



G O R D C H A N I E
DOWNIE & WENJACK
FUND

Legacy Schools

Jeff Kiyoshk Ross

Legacy Learning & Engagement Associate

Lisa Prinn

Manager Education & Activation

This beautiful land

We acknowledge that we are Indigenous lands. now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

Treaty 13 and the Williams Treaty and Dish With One Spoon

- Mississaugas of the Credit
- Anishnabeg
- Chippewa
- Haudenosaunee
- Wendat



<https://native-land.ca/>



My home & a great land acknowledgement



Illustration by Chief Lady Bird

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=voXySM-knRc>



About me: Lisa Prinn

- Teacher and student, life-long learner
- Settler/Newcomer history
- 7th-8th Generation Settler/New Zealand - Kiwi
- Technology Teacher - 3D printing



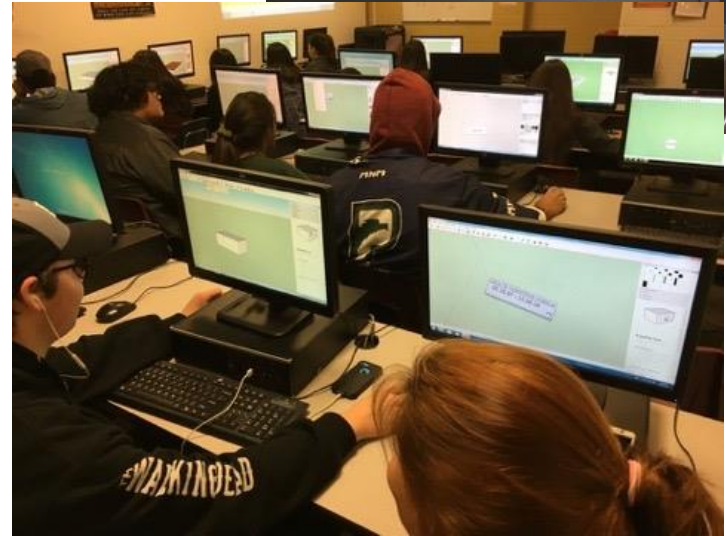
Jeff Kiyoshk Ross

- Ontario Certified teacher
- over 20 years of communications, journalism, and marketing experience working
- taught in Pikangikum, Pickle Lake, and Thunder Bay
- developed curriculum that is informed by First Nations, Inuit and Metis diverse histories and cultures
- developed a library of resources that support the University of Toronto's First Nation House
- new member of The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund
- Developing resources that inform learning and relationship building on the history of Canada.



About Us

- How we first heard about residential schools?
- Why did we get involved?
- What are the challenges?
- How do schools and libraries overcome lack of connection, resources?
- Resources limited
- Connection



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisa-prinn-3667a6113>



Take care of yourself

- Health Canada resource for coping with emotions that may arise for those affected by residential schools

24/7 phone number is
1-866-925-4419

- Students should also be encouraged to take advantage of counselling services through Kids Help Phone
www.kidshelpphone.ca

