



Conducting Research on Indigenous Peoples and History at the City of Winnipeg Archives

*A research guide prepared by the City of Winnipeg Archives
December 2016*

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City Clerk's Department • Bureau du greffier
Archives and Records Control • 50 Myrtle Street • Winnipeg MB • R3E 2R2



2016 YEAR OF RECONCILIATION
2016, ANNÉE DE LA RÉCONCILIATION

Introduction

This research guide was created in response to Call to Action #77 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. It seeks to support awareness of the long history of Indigenous peoples in Winnipeg and assist research in this area by identifying records and contextual information related to five topics: the urban Indigenous population, building relationships with Indigenous peoples, Indian Residential Schools, the aqueduct, family history, and Indigenous achievement.

By highlighting items in the archival collection, the guide captures moments in time that illustrate the connections between archival records and the reconciliation process. The significant gaps in the archival collection presented challenges throughout the development of this guide. Even though Winnipeg is on Treaty One land and is recognized as the traditional homeland of the Métis Nation, Indigenous peoples are underrepresented in the Archives. For this reason, we invite all people to build on the work in this guide by conducting additional research and/or contacting us with suggestions and feedback.

We look forward to hearing from you.

City of Winnipeg Archives

Phone: (204) 986-5325

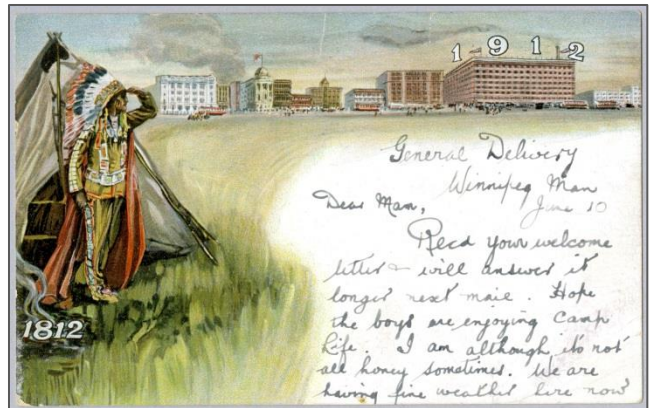
Email: archives@winnipeg.ca

Website: winnipeg.ca/clerks/toc/archives.stm

Address: 50 Myrtle Street, Winnipeg, MB R3E 2R2

Call to Action #77 as stated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission:

We call upon provincial, territorial, municipal, and community archives to work collaboratively with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation to identify and collect copies of all records relevant to the history and legacy of the residential school system, and to provide these to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.



This postcard marks one-hundred years of settlement in the area now known as Winnipeg, celebrating the establishment of the Red River Colony in 1812 and the rise of a prosperous city in 1912. To communicate a vision of progress, the illustrator contrasts an image of an Indigenous man with a cityscape. The fact that Indigenous peoples, languages, and traditions have profoundly shaped Winnipeg throughout its history is not communicated in this record.

COWA, Martin Berman Postcard Collection (Volume 4A).

Urban Indigenous Population

Census information cited in various sources indicates the Indigenous population in Winnipeg grew from 210 people in 1951 to 72,335 people in 2011. At present, Winnipeg has the largest Indigenous population of all major cities in Canada.

Off-reserve migration is often credited for the growth of Winnipeg's Indigenous population. Academic work on this subject points to additional causes, such as birth rates and the increasing number of people self-identifying as Indigenous (Silver, 2006, 13-15; Norris, Clatworthy, and Peters, 2013, 34-35). Unfortunately, Indigenous people in the city have been disproportionately affected by social problems like poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. The work of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has shown these problems are rooted in colonial histories.

The records identified here can be used to research the history and events that shaped the urban experience of Indigenous peoples. This experience is partly represented in records created by the Health Committee, Department of Public Welfare, and bodies that looked at housing issues. Records documenting interactions between Indigenous peoples and city services provide glimpses of the barriers and undue hardship faced by Indigenous peoples in Winnipeg.

