

Minute for Right Relations (M4RR)

A HISTORY NOT TO BE FORGOTTEN OR REPEATED

Former United Church residential school designated a National Historic Site

On September 1, 2020, Canada declared the Indian Residential Schools system an “event of national significance” and recognized Portage la Prairie Residential School in Manitoba, which was operated from 1925 until 1969 by the United Church of Canada as a National Historic Site.

The United Church welcomes this designation and recognizes that is the result of advocacy by residential school survivors and their communities, who are determined that the history and continuing legacy of residential schools not be forgotten or repeated.

We honour them and all former students. The United Church pledges to continue to work together toward fulfilling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s Calls to Action, and commits to addressing the systemic racism that underlies residential schools and colonial policies that continue today.

Long Plain First Nation, whose territory includes the school’s site, has invited Canadians to visit the community and the historic site. We urge members of the United Church to do so in a good way: in a spirit of respect, learning, and reconciliation.

We urge all Canadians to support efforts of residential school survivors and their communities to designate other schools across the country as National Historic Sites so that this history can never be forgotten. May we do so together as good relations.

Sara Stratton

Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator,

The United Church of Canada