phone/text:
1-800-668-6868



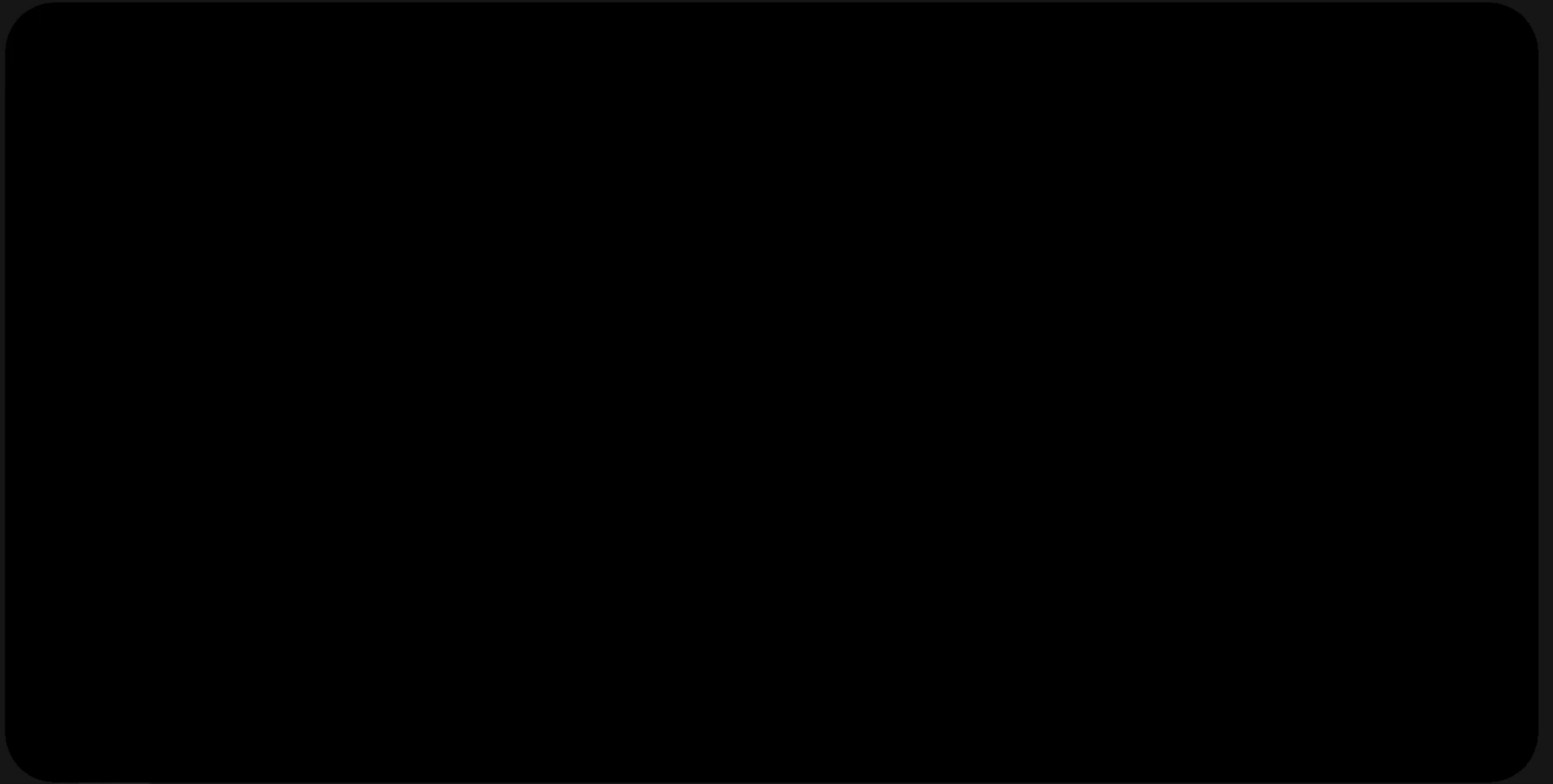
The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

- Not affiliated with other charities
- Wenjack & Downie families involved

Goal to improve the lives of Indigenous people by building awareness, education, & connection.



About Downie Wenjack Fund



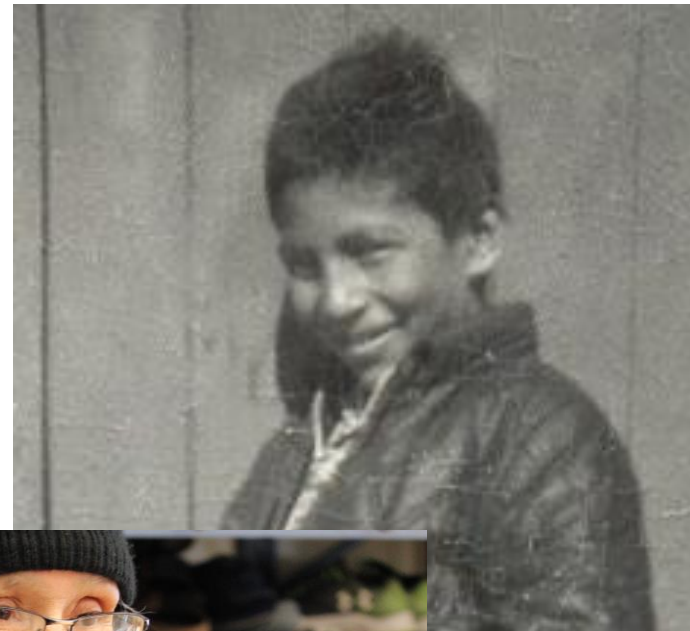
The Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund

- Part of Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack's legacy
- Embodies commitment to improve the lives of Indigenous peoples in Canada
- Wenjack and Downie families continue journey
- Indigenous led board of Directors
- Educator Advisory Committee
- Teachers from throughout Canada involved in Legacy School program



Chanie's Secret Path

- 12-year old boy
- Taken 600KM away from home in Ogoki Post to residential school in Kenora
- Residential schools were government-operated institutions
- Aimed at separating Indigenous children from their families, language, land and traditions
- Assimilate into Canadian culture
- Children were subjected to significant emotional and physical abuse



Legacy Schools

- Free national initiative to engage, empower and connect students and educators
- Educators can sign up here: **LegacySchools.ca**
- Provide educational resources and program development for Legacy Schools
- Ensure that the unique interests, rights and perspectives of Indigenous peoples are recognized and implemented in schools and communities throughout Canada



Leadership Circle



Do Something.



Legacy Spaces

- Corporations, government, libraries and post-secondary institutions
- Provides accurate information regarding Canada's history
- Spaces are meant to be safe and welcoming places
- Conversations about the past, present and future are facilitated and encouraged.
- Important work each of us needs to do if the promise of reconciliation is to be fulfilled.

Photo: Halifax City Hall Legacy Space opening Oct. 2018.

<https://toronto.citynews.ca/video/2019/02/13/rogers-opens-downie-wenjack-legacy-space/>



A watercolor illustration of a person walking on a railway track that stretches into the distance through a forest. The person is in the lower right corner, wearing a blue shirt and grey pants, looking down. The tracks are made of wooden sleepers and metal rails. The background is filled with soft, textured brushstrokes in shades of blue, green, and yellow, suggesting a misty or sunlit forest. The overall style is artistic and contemplative.

Everyone has a role to play in our journey to reconciliation.



How Legacy Schools began

- Gord wanted to get into schools
- Ottawa meeting with Educators



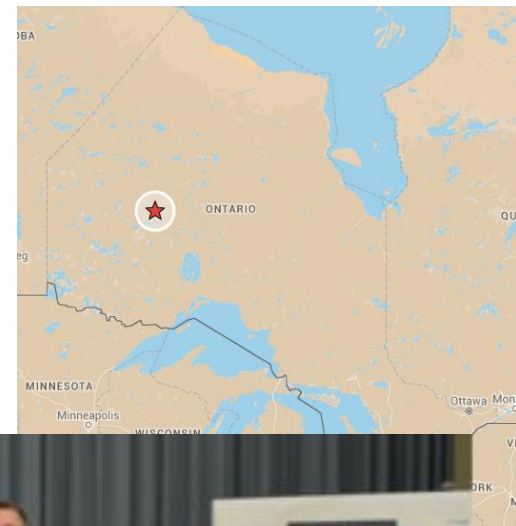
<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/asithappens/as-it-happens-thursday-edition-1.3814041/gord-downie-s-secret-path-gives-hope-to-chanie-wenjack-s-sister-pearl-1.3814045>