Additional information on demographics and statistics are available on the City's Indigenous Relations Division website: winnipeg.ca/corp/ird/.

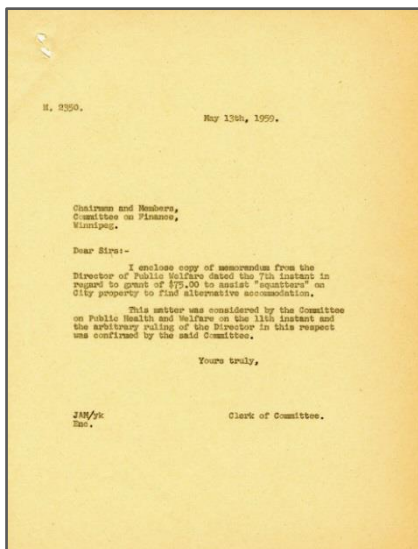
Records with information on this subject include:

Health Committee Records (1874-1971). Consist of minutes, reports, and communications that document the provision of services related to public health, sanitation, licensing, public markets, and welfare. Consult Archivist for information about access restrictions.

Special Committee on Housing Conditions Records (1933-1957). Consist of communications, plans, and minutes related to a special fact finding mission, housing projects, and the Emergency Housing Department. It also documents problems of overcrowding and housing shortages. Consult Archivist for information about access restrictions.

Better Housing Commission Records (1966-1971). Consist of communications that document the enforcement of minimum standards for housing in residential areas. It includes notices issued to owners and documents the appeal process.

Department of Public Welfare Records (1926-1965). Consist of minutes, communications, and case files that document the administration and delivery of social services and relief. Consult Archivist for information about access restrictions.



Rooster Town

Located on the present site of the Grant Park Mall and surrounding area, Rooster Town was a predominantly Métis community that was within City limits but separate in many ways. The community did not have the same level of infrastructure as other neighbourhoods, and homes were often shanties. In the late fifties, people in Rooster Town were pushed off the land to make way for development. This letter refers to some of these residents as "squatters" and documents the role played by city officials in clearing the land for development.

COWA, Health Committee Communications, Letter from Clerk of Committee (Health) to the Committee on Finance, May 13, 1959 (File H. 2350).

Building Relationships with Indigenous Peoples

Mayor Brian Bowman declared 2016 as the Year of Reconciliation. With this action, he acknowledged the important work that must be done to create a more inclusive City that understands its past and commits itself to the principle of mutual respect. Reconciliation speaks to the goal of building and maintaining respectful relationships with Indigenous peoples, organizations, communities, and governments. We can look to the past to trace the development of existing relationships, and understand better the foundation for new ones.

The records identified here can be used to research policies, special initiatives, and other activities of City Council in regards to Indigenous peoples. Records created between 1874 and 1960 contain fewer references to Indigenous peoples than those created in the decades after 1960 that saw the growth and increased visibility of Winnipeg's Indigenous population. Included in these records are City reports and related documentation. City officials also created records that detail the administration of funds and support for charitable organizations and community-led initiatives. These records are important because they document the transactions between the City and Indigenous peoples, showing the ways that various parties have worked to bring about meaningful change.

Records with information on this subject include:

Council Records (1874-present). Consist of minutes, by-laws, and reports that document civic administration and municipal decision making.

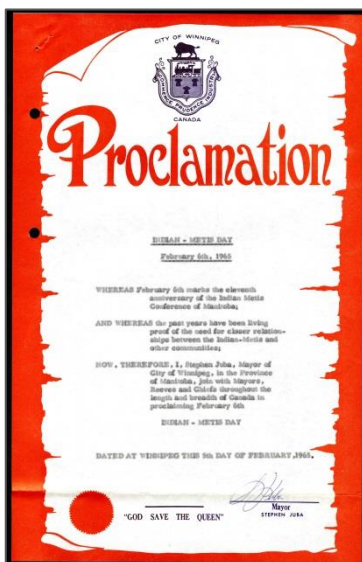
Committee Records (1874-present). Consist of minutes and communications that document the activities of standing, special, and community committees.

