



# Residential Schools Education

A RESOURCE DEVELOPED FOR MANDATORY USE IN GRADE 10 NORTHERN STUDIES TO SUPPORT TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AS THEY EXAMINE THE LEGACY OF THE CANADIAN RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

## What is the Residential Schools Resource?

The Northwest Territories (NWT) had the highest percentage of students in residential schools of any area in Canada. The legacy of this involvement is huge, as many of the current social, health and education challenges faced in the NWT can be traced directly to the effects of over a hundred years of residential schools.

Many of our students are unaware that the challenges and dynamics they see in their families or communities today may be based on what happened in the schools that their parents or grandparents attended.

NWT teachers are often equally unaware. Approximately 85% of our teachers did not grow up in the North.

In response to a widely-perceived need, combined with strong political leadership and a unique partnership between Nunavut (NU), the NWT, and the Legacy of Hope Foundation, a collection of teaching resources was developed. It became a mandatory module in Grade 10 Northern Studies (NWT) and Social Studies (NU) in 2012.

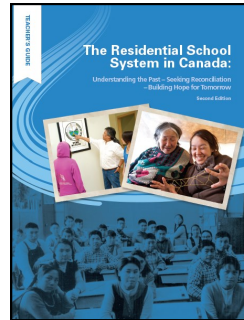
These rich resources include video, audio and print materials based largely on conversations with former residential school students and northern leaders.

Community awareness and support has been the key to the success that this resource is having in helping people understand and begin to address some of the issues related to the history and legacy of residential schools.

The resource is available online at

[https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/Early-Childhood/ns\\_-\\_residential\\_schools\\_resource\\_-\\_second\\_edition.pdf](https://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/Early-Childhood/ns_-_residential_schools_resource_-_second_edition.pdf)

Equally as important is the training of all NWT Kindergarten to Grade 12 teachers on this history and legacy as well as colonization and reconciliation. As of 2015, all NWT teachers have been offered this training.



*Sincere gratitude and thanks go out to the many NWT former residential school students who have graciously shared, and continue to share, their stories and experiences.*

*Together we can seek reconciliation to build hope for tomorrow.*