First Legacy School

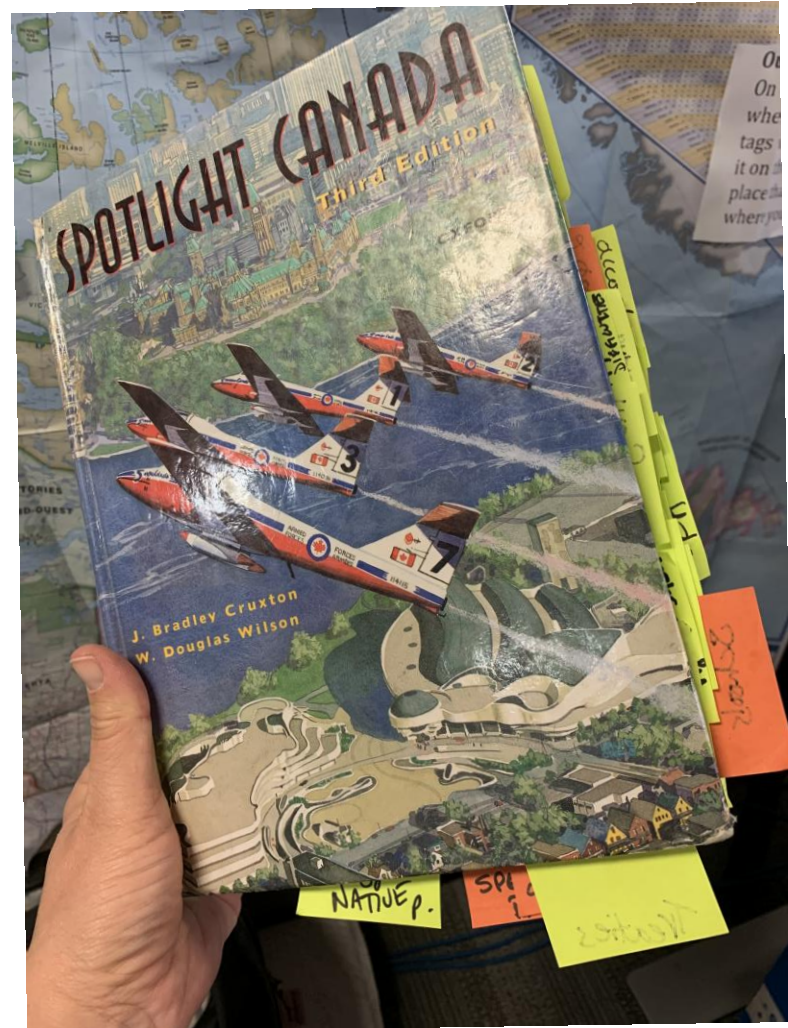
Crolancia Public School, Pickel Lake, ON.