City Clerk's Library (1817-present). Consists of material that documents the development of Winnipeg and area municipalities. It includes hard-to-find published and unpublished reports.

Mayor's Office Files (1912-1977). Consist primarily of communications and include proclamations, media releases, and photographs.

Civic Charities Endorsement Bureau Records (1931-1970). Consist of reports, forms, and documentation submitted by organizations seeking permission to solicit funds.

Community and Race Relations Committee Records (1981-1997). Consist of correspondence, reports, and documentation created by the CRRC and its predecessors, which examined and made recommendations on "racial" issues. Consult Archivist for information about access restrictions.



Indian – Metis Day February 6th, 1965

WHEREAS February 6th marks the eleventh anniversary of the Indian Metis Conference of Manitoba;

AND WHEREAS the past years have been living proof of the need for closer relationships between the Indian-Metis and other communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Stephen Juba, Mayor of City of Winnipeg, in the Province of Manitoba, join with Mayors, Reeves and Chiefs throughout the length and breadth of Canada in proclaiming February 6th

INDIAN – METIS DAY

Image and excerpt taken from proclamation signed by Mayor Stephen Juba declaring February 6, 1965 to be "Indian – Metis Day." The announcement was made to mark the eleventh anniversary of the Indian Metis Conference of Manitoba.

COWA Accession 1983-01-10, Mayor's Office (File 4511).

Indian Residential Schools

The Assiniboia Indian Residential School operated in Winnipeg at 621 Academy Road between 1958 and 1973. Indian residential schools were not typically located within the limits of major urban centres, but the Assiniboia school was part of a larger strategy aimed at “integrating” Indigenous children into the public school system. When the Assiniboia became a hostel in 1967, children were enrolled at local schools in Winnipeg.

The records identified here can be used to research the connections between City government and residential schools. The City was not involved in running residential schools, but references to the Assiniboia school, including those related to the demolition of the school dormitories and building permits issued for the property, are scattered across City records. As well, because of its proximity to the intake of the aqueduct, records related to the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School appear in photographs and textual records created by the Greater Winnipeg Water District. Records of the St. Joseph’s Vocational School and charitable organizations that aimed to care for children are included in the Civic Charities Endorsement Bureau Records. These organizations were not formally part of the residential school system, but speak to the issues of child welfare and institutional care.

Another important connection between Winnipeg and residential schools is the survivors themselves. Winnipeg is home to survivors who attended schools across Canada. When we listen to their stories, we are further connected to the history of residential schools and their legacies.

Looking for more information?

This document includes a fact sheet on the Assiniboia Indian Residential School, a short bibliography of related works, and a summary of relevant records held by the City of Winnipeg Archives.

Records with information on this subject include:

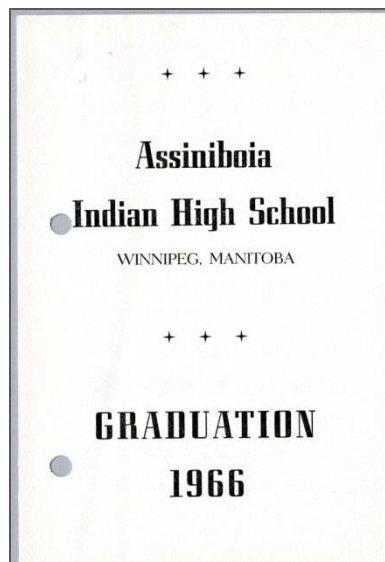
Council Records (1874-present). Consist of minutes, by-laws, and communications that document civic administration and municipal decision making.

Committee Records (1874-present). Consist of minutes and communications that document the activities of standing, special, and community committees.

