



Aboriginal Healing Foundation

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Fondation autochtone de guérison

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*Our mission is to encourage
and support Aboriginal people in
building and reinforcing sustainable
healing processes that address the
legacy of physical and sexual abuse
in the residential schools, including
intergenerational impacts.*

*Notre mission est d'encourager
et d'appuyer les autochtones afin de
bâtir et de renforcer les processus
de guérison souhaitables qui
s'attaquent aux séquelles
des abus physiques et sexuels
dans le système de pensionnats,
y compris aux séquelles
intergénérationnelles.*

PRESS RELEASE

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Legacy of Hope Foundation, Library and Archives Canada and Donna Cona launch the www.wherethechildren.ca and www.lesenfantsdevenus.ca website.

(OTTAWA, Ontario – March 30, 2005) Today, the website *Where are the Children?* was launched live at 10:00 a.m. EST, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, ON.

Co-produced by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Legacy of Hope Foundation, Library and Archives Canada and Donna Cona, the website is a step towards creating awareness of the affects of the residential school system on First Nations, Métis and Inuit children who attended the schools from 1831 to 1996.

The Legacy of Hope Foundation was created to help address the far-reaching effects of the physical and sexual abuse in residential schools. To educate and raise awareness surrounding the residential school experience, an exhibition was developed consisting of 150 photos dated 1885 to 1960 and accompanied by documents such as maps, classroom textbooks and governmental documents. This exhibition is contributing to the healing process by initiating dialogue among Aboriginal people in urban and rural communities and with the general public across Canada. It is now joined by the online virtual exhibition.

"The collection is a valuable contribution to the understanding of Canadian Aboriginal history and experience," said Mike DeGagne, Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. "The intergenerational effects of the residential schools are still being experienced today. By understanding how the past affected the lives of Aboriginal people, we can reinforce Aboriginal healing and reconciliation with other Canadians."

"Library and Archives Canada ensures that knowledge about this country-its history, its people-is available to inform and educate," says Ian E. Wilson, Librarian and Archivist of Canada. "This website is yet another example of how we can work together to share the stories of Canada's past with an ever-increasing audience."

We encourage all Canadians to join us online at www.wherethechildren.ca. Funding for the website was received from Canadian Heritage, Canadian Culture On-line Partnerships Fund.

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For more information: please contact Angie Bruce, Development Manager, The Legacy of Hope Foundation: (613) 612-0339 or Miles Morrisseau, Director of Communications, Aboriginal Healing Foundation: (613) 237-4441, ext. 479 or toll-free 1-888-725-8886 ext. 479.