- Harriet Visitor's School



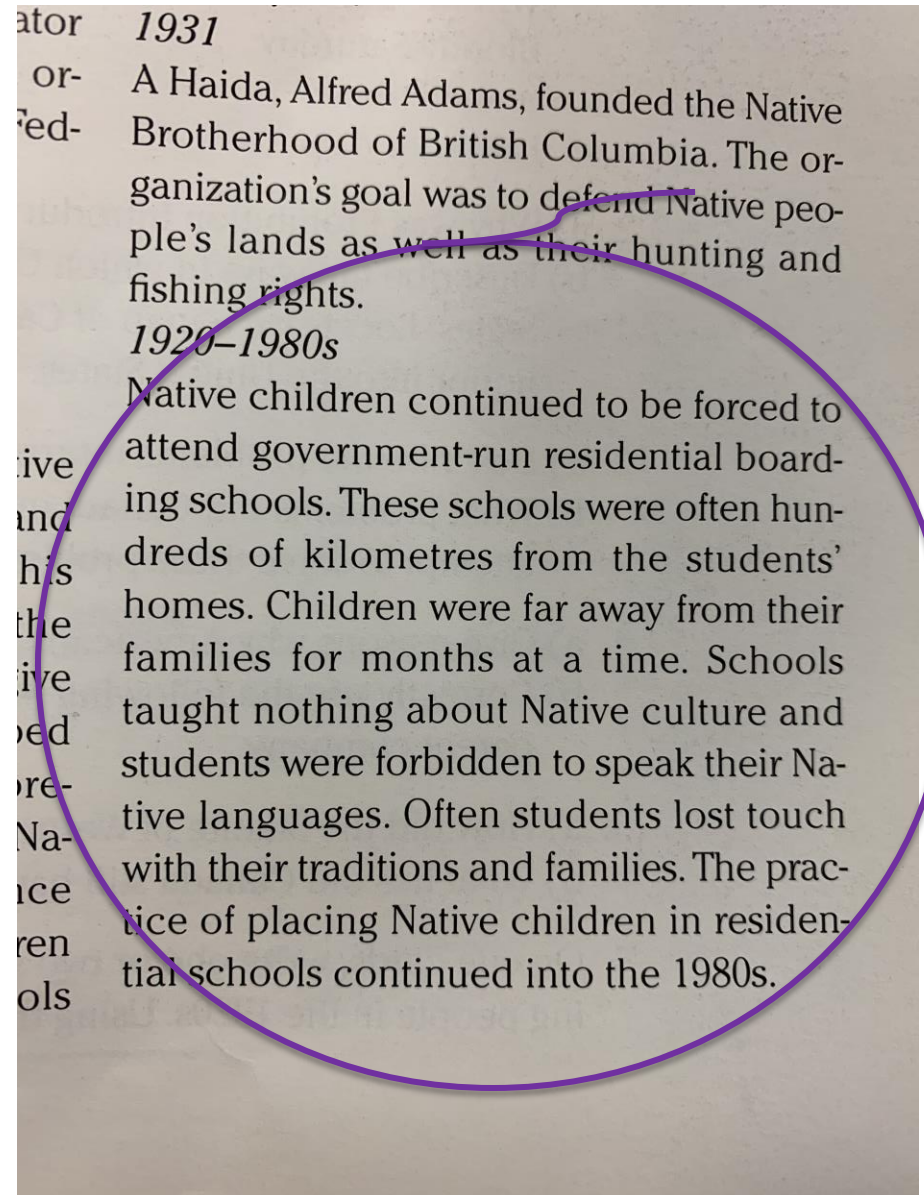
Spotlight Canada

- In 1996 textbook
- Residential schools mentioned three times
- Twice it states they closed in 1980s
- Last school closed in 1996



Spotlight Canada

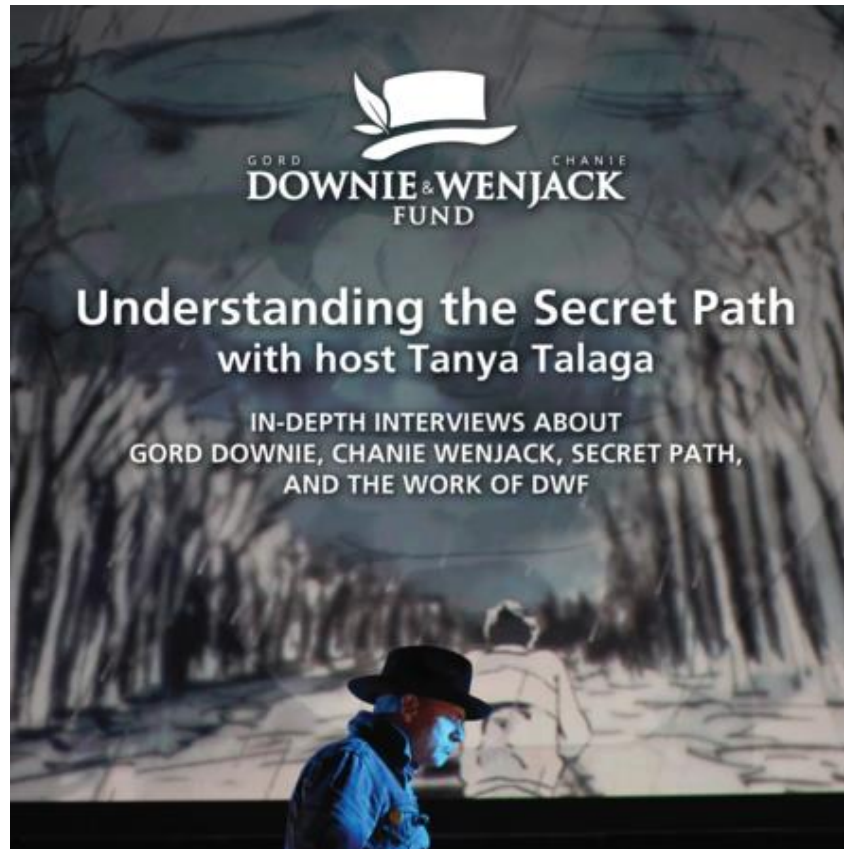
- As educators we learned next to nothing about residential schools
- How do we teach what we were never taught?