Greater Winnipeg Water District Records (1912-1962). Consist of minutes, by-laws, communications, agreements, photographs, and other records that document the planning, construction, and operation of the aqueduct that carries water to Winnipeg from Shoal Lake.

Civic Charities Endorsement Bureau Records (1931-1970). Consist of reports, forms, and documentation submitted by organizations seeking permission to solicit funds.

Various Property History Records (1874-1971). Includes volumes documenting the assessment and taxation of properties and building permits for selected years.



Invitation to attend the official opening and blessing of the gymnasium and chapel and annual commencement exercises at the Assiniboia Indian High School on October 22, 1966.

COWA Accession 1983-01-10, Mayor’s Office (File 4511).

The Aqueduct, Shoal Lake, and Winnipeg

Access to clean and safe water was a serious issue in Winnipeg until completion of the Greater Winnipeg Aqueduct in 1919. Before then, outbreaks of typhoid and other communicable diseases were traced to the early water supply. An investigation recommended that the City use Shoal Lake as its water source, and in 1914, the Greater Winnipeg Water District (GWWD) began constructing the aqueduct. When completed, the aqueduct brought clean, safe, and soft water to Winnipeg and the surrounding area, which allowed these communities to grow and prosper. However, construction of the aqueduct obstructed movement and development opportunities for Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

The records identified here can be used to research the history of the aqueduct. City officials and GWWD employees who created the records were primarily concerned with securing access to clean and safe drinking water for Winnipeg. As such, the records document the planning and construction process. While the textual records contain passing references to an Indigenous presence at Shoal Lake, photographs show members of Shoal Lake 40 and changes to treaty lands.

Records with information on this subject include:

Greater Winnipeg Water District Records (1912-1962).

Consist of minutes, by-laws, communications, agreements, photographs, and other records that document the planning, construction, and operation of the aqueduct that carries water from Shoal Lake to Winnipeg.

Council Records (1874-present). Consist of minutes, by-laws, and reports that document civic administration and municipal decision making.

Council Communications (1874-1972). Consist of correspondence and related documentation that records internal communication and interactions between City Council and citizens, businesses, and other levels of government.

Board of Control Records (1907-1918). Consist of minutes and communications that document financial matters, municipal works, and other business. Members of the Board of Control were elected and worked in conjunction with City Council.



GWWD Photographs

In their efforts to document the construction of the aqueduct, GWWD employees took photographs of the people and lands at Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

Top: Indigenous school children on board a steamer that carried students to and from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. The school opened at a location near Shoal Lake 40 around 1901 and relocated to Kenora in 1929. COWA, GWWD photographs (Item 36).

Bottom: Falcon River Diversion Dyke with Treaty Grounds – Indian Reserve [Shoal Lake 40 First Nation] in background. COWA, GWWD photographs (Item 78).

Family History

City records are often used by researchers looking into their family history. This activity is commonly referred to as genealogical research. Researchers may find records of individuals, family homes, as well as places and events with personal significance like neighbourhood parks and local celebrations.

The records identified here can be used to research topics related to family history. Voters lists and tax/assessment rolls contain records of individuals and property. Each of these records has a unique form and organization and may include information such as names, addresses, and occupations. However, due to a long history of disenfranchisement and marginalization, Indigenous peoples are missing or underrepresented in these records. Cartographic records like fire insurance plans and photographs show neighbourhoods, streets, buildings, and other places. When viewed together, these records are a powerful record of change and growth.

An information guide to local history and genealogy resources is available on the Winnipeg Public Library's website: guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/c.php?g=511176.



Louis Riel Sculpture
by Marcien Lemay and Etienne Gaboury
Photo taken on June 8, 1974.
COWA, Parks and Recreation Photo
Collection (A53 File 35 Item 102).

Records with information on this subject include:

Voters Lists (1881-1970). Consist of volumes that identify eligible voters. Lists are arranged by ward and poll and offer limited information such as the names of voters.

