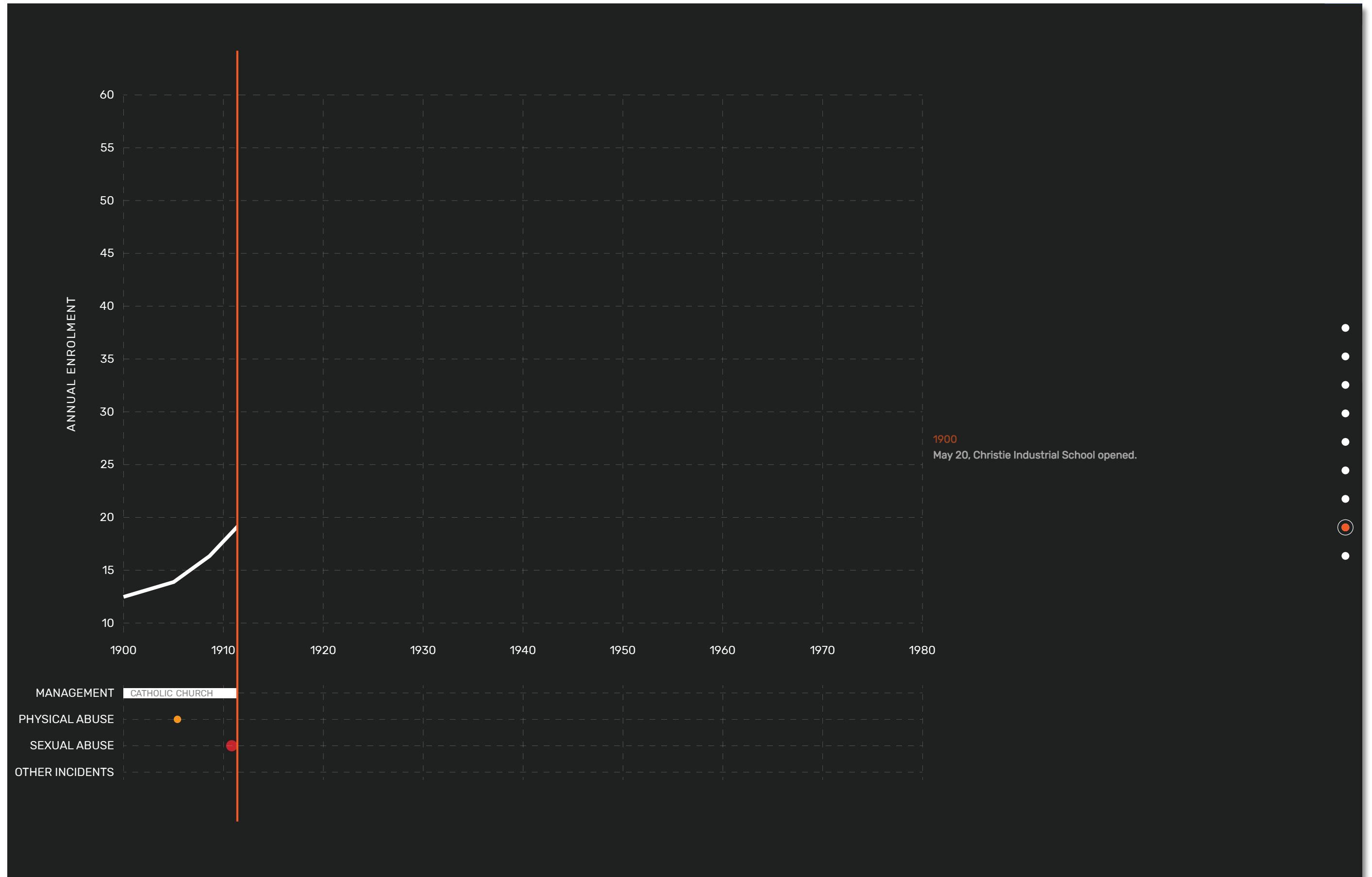
School

The Churchill Vocational Centre

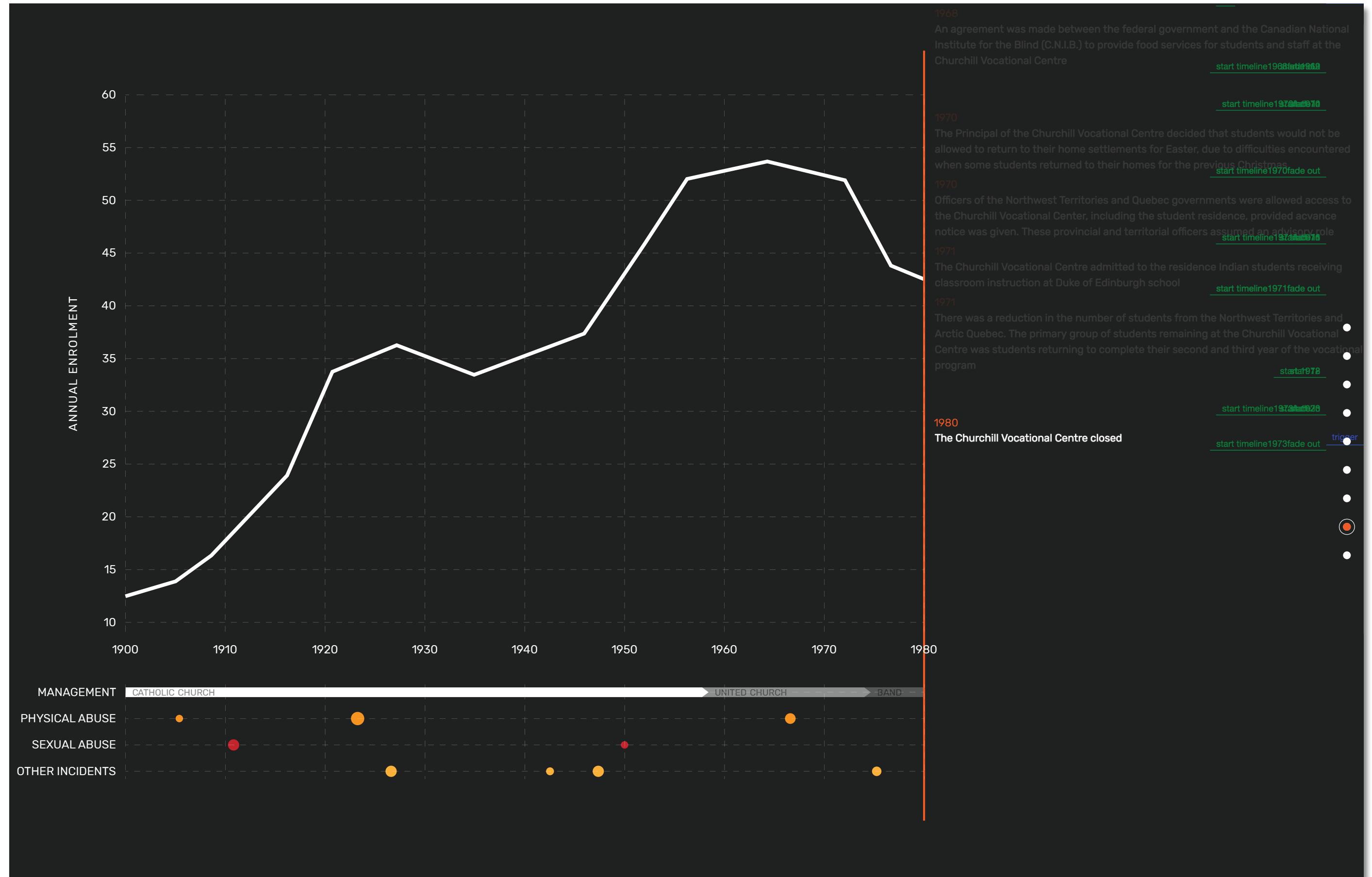
1964-1973

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School



School



School



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Conclusion

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