Indigenous peoples in Ontario

- 326 First Nation Communities
- In 2016, there were **374,395 Indigenous people** in Ontario
- Approximately 2.8% **population** of **Ontario**
- Is this reflected in your curriculum and book catalogues?





<https://soundcloud.com/amber-healy-1/understanding-the-secret-path-podcast>



Strength of program is you

- Our strength is based on engagement and connectivity
- Program becomes more powerful with connection and knowledge of educators like you
- More people, more resources, more ideas, more students, more momentum
- Not reliant on government funding



What can you do?



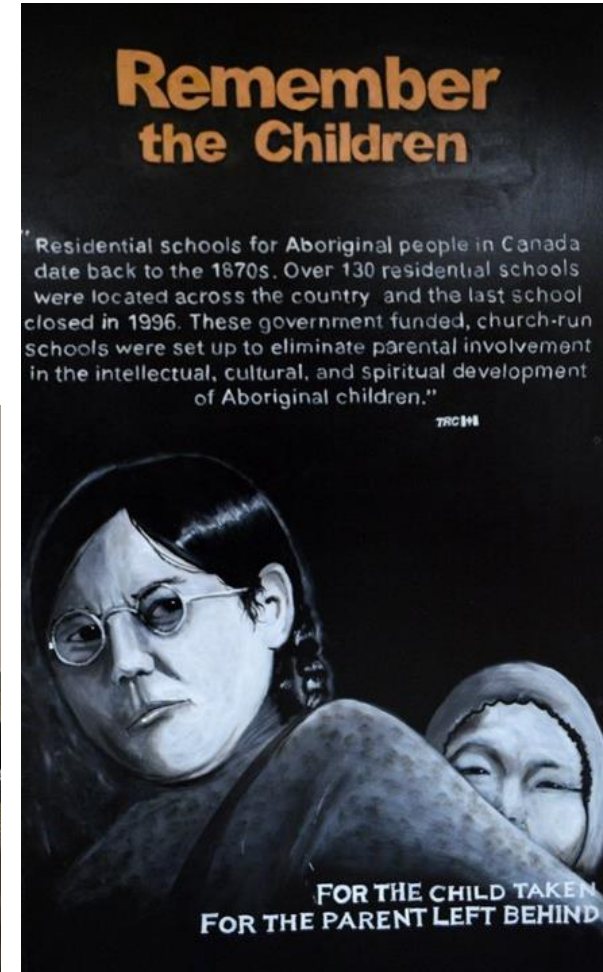
Roseneath Centennial PS, Peterborough, ON

- Remembrance Wall
- 6000 Indigenous children died at residential schools
- to remember the children
- Pearl Wenjack and family visited the school, placed stone for Chanie



St. Francis Xavier High School, Ottawa, ON

- Students painted murals to display
- Created reconciliACTION assemblies and club
- DWF Artist Ambassador program pilot
- Music group the Arkells visit



Country Day School King City, Ontario

- Secret Path play adaptation
- Raised funds for DWF and Brain Cancer Research
- Continue to support fund through ongoing learning, sharing resources