Records of Award Recipients (1931-present). Consist of lists and documentation related to various honours the City has bestowed to individuals, including Community Service Awards, Honourary Citizenship Awards, and presentations.

Personnel Records (1874-1971). While access to personnel files is regulated under FIPPA, references to employees can be found in open material belonging to City Council and Finance Committee records.

Tax/Assessment Rolls (1874-1971). Consist of volumes that document the assessment of property and tax collection. Rolls contain information about the owner of a property and its assessed value.

Fire Insurance Plans (1895-1955). Consist of maps that use colours and symbols to show detailed information about buildings and neighbourhoods. Comparing different sets of these maps shows changes to the built environment.

Photograph Collection (1870-1990s). Consists of photographs taken by civic employees in the course of their work to document projects or program delivery. Additional photographs transferred from public and private donors.

Cemetery Records

Municipal cemeteries have been in existence since 1878. Researchers can conduct burial searches for Brookside, St. Vital, and Transcona cemeteries using the Cemeteries Branch website:
winnipeg.ca/ppd/cemeteries/default.stm.

Please note that online records are not fully complete and that a person may be listed under an alternative name. For these reasons, researchers experiencing difficulties are encouraged to contact Customer Service Advisors at 204-986-4348.

Indigenous Achievement

Winnipeg is home to a growing number of Indigenous peoples, and their presence is made more visible by the expression of Indigenous identities, knowledge, and traditions. Recognizing the skills, talents, and contributions of individuals helps to highlight Indigenous achievement. As well, the long history of community-based initiatives and advocacy work are a testament to the strength, innovation, and resilience of Indigenous peoples.

The records identified here can be used to research topics related to Indigenous achievement. Records of the 2002 North American Indigenous Games Host Society and City-issued awards capture accomplishments and celebratory moments. Minutes and related records of Community Committees are noteworthy because they document the transactions between City government and community-based organizations and initiatives that have advocated for Indigenous peoples and concerns. Records of those who have contributed to civic administration as elected officials and employees can also be found.

Community Committee Minutes and other Council records can be searched in City Clerk's Decision Making Information System: clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/.



Records with information on this subject include:

North American Indigenous Games Host Society Records (1997-2002). Consist of minutes, communications, schedules, programs and other records that document the organization, administration, and management of the 2002 North American Indigenous Games in Winnipeg.

Records of Award Recipients (1931-present). Consist of lists and documentation related to various honours the City has bestowed to individuals, including Community Service Awards, Honourary Citizenship Awards, and presentations.

Community Committee Records (1972-present). Consist of minutes that record proceedings at Community Committees, which frequently receive requests and hear concerns from residents.

Personnel Records (1874-1971). While access to personnel files is regulated under FIPPA, references to employees can be found in open material belonging to City Council and Finance Committee records.

2002 North American Indigenous Games

The logo designed for this event includes a circle that represents unity of different cultures in the shared vision and spirit of the Games; a person lifting his/her arms in victory and celebration; a yellow sun to symbolize a new day, a bright future, and the beginnings of the Games; and a headdress of feathers, each with symbolic meaning.

COWA, North American Indigenous Games Host Society Records, Communications Division (A2115 File 201).

Indigenous people elected to City Council (not a definitive list)

Cyril Keeper, Councillor (Redboine), 1977-1980
Dan Vandal, Councillor (St. Vital), 1995-2004, 2006-2014
Mayor Brian Bowman, 2014-present.

Researcher Services

Research at the Archives

Those interested in researching the topics identified in this guide should contact the City of Winnipeg Archives. Drop-in visitors are welcome, but it is helpful to speak with an archivist prior to visiting. Archives staff can advise whether records of interest need to be ordered from offsite storage, can assist researchers looking to access restricted material in the archives, and they can answer questions about the content, background, and use of the archival collection.

More information on researcher services is available on our website:

winnipeg.ca/clerks/toc/archives.stm.

Out of Scope

This guide primarily looks at records that are part of the City's archival collection. It does not take into account records held by other departments and branches within City government. Those seeking access to cemetery records, police records, and other frequently requested material should consult the resources listed on page 11.

Ongoing Discovery

Discovery and interpretation of records in the archives is never complete. The topics and sources identified in this guide represent our findings to date. As new materials and links are made, the guide will be updated. We acknowledge that there could be more records to discover and make available.



Indigenous men riding horseback at Winnipeg's 75th Anniversary Parade on June 5, 1949. Records indicate it was common to have Indigenous representation at major events and celebrations.

COWA Photo Collection (P23 File 84 Item 11).

Special thanks to the staff at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation who asked that, while writing this guide, we consider the multifaceted ways Indigenous peoples have historically interacted with city services.

Appendix 1

Assiniboia Indian Residential School

Background

- Run by the Catholic Church with support from the Federal Department of Indian Affairs, the Assiniboia Indian Residential School was part of the residential school system that sought to assimilate Indigenous children into mainstream society. Survivors of residential schools brought forward a class-action lawsuit that resulted in the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement in 2007.
- Operated in Winnipeg for fifteen years, opening on September 2, 1958 and closing on June 30, 1973. When it became a hostel in 1967, students who lived in the dormitories began attending local schools in Winnipeg alongside non-Indigenous students.
- The most common street address that appears for the school is 621 Academy Road. It is sometimes listed as 611 or 615 Academy Road. The Children's Home of Winnipeg built the initial structures on this site between 1915 and 1918 to house orphaned children and serve as the Julia Clark School. Around 1946, the site began operating as a convalescent hospital known as Veteran's Home. Following the closing of the Assiniboia school, Parks Canada acquired the site. It is currently occupied by the Canadian Centre for Child Protection.
- City records show that a chapel and gymnasium were built on the site of the Assiniboia school in 1966. They also show that, after the school closed, the City agreed to demolish the dormitories in exchange for part of the land on the property's north side.

"The school was placed in Winnipeg so the pupils would have social contact with white students through inter-school activities ... They also need competition with whites."

-Bishop Dumouchel as quoted in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, June 5, 1961, page 6.

Additional Sources

City of Winnipeg Historical Buildings Committee. *611 Academy Road: Former Julia Clark School* [unpublished report]. Created August 1997. Accessed November 18, 2016.

winnipeg.ca/PPD/historic/pdf-consv/Academy%20611-long.pdf

Fontaine, Theodore. *Broken Circle: The Dark Legacy of Indian Residential Schools: A Memoir*. Victoria, British Columbia: Heritage House, 2010.

Milloy, John S. *A National Crime: the Canadian Government and the Residential School System, 1879 to 1986*. Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 1999.

National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. "Assiniboia Indian Residential School IAP School Narrative." Last updated November 23, 2012. Accessed November 18, 2016.

nctr.ca/School%20narratives/MB/ASSINIBOIA.pdf

Truth and Reconciliation Commission. *Canada's Residential Schools: the History, Part 2, 1939 to 2000*. Vol. 1, part 2 of *The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015. Accessed November 18, 2016.

myrobust.com/websites/trcinstitution/File/Reports/Volume_1_History_Part_2_English_Web.pdf

Appendix 2

Summary of Findings

In response to Call to Action #77, staff conducted a search of relevant holdings at the City of Winnipeg Archives to find records related to residential schools and their legacies. The following list summarizes the results of this search. All of these records have been copied and shared with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation.