St. Bonaventure Catholic PS, Ontario

- Sensational Sixes in Brampton
- School wide Orange Shirt Day
- Secret Path display in front hallway
- Created new curriculum to share



Mikisew High School, Cross Lake, MB

- Working with schools in Toronto, ON
- Build relationships, Indigenous identity and culture
- Share resources, create connections
- 3D printing and online classrooms
- Drum donation, music connections



McCriag Elementary in Quebec

- Orange shirt day and bake sale events
- Organized assembly and whole school events
- Lunchtime meetings with students



North Vancouver, BC

- All schools in district Legacy Schools
- Actively involved in movie nights, parent workshops, guest speakers, fundraising
- Walk for Wenjack, Newsletter updates



Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project 2018-2019

The North Vancouver School District is very honoured to have five schools selected to be part of the **Downie Wenjack Legacy Schools Project**.

The five schools are École Windsor Secondary, Norgate-Xweméłch'st'n, Ns7'e'yxnitm la Tel:'wet Westview, Carisbrooke and École Sherwood Park.

The *Secret Path* is an album that began as 10 poems written by Gord Downie from the *Tragically Hip*, after learning about the death of Chanie Wenjack, who died on October 22, 1966, while trying to get home after fleeing from



Legacy Schools to date

- as of Jan. 2020 **over 1400 Legacy Schools**
- 1 toolkit reaches 6 classes of 33 students on average
- **at least three schools in every Province and Territory**

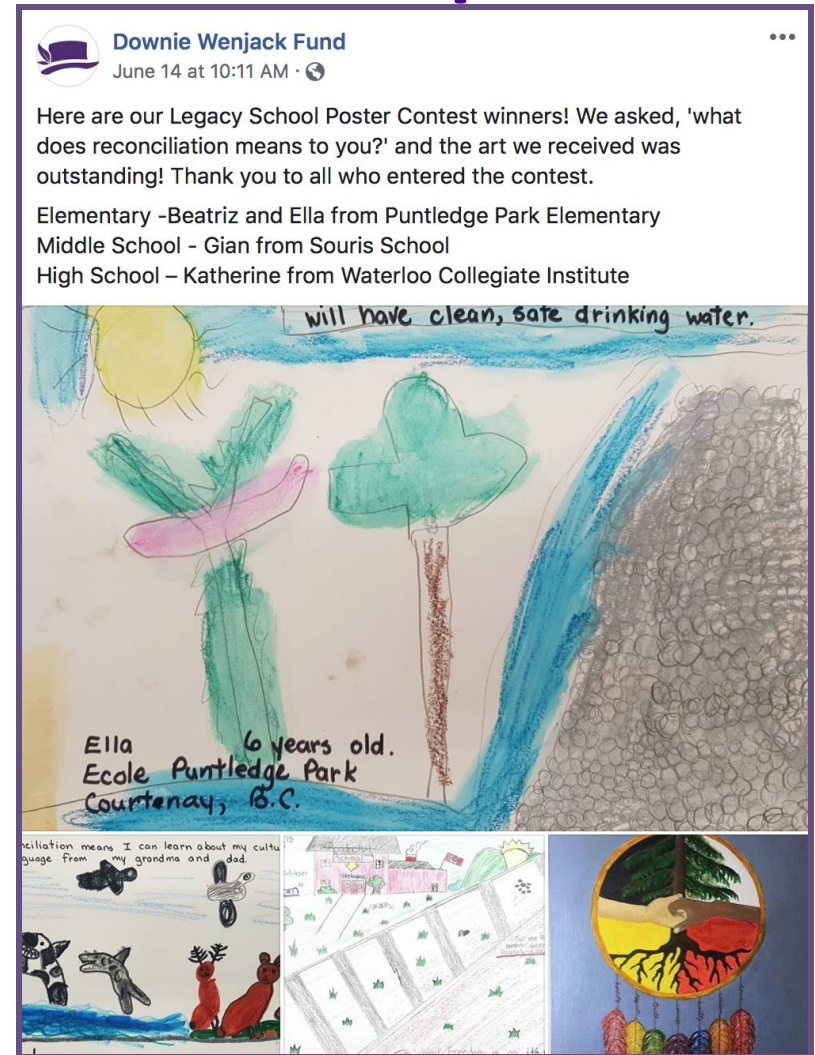


Be proud of your Legacy School or Space

- share photos, resources & information
- inspire others to "Do Something"
- post your #ReconciliACTIONS