Description	Date
<i>Report on a Water Supply from Shoal Lake for the Greater Winnipeg Water District</i> by Rudolph Hering, et al. (1913). Note: Includes a reference to a laboratory at the "Indian School on the shore of Shoal Lake." GWWD fonds (A1381 File 59).	1913
Two photographs of Indigenous school children traveling to the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. GWWD photographs (Item 33 and Item 36).	1914
Documentation created by the St. Joseph's Vocational School. Civic Charities Endorsement Bureau series (A144 File 11).	1934
Four permits issued for 621 Academy Road. Copies obtained from Central Files – Planning, Property, & Development.	1962-1968
Documentation related to disconnecting the Assiniboia Indian Residential School from the City's fire alarm system. City of Winnipeg fonds, Committee on Public Utilities series, Communications subseries (File U. 3558).	1963
Invitation to Graduation and Dedication Ceremony sent to Mayor Stephen Juba and a letter from the Mayor's Office declining the invite. City of Winnipeg fonds, Mayor's Office series, Accession 1983-01-10 (File 4511).	1966
Documentation that references the Indian Glee Club Choir of Portage la Prairie. City of Winnipeg fonds, Committee on Finance series, Communications subseries (File F. 10514).	1969
Minutes - Council - September 15, 1976. Minute No. 1516: Acquisition of Part of the Former Veterans' Home (Indian School) Property located between Wellington Crescent and Academy Road - Assiniboia Park Community. Related documentation located in File PR-2 (Vol. 7).	1976
Minutes - Council - December 20, 1978. Minute No. 383: Acceptance of Conveyance - Part of Former Veterans' Home Property between Wellington Crescent and Academy Road. Minute No. 393: Attachment. Minute No. 394: Attachment.	1978
Minutes - City Centre Community Committee - March 12, 2013. Minute No. 66: Per Capita Grant - Assiniboia Indian Residential School Project (River Heights-Fort Garry Ward).	2013

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Perry, Adele. *Aqueduct: Colonialism, Resources, and the Histories We Remember*. Winnipeg: ARP Books, 2016.

Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. *Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*. Ottawa: The Commission, 1996. Available: bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/aboriginal-heritage/royal-commission-aboriginal-peoples/Pages/final-report.aspx

Silver, Jim. "Building a Path to a Better Future: Urban Aboriginal People." In *Their Own Voices: Building Urban Aboriginal Communities*, edited by Jim Silver et al. Halifax: Fernwood Publishing, 2006: 11-39.

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Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. *The Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015. Available: trc.ca/websites/trcinstitution/index.php?p=890

Walker, Ryan. "Increasing the Depth of Our Civic Identity: Future Seeking and Place Making with Aboriginal Communities." *Indigenous in the City: Contemporary Identities and Cultural Innovation*, edited by Evelyn Peters and Chris Andersen. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2013: 151-165.

For sources related to the Assiniboia Indian Residential School, please see Appendix 1.

Resources

City of Winnipeg

- Archives website winnipeg.ca/clerks/toc/archives.stm
- Access to Information website winnipeg.ca/clerks/fippa/default.stm
- Decision Making Information System winnipeg.ca/CLKDMIS
- Heritage Buildings website winnipeg.ca/ppd/historic/historic.stm
- Indigenous Relations Division website winnipeg.ca/corp/ird/default.stm
- Municipal Cemeteries Branch website winnipeg.ca/ppd/cemeteries/default.stm
- Neighbourhoods of Winnipeg website now.winnipeg.ca/
- Planning, Property, and Development Quick Reference page winnipeg.ca/ppd/quickreference.stm
- Police Records site winnipeg.ca/police/pr/pic.stm#pic
- Police Museum site winnipeg.ca/police/museum/default.stm
- Winnipeg Public Library Indigenous Services site wpl.winnipeg.ca/library/ourservices/IndigenousServices.asp
- Winnipeg Public Library Subject Guides guides.wpl.winnipeg.ca/

Local Museums

- Discover more about local museums through the Association of Manitoba Museums website museumsmanitoba.com/

Other Resources

- National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation website umanitoba.ca/nctr/
- University of Winnipeg Library Guide to Indigenous Studies libguides.uwinnipeg.ca/c.php?g=124957&p=817562