#DWF #ReconciliACTION
@DownieWenjack

- Include Legacy School in email signature
- hang a Legacy School flag
- "Do Something"



Secret Path Week (Oct. 17 - 22)

- **Walk for Wenjack**
- Exploring by the Seat of your Pants online classrooms (www.exploringbytheseat.com)
- **Organize a class, school and/or community reconciliACTION**
- Fundraise for Gord Downie & Chanie Wenjack Fund and/or local Indigenous organizations
- Schools may be invited to various special events and concerts
- Share your Secret Path Week events on social media

*Gord Downie (Feb 6, 1964 - Oct. 17, 2017)
Chanie Wenjack (Jan 19, 1954 - Oct. 23, 1966)
To honour their memory, Secret Path Week*



Secret Path Live 2019

- 101 students and chaperones attended
- Buffy Sainte-Marie, Tanya Tagaq, July Talk, Sam Roberts, Willam Prince, and more...



Secret Path Week Interactive Classrooms

- Classes throughout Canada watched and asked questions
- 14 interactive classrooms during Secret Path Week
- More to come for you to join!
- Mike Downie, Phyllis Webstad, Angela Miracle Gladue, Aaron Yazzie (NASA Scientist) and more...



Let's get interactive! Take out your phone

Kahoot.it

<https://play.kahoot.it/v2/lobby?quizId=b24fa5ec-f311-47a5-935c-83966a4c5101>



Artist Ambassador Program

- Brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous musicians/artists into high schools
- Inspire student leadership and forward reconciliation
- Artists share their art, music and stories
- Students share their stories, art, and reconciliACTIONS with Artist.

<https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/artist-ambassador-program/>



Resources

- K-12, Variety
- Some French Resources
- Themes



<http://learningbird.public-files.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wenjack-2019/>



Facing History and ourselves

Killing the Indian in the Child

Available in English and French



<https://www.facinghistory.org/stolen-lives-indigenous-peoples-canada-and-indian-residential-schools/chapter-3/killing-indian-child>



Allyship Toolkit

STEP #3: ACT ACCORDINGLY

Educating one's self is only half of the work when being an ally. It is a lifelong process that is rooted in action and requires humility and ongoing critical self-reflection. Being an ally is not a badge of honour, it is a sign of privilege.⁹

To do this, it is crucial to **establish a direct line of communication** – this could be through a friend directly involved or impacted by the struggles

ACKNOWLEDGING
the fact that you are a
guest on this land

RECOGNIZING
that multiple nations exist
within Turtle Island

RESPECTING
any cultural protocols
and traditions

https://physiotherapy.ca/sites/default/files/indigenous_ally_toolkit_en.pdf



Manitoba Teachers Union

- Legacy Schools receive free copies of Secret Path Book
- Senior, Middle and Early Years
- French Resources
- All grade levels



<http://www.mbteach.org/mtscms/2017/04/26/secret-path-lesson-plans/>



Ask yourself

What work have you done in your libraries?

- What resources do you need?
- How can we support you?
- Where are current gaps in Indigenous Education and residential schools?
- What would be some great initiatives, do you think that would be helpful?
- Where do you see it being helpful?





“We are not the country we thought we were. History will be re-written,”

Gord Downie, Tragically Hip

In Legacy Schools, that process has begun and is getting stronger every day with educators like you.

#DoSomething #DWF



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www.downiewenjack.ca

ANY QUESTIONS?

Lisa@DownieWenjack.ca or Jeff@downiewenjack.ca